

**6. The CBC should second their two commentators (French and English), and their interpreters for the hearing-impaired, to the House of Commons which will administratively control them and provide facilities on the Hill in order for them to continue their commentaries and interpretation.**

**“The CBC is prepared to serve the House of Commons in the excellent way it has done in the past.”**

Gérard Veilleux,  
President, CBC

At present, there are English and French commentators, each of whom provides brief explanatory introductions and summaries of the proceedings of the House of Commons. They are employees of the CBC, and are located in a CBC studio situated several miles from Parliament Hill.

These commentators have done an exemplary job over the years, and the Committee is anxious to see them continue. Under the CPaC proposal, the CBC will have no direct programming involvement, and, accordingly, it would be appropriate that these individuals be seconded to the House of Commons Broadcasting Service. They would continue to be employed by the CBC, but administratively would come under the control of the House of Commons.

The Committee also feels that it is important that facilities for the commentators be found in or close to the Parliament Buildings. In our discussions with legislators and broadcasters in other jurisdictions, it seems very important that there be close interaction between the Members and the broadcast staff. Each needs to get to know the other, and be able to discuss any questions or problems that may arise. Proximity to Parliament Hill will also assist the commentators in carrying out their jobs, by enabling them to have a better feel for what is going on. It has been suggested that a studio on Parliament Hill may not be required, so long as provision is made for mobile cameras; besides flexibility, such an arrangement would increase the public profile of the hosts. In any event, options such as this should be explored.

Other commentary and explanatory devices should be considered. The public needs to be informed about what is going on, especially since many of the rules and procedures of the House of Commons are difficult to understand. The Speaker, the Honourable John Fraser, has made a conscious effort to explain proceedings for the benefit of viewers, and we applaud his efforts in this regard. We would hope that committee chairmen would adopt a similar policy where it is appropriate.