

40. The communications engineer indicated that magnetic tape recording equipment would provide better recording quality. Dictaphone equipment using plastic belts was procured before magnetic tape transcribing equipment became generally available.

Ontario legislative assembly

41. Visits were made to the legislative assembly in Toronto December 4, 1961 and May 2, 1962. During these visits the following people were interviewed:

- Mr. William Murdock—Speaker of the house
- Mr. Roderick Lewis —Clerk of the house
- Mr. Val Sharpe —electronics engineer in charge
- Mr. Peter Brannan —editor of debates (contract employee)
- Mrs. McFadden —in charge of transcribers (contract employee)

42. Hansard was first published in the Ontario legislative assembly in 1947. This was produced from shorthand notes and reporters were used until the 1958 session.

43. R.C.A. Victor broadcast quality, sound amplification equipment incorporating the use of desk speakers and desk microphones (as opposed to hanging microphones used in the House of Commons) were installed in 1956. Tape recorders were of regular quality since it was not considered necessary to pay the premium cost for broadcast quality equipment.

44. During the first year, tapes were used as a check by reporters. Immediately following the session, a comparison was made of the recordings to Hansard and it was determined that the tapes had recorded everything that the reporters had copied. The contract for reporters for the 1958 session was, therefore, not renewed.

45. Following the first year of operation, the following modifications were made:

- (a) An inter-communication system was installed between console operator and the equipment room technician.
- (b) Viking 85 double channel tape recorders were installed in order that the names of speakers and supplementary information could be recorded and heard, on a second track, by the typist. At the same time the sonograph transcribers were modified to use split headphones coupled to a separate amplifier for the reproduction of the second channel. Operators are now able to hear the speech through one ear-phone and the name of the speaker in the other.
- (c) Tape recorder monitor heads were added to the tape recorders to enable the operator to ensure that recording was actually taking place.
- (d) Tape recording procedures were changed so that ten minute recordings were taken at a speed of 3 and $\frac{3}{4}$ " per second. Tapes cost less than \$1.00 each and are used for three sessions.
- (e) This equipment will play back, through the desk speakers in the house, any portion of the recorded proceedings, on request.

46. The procedure for producing and editing Hansard transcripts in Toronto is very similar to that used in Ottawa, except that ten minute takes are recorded on tape in place of the reporter's shorthand notes. Because of early difficulties associated with identifying the speaker and capturing interjections, the first