

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Was that when the committee was considering the LeDain Commission report?

Senator Godfrey: When that committee was considering the marijuana bill, we received permission from the Senate to broadcast the proceedings on television. I must say that that was not a very satisfactory experiment. The bright lights blinded everyone, television cameramen were running around, and those running the broadcasting took over for a couple of days, and I think that that put many senators off. However, I believe that things have improved technically since then so that it can be better handled today.

I really think we should look at both radio and television broadcasting. I also think that the proceedings of the Senate itself should be broadcast on radio and television.

Hon. Louis-J. Robichaud: Honourable senators, it is not customary for me to rise in the Senate; I have developed the habit of being quiet, but on this issue I think I should express an opinion following the comments made by my colleagues, Senators Leblanc (*Saurel*), Corbin and Godfrey. I recall vividly that the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, then under the chairmanship of Senator Carl Goldenberg, allowed television cameras to cover the committee's deliberations at one time. I did not totally agree with Senator Godfrey when he said that that disrupted the proceedings of the committee; I think it improved the quality of the debates.

I am in favour of broadcasting our committee proceedings on television and radio. I do not think there is anything wrong

with that. I think the public is entitled to know what is going on in Senate committees. That is where the Senate does its most important work. Members of the media rarely attend our committee meetings; they are only in attendance when something such as happened a couple of weeks ago occurs. I think enough has been said on what occurred a couple of weeks ago, and if we keep silent on it, the media will also keep silent on it.

When matters of national significance are discussed at Senate committee meetings, I believe that television cameras and radio broadcasting equipment should be allowed into the meeting rooms so that the proceedings could be televised and broadcast on radio. My position on broadcasting the proceedings of the Senate itself is that it should not be allowed unless the Queen or the Governor General is present in the chamber reading the Speech from the Throne.

Senator Corbin: Honourable senators, I believe that Senator Robichaud, for whom I have a great deal of respect, as he well knows, inadvertently made an error when he referred to Senator Carl Goldenberg as having been the Joint Chairman of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution.

Some Hon. Senators: No, no.

Senator Corbin: Was the honourable senator referring to another committee?

Senator Robichaud: Yes.

Senator Corbin: I apologize; I thought you were referring to the committee on the Constitution, which was televised and broadcast by radio.

Motion agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.
