

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Ervin, did you make any study of the committee work in the House?

Mr. ERVIN: No sir, I did not.

Mr. AIKEN: You did not do that even as allied to your study?

Mr. ERVIN: No. I would have to say no; I really did not study this at all.

Mr. AIKEN: Basically you were not concerned really with the over-all load; you were concerned more with the feasibility of putting in a recording system, is that correct?

Mr. ERVIN: In so far as *Hansard* and debates reporting are concerned, yes.

Mr. AIKEN: In the chamber itself?

Mr. ERVIN: In the chamber itself.

I was not concerned solely with seeing the practicability of putting a recording system in the chamber; I was concerned with any change that would improve the present system. It happens I chose recording as the most suitable solution to this problem.

Mr. AIKEN: Now, to go on with another aspect of this matter, what companies are there available which would provide the equipment that might be used? Is there more than one company?

Mr. ERVIN: Oh yes, there are a number of companies; almost any firm engaged in electronics and recording have equipment which could be used for this purpose. There is quite a wide variety of this type of equipment. I recommended a type that I knew to be suitable, and this is covered in an appendix to my report.

Mr. AIKEN: Would this recording system be attached directly to the house system which is now in use?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. The house sound amplification system is the one feature that makes tape recording suitable. You have an excellent means of capturing the debates. It is done by hooking the wires to the amplification system.

Mr. AIKEN: What study did you make of the system of open and closed microphones? It seems to me that the house is divided into perhaps eight or ten sections. I am not sure of the number of sections. But, as you know, only the section in which the person is speaking has its microphone open and the others are closed. What happens to off-the-cuff comments, interjections or even speeches which are started when the microphone is closed? Can these things be picked up?

Mr. ERVIN: This is why it is necessary to have, in conjunction with a recording system, someone sitting on the floor in the position of the reporter now who may take down the member's name and opening words of the interjection. As you know, often the first few words are missed because of the switchover of the microphones. In order that these be captured it is necessary for somebody to be on the floor to take the name of the person speaking, and the first two or three words. In Ontario, for example, they take care of this situation by having a shorthand stenographer on the floor. In addition the console operator, who sits in somewhat the same relative position as is the case in the house, superimposes on a second sound track the name of the speaker as he speaks. He has a microphone and he leans over and says "Mr. Jones" to indicate on the tape who is speaking. In addition to that, the monitor who sits at the control panel or equipment outside the house also records a log of this; so, they take care of this problem in three ways.

I might say this problem becomes less acute, depending on the interpretation which is given by the Speaker with regard to what is to be included in the debates. I believe it is common parliamentary practice to rule that only