

*Business of Supply*

as well as independent television authorities provided some cost figures. They showed that one day's coverage would cost approximately \$33,000; two days would cost \$42,000 and three days, \$51,000. I took the average of three days, which works out to about \$17,000 a day. During the present session the house has been sitting for 121 days. If house proceedings this session had been televised for the entire period so far the cost of that coverage would have been slightly more than \$2 million. Clearly, we are looking at a very costly operation when we consider televising the proceedings of this house.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I suggest it might well be worth our while to ask Your Honour to set up a special committee to look into this entire matter before we debate it further in this house. It is a highly technical and highly controversial matter. If you could set up a small committee that would include principal operating executives of various television networks and independent television stations I am sure we could obtain a much clearer view of what is possible and what is impossible with regard to this question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please.

**Mr. Hales:** I have just one more sentence and I shall be finished, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please. It was understood there would be no extensions.

**Some hon. Members:** Carry on.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

● (5:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Hales:** I just have one more sentence, Mr. Speaker, and I will be through. I am sure we would be able to get a clearer view of just what is possible and what is impossible with regard to this question. We would also get a clearer view as to just what it is we seek to achieve through television coverage of the house and what it is that the television people are looking to attain. We could start our discussion of this problem on much surer ground if we had some hard facts before us. Having those facts, I am sure hon. members would be in a position to take a stand and vote on this very important matter.

In conclusion, I would again say that I think it is wonderful that we in this house have had the opportunity to give our views on this subject. I hope consideration of the subject will continue through the formation of a committee. In the meantime I would like to see committees televised. We can continue from there when all the facts are available.

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Defence Production):** Mr. Speaker, I quite agree with members opposite when they say this has been a most useful discussion. It has been doubly so because we have all recognized that this is not in any sense a partisan issue. There are many different points of view in all parties as to whether we should proceed along the lines some suggest, namely to televise parliament. To me that is a very grave over-simplification.

What we have really been talking about today, Mr. Speaker, and what will become more obvious as time goes by is that we are talking about an explosion in communications and the difficulty at present, despite the new means of communication, that we have in getting the full story of developments within our country, and indeed within the world, across to the general public. Because of this fact, those who advocate wrack and ruin if television is not brought in are probably overstating the case. By the same token, I think those who anticipate enormous improvements and benefits if it is brought in are probably being a little too sanguine about the likely results of this development.

Perhaps it will be accepted by hon. members that I have some experience in this field. With that background, I say hon. members should be aware that nothing which goes on outside this chamber will be changed significantly by televising proceedings inside the chamber. I am quite satisfied that what we are discussing here is the addition of another dimension. I suppose we could pass regulations prohibiting the jungle of microphones and television cameras in the rotunda, but it is well beyond our competence to prohibit members from going to television studios or being interviewed in their offices and other places. We must accept the fact of the multiplicity of sources outside. This will go on and probably expand if the proceedings inside the house are televised.

There is a very good reason why that will happen, apart from those raised this afternoon. That is each medium wishes to be as distinctive as possible. If we simply made one record of events in this house available, it