

diversion of the Columbia River to the Fraser. That request was refused. May I say to him that I kept fairly quiet in the meantime, not wishing to interfere with the bringing about of an agreement between the United States and Canada on that matter. Now that an agreement has been reached, a copy of which I understand was tabled tonight, I am going to appeal to the honourable leader to press for a copy of that report. The people of this country paid out \$280,000 to the British Columbia Engineering Company, and senators and members of the other house have a right to see that report. I am now making the request of the honourable leader before raising the question again.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I did my best at that time to obtain the report, and I will try to do better this time.

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** Well, just act in the same way you did a few minutes ago and you will probably get it.

**SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION SYSTEM**

**DELAY IN INSTALLATION**

*(Translation):*

**Hon. W. Ross MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to inquire whether this honourable house still intends to install a system of simultaneous translation during the present session.

**The Hon. The Speaker:** I would have liked to call on the honourable senator from Hanover (Hon. Mr. Brunt) to answer your query, but since you had the courtesy to ask it in French I shall provide the answer myself in that language. We shall necessarily have to wait a while yet before our system of simultaneous translation is installed; indeed, during last session, if you recall, the matter was referred to a subcommittee composed of myself, as chairman, and four other members of the Senate, the Honourable Senators Veniot, Brunt, Méthot and Wall.

At the close of last session I submitted a report on our work to the Senate. We reached

the conclusion that here, just as in the other place, where simultaneous translation has now proved successful, the system will reveal itself useful.

Accordingly, we met with representatives of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada in connection with the purchase of the required equipment and the installation of a system of simultaneous translation. The subcommittee was informed by the company that the necessary equipment could not be purchased in Canada and that it would have to come from London, England, with attendant unavoidable delay.

I understand that the Clerk of the Senate, Mr. MacNeill, received this information only two weeks ago, and in view of the fact that the opening date of the session had already been announced we did not want to have the carpet removed in case the work could not be completed in time, which would have forced us to walk on the bare floor amidst a cluster of wires, at the risk of stumbling and perhaps suffering serious injuries.

Now my answer to your question is yes, we definitely shall have simultaneous translation just as in the House of Commons, and, provided the Christmas recess is of sufficient duration—six weeks are required to put in the equipment—it will be installed when we resume our sittings in January.

The Bell Telephone Company is prepared to co-operate fully in this connection. However, because it is a fairly long job and, as I have said, it is necessary to remove the carpet in order to install the wiring, there is a distinct possibility that the system may not be operating before next session.

The matter is receiving close and continuous attention, and I hope that we too shall have our system of simultaneous translation in the not too far distant future.

*(Text):*

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.