

Mr. FRENETTE: In view of the fact I have only four reporters I would not agree that they are idle for considerable lengths of time.

Mr. AIKEN: Perhaps I should have suggested that they had less work to do at certain periods of time.

Mr. FRENETTE: What I intended to convey was that if I had a sufficient number of reporters to divide each hour into six ten minute periods, that would be an ideal situation.

Mr. AIKEN: You would say they have less to do?

Mr. FRENETTE: I mean to say that if I had enough reporters, let us say, in order to divide the hours into six, it would be ideal. I might have two reporters at a time whom I did not want. I did not express the matter very well because in the first place I did not know what I was called in here for. I was not asked to prepare anything. But I am ready to answer questions.

Perhaps I should enter into the field of committee reporting from which we have had to withdraw because our reporters cannot work, mornings, afternoons, and nights. We never finish before 11 or 12 o'clock at night. It was impossible so we just could not do it. Moreover, our typists could not do it either.

Mr. AIKEN: We did discuss committee reporting and it might be of interest.

Mr. FRENETTE: I think as it is now it would take a special staff for committee reporting in French plus a staff for committee reporting in English. The question is always the same. They would have to be paid. They cannot be bought by the dozen. Even with all kinds of money they cannot be made in a week. It takes five years to make a good reporter as far as I can see. I have been using good reporters from Montreal. But when they first came here it was a different thing. Believe me a committee reporter is not just a pen pusher. He is required to have a background.

When they come here from the province of Quebec they may not be fond of politics, or they may not have studied it before. When they first come here they may not know what it is all about.

Mr. COWAN: That applies to some of the members, too.

Mr. Frenette: When we need a reporter, we need a good one. We have lost two good reporters whom we had made through their work and experience over here in the last three years. Even if you told me to get ten reporters, and gave me all kinds of money, one must be reasonable. If you talk about all kinds of money, I could go all over the world and probably find ten people. But I could not get ten good reporters by tomorrow morning.

Mr. AIKEN: Is there any overlapping now between the committee reporters and the *Hansard* branch? You never have to use *Hansard* reporters in committee?

Mr. FRENETTE: We have used our French reporters in committee because there was not much French proceedings at the time.

I would cite the example of October 24, I believe, when they had been speaking French all day long in the committee on privileges and elections, while in the house they were speaking in French all the time. And that work had to be done by just four reporters.

Mr. AIKEN: Do you only have four reporters for committees?

Mr. FRENETTE: I do not have one reporter for committees. I have four reporters altogether.

Mr. AIKEN: You mean for the house and for committees?

Mr. FRENETTE: Yes. That is the reason why a certain moment came when we just could not make it.