

In the course of his presentation, Mr. Buskard read to the Committee a letter written to the Speaker of the House on July 25, 1963, containing his observations and recommendations with respect to the Debates Reporting Branch.

On motion of Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Howard,

Resolved (unanimously)—That the letter of Mr. Buskard to the Speaker of the House be printed as part of the proceedings of this day. (*See immediately following today's Minutes of Proceedings*).

Again Mr. Buskard impressed on the members the urgency of finding a solution to this problem.

Mr. Langlois explained to the Committee the mechanical operations of electronic machines used in Montreal; Mr. Buskard admitted that tape recording machines would do a good job under certain conditions, but he does not think these conditions exist in the House of Commons.

Mr. Howard pointed out that in 1948 the Standing Committee on Debates, in its first Report, recommended that the Government consider the advisability of increasing the number of complimentary copies of the daily edition of debates to members, and inquired if this question could be considered by the Committee this session.

Mr. Howard moved, seconded by Mr. Langlois, that the Committee ask that its order of reference be enlarged to permit the study of complimentary copies of the daily edition of debates to members.

The Chairman accepted the motion and the Committee agreed to let it stand until the Chairman obtains further information.

At 3.50 p.m. the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Gabrielle Savard,
Clerk of the Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

JULY 25, 1963

Hon. Alan A. Macnaughton,
Speaker,
House of Commons.

Sir:

Following our conversation of July 22 I am submitting herewith my recommendations and supporting arguments with respect to the debates reporting branch.

The situation with respect to the recruitment of staff has become critical. At the moment the committee reporting section lacks one reporter; the Hansard staff has one man on sick leave who may or may not be able to return in the fall; one committee reporter is on a retirement extension, and there are in prospect retirements within the next three to five years which have to be provided for. I have had advertisements placed in leading newspapers in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, but have not had any sign of interest by anyone remotely resembling a reporter.

There are capable, experienced reporters available, but they simply are not interested in coming to this staff because of a combination of low salaries