

facilities are installed. This, in effect, disapproves what the main motion approves, since the first paragraph in the main motion authorizes broadcasting on principles similar to those governing the publication of the printed official reports of the debates. Beyond doubt, a central principle governing publication of printed reports is that the reports be complete. The amendment would have the effect of instructing that an incomplete or experimental record be produced. Moreover, it would establish a committee which would not be empowered to arrange for broadcasting the debates on principles similar to those governing the publication of the printed record. This clearly frustrates the purpose of the main motion, that is to say, to establish a committee empowered to supervise implementation.

For these reasons, as well as those addressed to Your Honour by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, I suggest that the reservations expressed yesterday were well-founded and that the proposed amendment is out of order.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I want to say something first of all about the motion itself. I believe that intrinsically it is sound in the sense that it is not out of order. In other respects, I believe it is a very bad motion, that it is inequitable and that it should not have been put down in its present form. However, this is not enough to enable me to suggest that it ought not to be accepted. If that were the case, over the last 13 years a great many motions put forward by the government would have been thrown out.

I precede my few comments by saying that I, personally, favour the principle of broadcasting the proceedings of the House by way of television and radio. I have been of this mind for a number of years and I shall say so again when I speak later this afternoon. I thought I would tell the Chair that, so that the Chair might know I am not trying to suggest that anything be done which would interfere with the motion being put. Possibly this is a case where the Chair, acting in a judicial capacity, might consider equitable principles in addition to the application of the Standing Orders.

The motion in the name of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) asks the House to approve the radio and television broadcasting of its proceedings, and the proceedings of committees, on the basis of principles similar to those which govern the publication of the official reports of debates. This, Mr. Speaker, involves a set of principles going back 135 years, changed, twisted and tortured from time to time by discussions, debates and decisions of the Chair in the House of Commons both at Westminster and here. Your Honour will know from your experience in the Chair that a number of these principles are even yet not firmly fixed. You will recall that a special committee of the House, under your chairmanship, has been given responsibility to deal with certain of the aspects covered by those words I have mentioned. I refer to the special committee on rights and immunities. That committee has not yet reported, so I shall not go into that aspect in detail. But Your Honour will recognize the difficulty attaching to some of the problems with which the committee is dealing. I say this as one who is strongly of the belief that

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radio and television broadcasting of our proceedings should be brought about.

I am not without concern with regard to related problems. As I say, the special committee under Your Honour's chairmanship will be considering some of the very issues which are bound to be brought to the attention of another committee should the present motion go through. I can look ahead and envisage the possibility of two committees reaching two different decisions, one committee being compelled to report to the House and the other authorized by the motion before us to proceed with the implementation of the principle of televising and radio broadcasting our proceedings.

In these circumstances, as a friend of the court, one might say, I make the following suggestion. I am sure the President of the Privy Council is aware of these problems and I shall deal with them later on when I speak. My hon. friend from Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) has adverted to them. I have considered these things over a number of years, and Your Honour is aware that they are not easy issues to determine. I am sure it is not without some interest to hon. members to know that in most jurisdictions where the televising or radio broadcasting of proceedings has been permitted, accompanying legislation has either been enacted or recommended. My hon. friend for Edmonton West put his finger on this; we have considered it. I think it is most likely, when we open this Pandora's box, as we must, and set loose some of the objects inside the box, that we may well be driven to enacting some form of legislation.

● (1540)

I should like to think that the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), and my hon. friend for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker), would consider reframing this motion in terms which will give effect to the kind of concern that a number of us, who still favour televising our proceedings, have so as to permit a committee of the type envisaged in this motion to consider this particular aspect and, if necessary, to report back to the House. I do not need to recall to Your Honour that there is no constraint placed upon this particular committee which is to be established under the motion to report back to the House; it is a mechanism for implementation, which is, of course, one of the problems Your Honour has raised.

In view of those facts, I think we would be very unwise to let this motion go without having an opportunity to study the kind of caveat I have attempted to make and which has been referred to by my hon. friend for Edmonton West. Perhaps a motion could be drafted which would take into account these matters, not one which would prevent the passage of the motion or one corresponding to it, or the implementation of the motion, but which would take into account the very serious difficulties which lie ahead.

There is nothing to stop the committee, on the basis of this motion, from meeting under Your Honour's chairmanship and two months from now proposing that implementation commence forthwith, having regard to what might be called the physical and mechanical situation. Much as I favour and