

member of the staff, at \$4,000 a year, a gentleman who had been translating the debates of this Chamber under contracts. He was to do the work which previously had been done by two men, and, I understand, not very satisfactorily done, at a cost of \$5,000 a year. By putting that gentleman on the staff we were really saving a sum of \$1,000 a year. It seems rather unusual for another Committee to bring in a Report now upon entirely different lines, and apparently without communicating with the Clerk of the Senate to find out whether he had received any complaint. It goes without saying that if the work in any branch of the Senate is unsatisfactory the Clerk of the Senate should be aware of it. He is the deputy minister of the department, and all these various branches are under him, and complaints should first reach him, so that he would be able to make some investigation of the matter before it is presented to this Chamber.

Under these circumstances, as Chairman of the Internal Economy Committee, I think it would be inadvisable to adopt this Report. I think it would be much better to refer the Report, if you wish, to the Internal Economy Committee, so that they could confer with the Clerk of the Senate and then take such action as in their wisdom seemed best. I am very sorry indeed that I cannot vote for the recommendation which my honourable friend has brought in. The Committee which he represents consists of nine members, of whom six are French Canadians, and they would necessarily have more knowledge of translation than I. As I say, it would give me more pleasure to vote for the recommendation of the Committee, but I think this matter is forced on the Senate a little too suddenly, without giving the Clerk of the Senate, or the Internal Economy Committee, any opportunity of looking into it. For these reasons, I think it is better that the adoption of the Report should be postponed so that the matter may be considered during the recess and any change that is considered necessary made at the next Session of Parliament.

Hon. Mr. McCOIG: Honourable gentlemen, I heartily agree with what the honourable gentleman has just said. I think this is a matter that could be very well dealt with after a thorough investigation before the Internal Economy Committee, of which I happen to be a member. I do not think it should be dealt with too hastily. If there is any complaint we should have it looked into very thoroughly. I should be very glad to support the amendment moved by the hon-

Hon. Mr. DANIEL.

ourable gentleman from Assiniboia that the consideration of this question be deferred until next Session, when we can have before us the officials of the Senate who will be able to give us the benefit of their advice.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, when this matter came up the other day, notice was given of a motion to refer the Report of the Debates Committee to the Committee on Internal Economy. At that time some question arose in my mind as to the propriety of one Committee reviewing the report of another Committee. I felt that if that were to be the decision of the House, it would mean that the Internal Economy Committee would be treated as the Finance Committee, with control over the financial part of reports coming from other Committees.

I am not ready to adhere to the idea that the Debates Committee should be deprived of its initiative and autonomy. I feel that perhaps it would be better for this Report to be returned to the Debates Committee, or to be suspended, in order that at the opening of next Session the Committee may make a thorough inquiry. I realize that the Committee had but one sitting on this matter, and I am informed by the Clerk of the House that the understanding with the translator was that when he was appointed he would receive the sum of \$4,000, the amount of the preceding contract, and would be given help only after his work had gone beyond 800 pages; and I think that he was given help, under those conditions, under the contract. The Clerk of the House has told me that the matter of extra help did not arise last year, because the number of pages, I am informed, was but 700 or 800, and that extra help was not granted, nor asked, this year, because the number of pages will not go much beyond 400. I confess that I am somewhat surprised at the high figure mentioned, of 800 pages, for a single individual. To translate so many pages seems to be a remarkable feat. I do not know how many pages the translators in the Commons do. However, the matter could perhaps be investigated in the light of the work done in past years under the contract, as compared with the work done under the present arrangement.

I remember that when there was a question of bringing the present occupant of the position into the service, although not myself a member of the Debates Committee or the Committee on Internal Economy, I suggested to the Clerk of the Senate that some help should be given to the translator, in order that half of his salary might not have to be paid to outsiders for assistance in translation.