

First of all, are accommodations used in a rational manner? I was told that yesterday there were more than 150 people in room 269, a small room where the atmosphere became unhealthy.

The high temperatures generated by lighting facilities required for TV cameras are one of the many aspects which the Board of Internal Economy will have to discuss before making their recommendations to us.

Indeed, I will go even further and quote a statement made before the committee yesterday by the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle):

[*English*]

"Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. This is not my time to intervene, but if the cameras remain in the room, I would not want them to photograph my papers over my shoulder. So I want them 20 feet away from me". I cannot blame the Minister. He is there with classified documents and perhaps he remembers what happened to another Minister not long ago.

There have to be guidelines if the cameras are to be allowed into our committees. Personally, I advocate that committees be open to the public as much as possible via the electronic media, but this has to be done in a very standardized fashion. When this is brought before the House, I hope that a complete plan that considers all these aspects has been carefully drawn up before it is presented to Members of Parliament.

**Mr. St. Germain:** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Internal Economy Board I want to allay any fears. The Board represents all Members of the House, some of whom are seated here today. I want to assure Members that these considerations have and will be discussed and all aspects will be covered prior to the implementation, if implementation is the wish of the Board of Internal Economy, through the House.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, I want to comment briefly to confirm the remarks made by the previous speaker and remind the House that the McGrath report contains very specific propositions concerning the way to proceed with the installation of TV cameras, not only in the House but in parliamentary committees as well. This was the object of many work sessions in consultation with press gallery representatives, and one proposition might enable us to implement the McGrath report recommendation which had been accepted by the Government. Therefore I would suggest that today's debate will make it easier for us to understand the situation and provide you, as Speaker, with an opportunity to gather all the necessary material to make a decision as soon as possible.

In conclusion I would say that this decision cannot be made by a committee chairman nor by one of the most important committees of the House, the Board of Internal Economy over which you preside. Basically the decision will be made by the Government House Leader who, after consulting with the

House leaders of the two Opposition Parties, might introduce a resolution to be considered, debated and approved by the House.

Basically the decision must be made by the House as a whole and it cannot be the exclusive prerogative of any of the parliamentary committees. The decision must be made by all Members of the House and I, for one, hope that in the near future we will have television of committee proceedings, just as we now have televised debates here in the House.

I hope the Government Leader will respond quickly to these representations.

[*English*]

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, the question we are discussing at the moment has actually been under deliberation for many months. I concur that the point being made by the Whip for Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition is a very appropriate intervention, considering what happened last night. I believe that what happened last night ought to cause some Members, at least on the government side, some consternation in terms of supporting this, considering the shellacking that the poor Minister received.

When it comes back to the House we will have an opportunity to evaluate the situation and I am confident that the majority will support the suggestion.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will carefully distil that which borders on irrelevant argument from the very cogent points which Hon. Members have made. I do not think it is necessary for the Chair to rule on whether this is a point of order or a question of privilege.

The Chair indicated when the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) rose to raise this matter that it was a matter of very great importance to all Members in the Chamber. It would seem that the interventions that Members have made will go a long way to assist in the resolution of the matter.

The Chair takes note that the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier, in raising this matter, is not in any way taking a position against the televising of committee proceedings. I think that ought to be properly noted.

The Chair, having listened with great care to the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme), nonetheless feels impelled to remind the House that a former Speaker has made it quite clear that televising of proceedings in committee is not appropriate until there is an order of the House.

However, the disposition of all Members seems to be to resolve the matter. Since this is a matter in which the Chair will also be involved, I think a useful purpose has been served in this discussion this afternoon and I thank all Hon. Members, especially the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier.