

5. The House of Commons should equip two committee rooms for broadcasting. Proceedings of committees held in these rooms would be part of the televised proceedings of the House of Commons supplied to CPaC and must be broadcast. Any disputes as to which committees shall meet in the two rooms shall be settled by the committee chairmen involved, subject to an appeal to the Monitoring Committee for its advice.

"I am also a strong advocate that television ought to be applied to our committee system. I think those of us who have been around Parliament for some years recognize that the most productive work takes place in the committees."

Nelson Riis, M.P.,
House Leader of the New Democratic Party

Not all committees of the House of Commons are of equal interest to Canadians. A lot of work done by committees is of a technical or specialized nature. There is also the sheer number of committees to consider. Another important consideration is the extremely high cost of renovating committee rooms for broadcasting purposes. At present, there is only one room in the Centre Block that can be set up for cameras, and even it is of a rather temporary nature. Ideally, rooms could be equipped with the necessary equipment and wiring so as to make the cameras as unobtrusive as possible, and to minimize the number of cameras, technicians, and cables that would be required. According to estimates received from the House Broadcasting Service it would cost approximately \$325,000 per room to make the necessary modifications. We therefore recommend that initially only two committee rooms be equipped to allow for full broadcasting services.

If the Board of Internal Economy should decide, in these times of restraint, that the House of Commons does not have sufficient funds to properly equip two committee rooms, then CPaC has agreed that it is prepared to bring in its own cameras to tape the proceedings of two or more committees as necessary in the public interest and convenience.

If two committee rooms are renovated for broadcasting, consideration must be given to the configuration of committee rooms. If members were to sit at a crescent-shaped table facing the witness, it would be necessary to have only two cameras to televise meetings—one focused primarily on the members, and one on the witnesses. Another suggestion was that a V-shaped seating arrangement be utilized. The existing rectangular configuration is not conducive to television, and requires the use of at least three cameras.

The meetings held in the two specially equipped committee rooms would be televised and broadcast as part of the House of Commons feed to CPaC. Unless the committees were meeting at a time when the House was not sitting, they would be taped and broadcast on a delayed basis.