

In the municipal courts a reporter receives a salary of something over \$7,200 per year. These reporters are referred to as bilingual reporters. Bilingual reporters are very rare. These reporters work mainly in the mornings, because the city courts do not sit in the afternoon.

Reporters working in the superior courts do not receive salaries as yet, but they can rely on an income of \$1,000 a month.

To relate these facts to what I said a moment ago, it is obvious that a reporter who can earn \$1,000 a month, living in the province of Quebec, working with his own people, will not come to Ottawa to work where he must commence his work day at 11.00 in the morning for the greater part of the session. The hourly work schedule cannot be considered to be from 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. I think everyone realizes that we commence a session on that basis, but within a month or six weeks the hours become longer and longer. In view of the length of the sessions, keeping in mind the uncertainty regarding the date on which it will finish, I do not understand why anyone would come to Ottawa for \$8,000 or even \$10,000 a year.

I discussed this situation with Mr. Buskard some time ago, at which time he suggested an increase in salary might help solve the problem. I must admit that an increase in salary will settle things to a certain extent, there is no doubt about that, but I am afraid it will not be a complete solution to our difficulties. A French reporter coming to Ottawa to work in the House of Commons is not in the same position as an English reporter in that he is not in a position to work on commissions after sessions if there is time, but must sit and do nothing.

Perhaps I should state that I could get competent reporters if they were paid \$1,000 a month. I do not see how they could be interested in anything less.

Perhaps I should have said this before I answered your questions, but I came here 20 years ago when we received approximately \$1,000 a month for each month of the session, which ran approximately three months. After the session I was able to return to Montreal and carry on with my work there. I found it very agreeable to come to Ottawa for that period of time and return to Montreal for approximately eight or nine months. Sessions are now lasting from seven to nine months. I should also point out that the cost of living has at least doubled, if not tripled since then, but the reporters are still being paid a little less than \$1,000 a month of the session.

For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I do not understand how we could interest more reporters for anything less than \$12,000 a year.

The CHAIRMAN: If the recommendations made in this report are implemented do you think you will be able to maintain the same type of report you are producing at this time?

Mr. FRENETTE: Mr. Chairman, first I should like to state that I have never been able to put my hands on a copy of that report, so I am not familiar with its contents.

The CHAIRMAN: You have not read this report?

Mr. FRENETTE: I have not read the report.

The CHAIRMAN: We will get a copy for you.

Mr. FRENETTE: Thank you.

Mr. AIKEN: I should like to ask a question in relation to the employment of additional reporters. Did I understand you to say you experience peak periods and then drop off periods? Do you in effect have periods when groups of French members speak and then periods when groups of English members speak, creating peak reporting loads and very light reporting loads or a drop off in the quantity of work at which time your reporters are idle?