

Routine Proceedings

We heard earlier, for example, that that is not exactly the case. If the House is sitting, the proceedings of this House will take precedence and the proceedings of a committee will, for the most part, take place later on when the House adjourns or when the House is not sitting.

Can he confirm that? Perhaps the member can also confirm what the cost will be to the taxpayers of Canada to implement this particular report of the House management committee. Earlier, the government member on the committee was unable to indicate the exact cost.

It seems that what the committee is asking for is approval in principle. The details of the implementation of this particular report really have not worked out. I am wondering whether this report might be somewhat premature in that the technical details have not been worked out.

While he is on his feet can the hon. member comment on the response of the parliamentary press gallery. Did it make submissions to the House management committee on this particular issue? If so, can he share with the House what those submissions were?

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for his series of questions. I hope I can answer them in the time I have available to me.

First, with respect to the time of broadcast which I think was his first question, it is anticipated that committee proceedings recorded while the House is sitting would not be broadcast at the same time.

I think he would agree that this House in its deliberations ought to be the primary focus of the parliamentary channel. It ought to be what is broadcast first and foremost. To the extent that committees sit while the House is sitting, which is the bulk of committee hearings, they could not be broadcast at the same time as the House is sitting. They would be recorded and played at a later time. The question is whether they would be played later in the evening or on weekends, or played in the weeks when Parliament is not sitting.

There is a series of options. The play back could obviously take place on more than one occasion. I suspect that it might be worthwhile from an editorial point of view to lump committee proceedings together so

that on a particular day we would play a series of meetings of the finance committee or the employment and immigration committee, rather than one meeting of one committee, then one of another, and one of yet another. This would allow the public to see some line of questioning and work carried on in the committees over a period of time.

The proceedings of this House are rebroadcast after the day's proceedings have ended. That has been a very popular move with the people who watch the parliamentary channel, of which there are many in Canada, perhaps surprisingly. I hear constant comments in favour of the repeat performance. Members of the public who watch often do so in the evening, particularly in the western provinces where the broadcast occurs relatively early in the day. It provides an opportunity for people to see Parliament which they otherwise would not have without taping the proceedings.

Time of broadcast is going to be a tough question. In fact, in my view it underscores the need for a thorough review of the parliamentary channel to see if some arrangement cannot be made for wrap-around programming which would include those committee broadcasts which are recorded during the day.

The trick will be to find a time for broadcasting that accommodates all hon. members given the wide geographic range of the country and the various time zones, which will obviously impact on that decision.

Second, he asked about cost. Cost analysis was in fact available to the committee. He will have to pardon me because I do not have much of a head for figures. I know it is a significant cost. There is certain camera equipment that will have to be acquired. Certain rooms on the Hill are now wired for this purpose and the wiring costs will be fairly minimal. All the rooms are now wired for sound and the sound part of the recommendation, which is the installation of radios in members' offices, is a peanut item. It will cost about \$100,000 in total for the acquisition of the radios and their installation.

Mr. Nunziata: So it is not on TV?

Mr. Milliken: Not on TV. That is just the radio part. Remember that committees will only be broadcast on the radio unless they are in the special room.

Mr. Nunziata: Isn't the sound going through TV?