

*Hansard* rough copy, or blues, I believe you call these, for these three days and the actual typed transcripts that were done from the tape recordings under similar conditions so you may compare, if you wish, the success of one with the other.

I think you will realize that in amplifying this over a speaker it loses a lot of its fidelity and it is not nearly as clear. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that one member of the committee might wish to listen on the earphones to satisfy himself that it is much clearer to a girl listening with earphones than it will appear over the loud speaker. I have also recommended that if you install recording equipment you install tape recording equipment because the fidelity on tape is much greater than on a plastic belt. This belt is designed for normal office use and is excellent for that purpose. Where you wish to get the highest possible fidelity in order that you do not miss any interjections or anything that takes place in the house it is strongly recommended that you go to a recording medium which uses magnetic tape.

In order to give you a comparison between the plastic belt and the magnetic tape I have brought a tape recorder with me this morning, and I have a recording of President Kennedy's speech to the House of Commons on May 17, 1961.

Perhaps I should ask the members whether they have any questions to ask before I proceed with the experiment.

Mr. PAUL: What happens, sir, in the event there is a break in the supply of electricity?

Mr. ERVIN: On the top floor of the building there is an auxiliary generator which will supply power immediately when the lights go off. This situation occurred about three weeks ago. During that period the sound amplification system was not affected. Some parts of the house may have been affected because they may not have immediately come under the influence of the auxiliary generator. Sometimes it takes as long as 30 seconds for the auxiliary generator to take over the full load, but it can be so arranged that it takes the load of the more important things first, and if this is done, there is no effect at all when the lights go out.

Mr. AIKEN: Is the purpose of this experiment to make a comparison between the transcripts? If that is the purpose perhaps we should have them?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. I do not know how you wish me to proceed.

Mr. AIKEN: We actually need three eyes to read the three scripts.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, this is difficult. Perhaps I should let you see *Hansard* covering the periods during which the experiments were made, and you may find that there are certain portions you would like to hear.

Mr. COWAN: Who authorized the original taping; was it one of the committees of the House of Commons, the committee of the whole or the Speaker?

Mr. PAUL: The Speaker asked for permission to do so in the House of Commons.

Mr. COWAN: Who was the Speaker at that time?

Mr. PAUL: The Speaker was Mr. Michener.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, the Speaker was Mr. Michener.

Mr. COWAN: That is what I wanted to know.

Mr. ERVIN: I can give you each a sample of our transcript. I have the transcripts of the tapes that I am about to play. Perhaps you would prefer to follow this?

The CHAIRMAN: That is fine, thank you.

Mr. ERVIN: May I proceed with the experiment?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, go ahead Mr. Ervin.