

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Buskard, I do not want to interrupt your trend of thought, but has there been any change in connection with committee reporting during this period?

Mr. BUSKARD: There has been a change in this regard, that years ago when our workload on committees became heavy we were able to call in extra reporters on a per diem or a per page basis to help out in the heavy work periods.

Mr. AIKEN: But you always had a separate committee reporting branch?

Mr. BUSKARD: That is right. We are now unable to obtain freelance reporters to come in on a daily basis and, therefore, we require an establishment capable of doing the work themselves without calling upon outside help.

I was saying that over the last 40 years our staff has remained constant at seven. The salary has increased from an average of \$3,480 in the first ten-year period to \$6,496 during the second ten-year period. That is the average, of course. The increase is something less than double.

I might emphasize one other comparison. The number of pages per reporter during the second ten-year period averaged 7,000 printed *Hansard* pages. Calculated roughly, there are five typewritten pages to one printed page of *Hansard*. This means that the average number of typewritten pages was 35,000; the average per reporter was about 5,000. If you were to compare that with the workload and salary of an Ontario Supreme Court reporter, at a very low page rate, that would give him an income of between \$12,000 and \$13,000 per year. In order to make our position attractive we have at least to come within shouting distance of that figure. There is a suggestion I think, contained in the report that we are asking for premium salaries, salaries above those paid in competitive occupations. We are not asking for anything of the kind. We are asking that our salaries be made competitive so that even though our salaries may be somewhat less than what people can earn in other branches of reporting, some of the other advantages we can offer may compensate for that, and we have a fair chance of obtaining staff. At the present time we have to compete not only with the reporters who do court work or freelance work, but with the Senate. The Senate has a very much lighter work load, and a great deal more of free time. Some reporters on our staff just wait for a vacancy on the Senate to apply for a transfer there.

Mr. COWAN: That applies to the House of Commons also.

Mr. BUSKARD: As a matter of fact, we have lost at least four or five reporters to the Senate within my period of office. Within the last year and a half we lost a man who went back into freelance reporting where he can make much more money and work under better conditions.

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Buskard, I have one final question. In what you said did you suggest that in most of the examples of a change from the reporting system to the tape recording system the change was made necessary because a former system was not working?

Mr. BUSKARD: No, I suggested that it was made because of the shortage of competent shorthand reporters.

Mr. AIKEN: In Ontario?

Mr. BUSKARD: Yes, in Ontario. At the United Nations they tape record the proceedings of most of their committees because they cannot get enough competent reporters, and yet they pay \$13,000 a year.

Mr. AIKEN: Thank you.

Mr. FRENETTE: I should like to add something, which Mr. Ervin forgot to say probably. The first few words spoken in the house are lost because the man at the monitor does not switch fast enough, and this will delay the girl who is