

Yesterday we were talking about the budget of the House of Commons. You cannot have it both ways, spending on one side, saying we want everything to be done, and then at the same time being accused across the country of spending too much money.

It is the best report. My colleague would like that report because you cannot ask every committee first. The cost would be astronomical, as we say in the report. We are on our way to what the hon. member has said in his rather strong criticism of the report.

I wish he would believe me when I say this is honest work by a committee that went to Toronto and to Quebec City to see how it was done there. The immediate instantaneous radio that you will get in your office may not have been well expressed or well explained, but all press will know instantaneously what is going on in every committee. This is an immense step forward. Once the doors are opened to that step, all the other steps will follow. I know that.

If we delay, and we have been delaying too long, the television debate, we will not know how it works, but as soon as you get something there is no backing off. That is why I played a very conservative role on the committee. I wanted to make sure that what we do is right. Once we agree to do something because we are convinced it is right, I get up and defend what is right.

Therefore, the immediate total audio in every office in Parliament, every office of ministers, members, staff, and of the press, is an immense step forward at very little cost. We have to explain to Canadians that we are not going to go on a rampage of expenses.

Therefore, step number one is radio. My colleague from York—Simcoe worked very hard on that. He put the paper together, arranged for witnesses, and it is a success. I share in his success because I was part of it. I am proud to say yes, it is a great step.

We will have a committee room all set. The member would like to have had this room because the Al-Mashat affair would have been televised. You know that. It is a step forward for the most exciting committees that will be televised. Once we have one we will see what it costs.

Routine Proceedings

I call on his financial judgment. Let us see what it costs and how much more it will cost in the future.

We may disagree on the second, third, fourth and fifth reports, but we have to show progress. Your colleagues have worked for a year, hours on end. There has been discussion and witnesses. We must listen to everything that has been said because it was our mandate. We did it.

[*Translation*]

We did an honest job, some very good work, and we can tell the House that the time has come for that bill to be passed. I would respectfully suggest, Mr. Speaker, that you ask the House's consent to pass that bill.

[*English*]

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cooper: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. We have a couple of minutes left.

I am wondering if members would be prepared to give consent to the 24th report which deals with Private Members' Business, the 27th report which deals also with Private Members' Business, the number of items increased, and the 28th report which would allow for legislative committees.

Otherwise I think it is really embarrassing to see what is happening in the House in terms of the management committee's work that has been done on this.

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, I think we have made very good progress today. We have had a lively debate on this report and I suggest we call it three o'clock.

• (1500)

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, may I say I have tried since this morning. Shame on you, the hon. member. Who is it addressed to? Shame on us. It is not a point of order. It is certainly a question of privilege. Some members want to have everything the same day and others want nothing. To me, it is the most important step that has come forward.

I know the ability of the parliamentary secretary. He can put it back again with a little more negotiation. I know he has commitment. We are not here under any minister's rules.