

conferences, and royal commissions and public inquiries, have allowed cameras—usually provided by the media—to record their proceedings, without restricting camera shots or angles. In most cases, the broadcasting (and picture-taking) has been carried out responsibly, and there have been few, if any, problems where the cameras have abused their rights. Because of the extreme difficulty of proper framing, reaction shots and split screen techniques are rarely used in the legislatures that permit them. Occasionally, there may be a picture or shot of a person that is unfortunate, but it is surprising how seldom this happens. The camera's attention is generally on the person speaking and what is being said; where other shots are shown, it is generally to give an overview of the room, which enables the viewer to see the context. The Committee found *no evidence* that allowing a responsible producer to select camera angles and shots led to complaints from the public or members. The U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario all allow responsible producers considerable leeway in the chamber and in committee rooms. Despite initial fears, no complaints or bad judgements have been noted.

The Committee agrees that television should not be allowed to directly influence or affect the proceedings of the House. The House of Commons is a legislative body, and an important governmental and democratic institution. It is not a television show, staged for the benefit of the viewers. At the same time, so long as television does not interfere with the proceedings, or distort the facts, there are no valid grounds for unduly restricting the cameras.

Rather than attempting to formulate detailed rules or policies, the Committee recommends delegation of responsibility to the producer. The Committee recommends that these professionals use their discretion as to which camera shots should be used. These are the people who are on the spot, and are best situated to make the day-to-day decisions on camera angles. These producers are professionals, and are employed by the House. Mr. Brian Lamb, the President of C-SPAN, explained to the Committee that his company's philosophy is "if you care who wins, you are [working] in the wrong place. In other words, if you care who wins the political fight on whatever issue it is or whatever election, you are in the wrong place." (*Minutes of Proceedings* 13:12-13)

The producers would continue to be subject to the overall direction and supervision of the Monitoring Committee, as recommended later in this Report, and, through this Committee to the House. It is essential, however, that all Members place their trust and confidence in these producers. Their job will be to convey the full flavour of the House of Commons, and to ensure that the parliamentary broadcasts provide a dignified and accurate reflection of the House. The Committee has faith that the producers can be relied upon to use their discretion wisely and responsibly. There will, of course, be a mechanism