

Routine Proceedings

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Then the hon. member may answer.

Mr. John E. Cole (York—Simcoe): Madam Speaker, this is the way the committee operates, we kind of stretch things on occasion.

I did not hear the first part of the member's question. However, I would like to talk a little bit about the cost, the controls and some of the projections we have received from staff with regard to how this would be handled in terms of cost. There are two or three options to be decided by the management committee as to how it would be done. It can be done on a temporary basis for six months with a capital cost of approximately \$35,000. It would cost about \$130 to project it.

There are a number of options for televising in one particular room. In one particular case, it can be done for about \$125,000. The costs to operate that are more substantive because the equipment is not as sophisticated. We could go to another more sophisticated system and that would reduce the operating costs by about one-quarter. The more expensive system has a pay-back in terms of operating costs. Those are decisions that would have to be made at that time.

As for the radio broadcast, that would be done with existing equipment. There would be very little if any cost, except perhaps some mini-radio or whatever in member's offices to pick up a speaker system or something. It may even be possible to do it over the present television system.

The other thing which I think the member asked concerned—he will have to correct me if I am wrong—when the meetings would be telecast. The point was that Parliament would come first. The House of Commons would come first.

If the House was not sitting, for instance, and a committee meeting was going on then the committee would go live on the parliamentary channel. The committee could be delayed maybe three or four hours and played after the House finished sitting on the parliamentary channel. There is a lot of space on the parliamentary channel that is not being used. The purpose was to use that space on the parliamentary channel that is not

presently being used on a slight delay when the House is sitting.

If it is played later the date and time of the meeting would be displayed on the screen at all times so that the public watching it would recognize that it was taped two or three days ago. There is a lot of time on that channel. There are the weekends and times like that. Meetings that took place during the week could be broadcast the following weekend. That may help to answer his question, although I did not hear the beginning of the member's question.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Madam Speaker, I would like to take part in this debate. I am still a member of the House management committee and this committee is operating as usual, with sub-committees. But we want to stress, for the benefit of the people who are watching us or listening to us, the importance of the task we have set out to do with the mandate we were given, which is to look into the broadcasting of all proceedings of the House. At every committee meeting I attended, we heard interesting evidence from several witnesses. I will refer to that in my speech.

First of all, Madam Speaker, I would like to point out that it was not just in recent months that the House management committee started looking into the matter of broadcasting. It has been a subject of discussion for years in committee. Besides, my colleague from Saint-Denis participated in the discussions and did an excellent job at that.

Before the advent of radio and television, we had and we still have what we call *Hansard*. I think that ever since the proceedings of the House started to be televised, the challenge has been to produce an electronic *Hansard*. I think that, as was mentioned earlier, other reports along the same lines were produced and we took them into consideration. We have also considered the evidence from several witnesses, namely those representing the media and the press gallery people. They have requested that all proceedings of standing committees, legislative committees or special committees of the House be completely open. We had to reach a compromise *vis-à-vis* this request. Madam Speaker, there is also the issue of costs that must be taken into account and our listeners must think about that. Of course, we would like all proceedings to be public, for we have nothing to hide,