

Members present: Messrs. Aiken, Batten, Eudes, Howard, Langlois, MacNaught, Paul, Rinfret, Rouleau—(9)

In attendance: Mr. W. W. Buskard, Editor of the English Section of the Debates Reporting Branch, House of Commons.

The Chairman made a short statement about the problems created in the House of Commons by the increase work load, problems of finding as well as retaining competent personnel, particularly in the Reporting Branch.

The Chairman announced that the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure composed of Messrs. Aiken, Cowan, Howard, Langlois, Paul and himself, had agreed to invite Mr. W. W. Buskard, Editor of Debates and Chief of Reporting Branch, to explain more fully to the Committee what the problems actually are and what he thinks of the suggestion contained in the Report of a Survey made by the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. Buskard explained to the Committee that the problems are twofold:

1. the staff is too small for the work load;
2. the salary is not high enough to attract competent staff. The salary paid at the House is \$8,200 a year, compared to \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year for competitive positions. Mr. Buskard stated that there are competent French and English Reporters, but they are not attracted with the salary presently paid and the present working conditions at the House of Commons.

The witness also stated that although the work load has increased 50 per cent in the last fifty years, the number of reporters has not increased.

He recommended that two more reporters be appointed, and that a minimum salary of \$10,000 be paid to the Reporters of the English Debates.

In view of the fact that the Report of the Civil Service Commission, p. 32, recommends that a tape recording system be installed in both the English and French Debates Reporting offices,

On motion of Mr. Langlois, seconded by Mr. Paul,

Agreed, (unanimously)—That Mr. Frenette, Editor of the French Section be called to appear before the Committee.

Mr. Buskard impressed upon the Committee the urgency of solving the problem of the English Reporters, and suggested that priority be given to this matter.

He answered questions about reporting evidence in committees.

Mr. Buskard recommended that the House establish, under the Debates Reporting Branch, a training course for reporters, to fill vacancies as they may occur in the senior staffs.

He expressed doubt that the use of tape recording machines would be satisfactory for the job the members of Parliament expect. The Report of the C.S.C. is based on the fact that the proceedings of the Ontario House are reported by tape, according to Mr. Buskard.

After discussion, Mr. Howard moved, seconded by Mr. Langlois, that the Committee ask for permission to print 500 copies in English and 200 copies in French of its proceedings.

Carried unanimously.