

take two ten minutes of the debates with a small overlap. Just before one shut off we started the other one so we did not miss anything in between. We only had two machines, instead of six, which means that we could only take twenty minutes out of every hour. We tried to take two consecutive ten minute periods in each case so we could experiment with the difficulties of combining the two takes together. The equipment was connected to the sound amplification system, and the experiment was carried out in room 110 on the ground floor. This is just as far away as the debates reporting offices, which is where the tape recording equipment would be, I suggest, if you install tape recording equipment. Distance did not enter into this experiment.

At first I had two amanuenses or two typists who were assigned to me simply to type out the belts without any thought given to name of the speaker. Of course, this is a problem when you are recording because the speaker does not announce his name. Very often the Speaker gives the floor to an hon. member from such and such a constituency which, of course, does help to identify the speaker, but this is not always the case, and interjections are sometimes missed.

However, because the two girls assigned to me were not trained in this kind of work I had to experiment for about a week with them to bring them to a level of competency which would allow them to do this intelligently. They were both willing and helpful. Mrs. Doyle, who may be known to some of you, had previous experience as an amanuensis but she had done none of this work for nine or ten years, and she had never operated a dictaphone.

Mrs. Gibson had operated a dictaphone but took no shorthand. This is necessary, because when I carried out the final experiment they had to sit in the House of Commons and listen to the ten minute take which they were subsequently going to type in order that they could make notes of the names of the speakers and the opening remarks in case the microphone had not been turned on quickly enough when the speaker began to speak. If a girl did not take shorthand, of course, she would have to write this in longhand, which I suggest inhibited the experiment to some extent.

Another feature that I tried, which was not too successful, was to have the console operator, who sits in the gallery and turns on the microphones as the members speak, announce in a throat microphone the name of the speaker as he got up to speak. It was considered that by superimposing this on the recording it might help the typist when she was playing it back in the event she did not get the name of the speaker. This was sort of a double check. This system is used in the Ontario legislative assembly to very good advantage, but this is a single track recording apparatus and I found unfortunately that when the operator was recording a long name like Diefenbaker, for example, this was enough to blot out an equivalent amount of the speech or opening remarks. So you will find, if you hear it on the recording, that this did not work out too well. With tape recording equipment, however, there are two channels so it is possible to record the name of the speaker on one channel without interfering with the speech which is recorded on the second channel.

The girl, in turn, in transcribing her tape has an earphone in one ear over which she hears the name of the speaker and in the other ear she hears the content of the speech. She can control this so that she can turn one out completely or turn up the volume in one and lower the volume in the other. This is the system that would be recommended.

I brought with me today the results of the last three days of the five day experiment. I think this is reasonable because the first two days were used to straighten out the mistakes of the experiment and get the girls used to the tapes. I have the transcripts of *Hansard* for those three days of operations that have actually been recorded in case members wish to see these. I also have the