

Broadcasting House Proceedings

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): They are all held *in camera*. Actually the public is not even admitted to their committee meetings.

Mrs. Holt: Are they not free in Sweden?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): The hon. lady from Vancouver-Kingsway surely will not say that Sweden is not as free a country as this country. If the hon. lady goes to Sweden she will see how their television system works. The cameras focus on the member speaking. Every member has to speak from a rostrum, and the television is used mostly for internal communication. On the television screen one sees a picture of the member's head and shoulders.

Mrs. Holt: That's enough, isn't it?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That would suit the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway and all those who read their speeches in this House. We would not see them bending over their texts and looking down.

Mrs. Holt: I do not do that. I am working on my constituents' mail, see?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): The members speaking are up on a rostrum. I have seen them, in Germany and Holland.

An hon. Member: But they allow television.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Yes, they allow television. I will tell you what the minister of information in Holland, and the Speaker told me. Yes, television is used, but it is under the control of the minister of information. They said, "We do not televise everything, only important debates, such as constitutional issues affecting the succession to the throne." It is possible that as a result of the Lockheed scandal and subsequent investigations involving certain loyal personages, certain other debates either have been or will be televised. However, outside of that, there is little television coverage.

Let us not be under the delusion that ours is a closed world. It is not. Somebody said that the public has the right to know. Well, there is an absolutely untrammelled, unfettered press which does its best, sometimes more, sometimes less, to report the proceedings of this House and of our committees. There are difficulties; there are not enough reporters to cover all our committees, not when you have the nonsense of 17 committees starting out of the gate at some time, on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Do hon. members think that all our committee proceedings will be covered by television? The idea is nonsense.

I will finish my point by pleading with hon. members opposite not to close their minds on this subject. The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway will have much to explain to her constituents, depending on how she votes.

Mrs. Holt: I explain lots of things to my constituents. They understand.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): There will be lots of explaining to do, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West).]

Mrs. Holt: That's all right. My constituents are intelligent.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): The report before me should be compulsory reading for every member of the House. The President of the Privy Council should read it three times and the former president of the privy council, why, he should read it four times.

Mr. McKenzie: He isn't sharp enough.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Hon. members should read another report, as well. We were told that the installation of broadcasting facilities will cost some \$3.5 million, more than likely \$4.5 million, by way of capital expenditure.

Mr. McKenzie: And we are now in a time of restraint.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Yes. I want to let hon. members opposite know about certain important decisions which have been taken and some of the recommendations which have been made about the building in which we now sit. They have failed to listen to their members who participated on the Management and Members' Services Committee. I am not telling tales out of school, as it were, when I say that after the 1978 election another 18 members will be joining this Chamber, and do members know where they are going to sit? They are to sit against the walls at the far end, and near the walls at the end of the Chamber close to my seat, and there will not be any way to cover them with television. Perhaps those in the corner at the far end can be covered by a camera from this end.

Parliament made the conscious decision to expand its membership during the next election. Then, after the next round of redistribution, it is expected that the membership of this House will rise to 300 members, in which case our present seats will need to be moved forward and another row of seats installed at the back. Possibly it may be necessary to remove the curtains, do away with the gangways at the back and utilize the space for desks. Shall we hang them from the ceilings or do as they do in the British House, have some seats in some of the galleries? Hon. members must face this prospect.

An hon. Member: Burn the building down and build a new one.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): An hon. member suggests we should burn down this building and build a new one. It might be necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I remind hon. members of a scandal which took place some years ago involving the *Bonaventure*. That carrier was sent for a refit, at a very great price; but no sooner had she been refitted than she was scrapped.

I tell you that within the next five years this building is slated for a major refit. The plumbing, wiring, and many other facilities which make this building viable have to be renewed. The East Block is being renewed now and will serve as a swing building for the Senate. The Metropolitan Life building has