

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 20, 1964

[Later:]

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MEMBERS OF WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I rise with your permission, and I trust on behalf of the entire house, to welcome into the diplomatic gallery this afternoon four members of the West German government who are here on a visit. I would extend to them in their native tongue a "Herzliches Willkommen", which interpreted means bienvenue or welcome.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of those of us on this side of the house I should like to be allowed to associate myself with the hon. gentleman in extending a very sincere welcome to the distinguished parliamentarians from the Bundestag in Western Germany. I have recently been in West Germany, where I was the beneficiary of much kindness from the government of that country. I am sure that our expression of welcome to these distinguished parliamentarians will not be found wanting in the warmth and sincerity with which this parliament is pleased to welcome these distinguished representatives.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

PROCEDURE—SIXTH AND SEVENTH REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE—CONCURRENCE IN SEVENTH REPORT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to present, in English and in French, the sixth report of the special committee on procedure and organization. This report outlines a major reorganization of the staff and services of the House of Commons.

I have the honour to present in English and in French the seventh report of the special committee on procedure and organization. Later it is my intention to call upon the hon. member for Edmonton West to explain this report under the heading of motions.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, seconded by the hon. member for Lapointe and with the unanimous consent of the house I should like to move concurrence in the seventh report of the special committee on procedure and organization.

It will be recalled that during the last session the committee on debates of which I had the honour to be a member presented a report which was not concurred in. Therein was contained the following paragraph:

That satisfactory electronic recording apparatus as referred to in the abovementioned report be installed at the earliest possible date to be used on a trial basis in selected committee rooms.

Hon. members will be aware that about two weeks ago a somewhat awkward situation arose with regard to the recording of the debates and proceedings of one of the house committees, that on privileges and elections, in the French language. Despite every effort it has been found very difficult to obtain additional reportorial staff, especially on a permanent basis. It was through the generosity of the other place and of one of the government agencies that trained reportorial staff able to record the proceedings in French were obtained.

In the past two years at least, primarily as a result of the introduction of simultaneous interpretation, considerably more French has been used in this chamber, with the result that an undue burden has been placed on the shoulders of our French *Hansard* staff who are thus not available for French committee hearings. It is in order to alleviate this difficulty, as well as to examine, rather with experience than in haste, the use of electronic recording equipment, that your committee would recommend to this house that electronic recording apparatus be introduced into selected committee proceedings in order to assist in overcoming the difficulty caused by the shortage of French reporters and in order that the value of this equipment may be assessed.

Your committee was unanimous in this recommendation, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask members of the house to concur in this report.