

*Business of Supply*

Speakers of the day provided us with the type of equipment that we have for our simultaneous translation service.

I am sure many new members do not notice the facilities for our simultaneous translation. I remember when there were no rooms or booths at the end of the chamber, but now these have been fitted in to suit the décor of this place, and are taken for granted. We are not affected by them at all.

I was interested in the remarks of the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, who discussed how much broadcasting our proceedings would cost. Somebody must consider the cost, but it is my opinion that if we instal the best, up to date television equipment, all automatically remote controlled, and placed at four fixed locations in this chamber in surroundings that will fit in with the décor of the room, we will be able to carry out television operations without any visible disruption of our proceedings.

I have never seen people so ignorant as cameramen who have to get into the middle of a celebration to take pictures. I realize that they have to do this, but the way they do it leaves a great deal to be desired. Under no circumstances, even on a temporary basis should we allow the television outlets, whether it be C.T.V., C.B.C., or some other private agency, to come in and set up television facilities. If a committee can be established to consider this matter and it reaches the decision that television facilities be installed, then I suggest that these facilities must be under the control of the Speaker. He must control them. We must hire our own officials to operate our television programming. A room should be provided where they can screen the film, where they can cut it, and where the agencies can buy it from us, or we can give it to them. It really does not make much difference. In that room prints can be made, and the original film should remain under control of the House of Commons.

• (5:20 p.m.)

If we really think it out and make a decision to do this, then I suggest we must consider two other things that have been mentioned. I would like to see some television stations asked to carry a separate channel, possibly in conjunction with the C.B.C. in every area, but particularly in the more remote areas, which would carry full daily coverage of the happenings of parliament. I would think this would be an excellent method to make people aware of some of the

[Mr. Peters.]

things which happen here. I do not know what other members think of the question period, and I should like to know what the government thinks of it. I do not consider the question period to be representative of the workings of parliament. I do not consider the new media do a very good job in covering parliament because during the question period the press gallery will be jammed, and then as soon as the question period is over out they go. There are many other happenings in parliament which have a great effect on the lives of people and which have nothing to do with the question period. I would hope that it would not be the intention to televise only the question period. As one who does not ask too many questions during the question period I am sure that if I knew there would be an opportunity to appear on camera while asking a question I would ask one, even if it should be one given to me by a newspaper man. I am sure I would do this as I am sure would many others who, like myself, normally are not too interested in asking questions.

If we had the opportunity to grandstand, I believe we would grandstand. I believe we could do better than use the question period as a forum for television. I should like to thank the Speaker for finally having made a decision in respect of the wiring in the rotunda outside the chamber, so that now we are not so likely to trip on wires which are running along the floor into member's offices. Although I do not consider this to be the proper type of facility, in my opinion the public should not be deprived of it entirely. I believe there would be interest in having this in a controlled environment such as a room set aside where interviews could be conducted in a much more formal way, with better acoustics and better camera work than is now possible out in the rotunda.

My opinion is that if television is to be installed in this house it should be of a permanent nature and disguised in such a manner that it would not destroy the décor of the house. I am not so much of a conservative that that really bothers me, but I do not particularly want to know that I am being televised anymore than I am particularly interested in knowing that my words are being translated. I do not think about it anymore. It does not bother me, but I do not want to be inhibited by the fact that something I may say is violent enough, wild enough or crude enough that it would be covered on television, because it would certainly