

**8. There should be a mandatory review of the broadcasting of the House of Commons and its committees two years after the commencement of the new system.**

“... the committee may also want to retain the right of periodic review to ensure that coverage is being handled to the satisfaction of the House and its committees.”

The Hon. John Fraser,  
Speaker of the House of Commons.

The proposals in this Report will greatly expand the broadcasting of the House of Commons and its committees. These recommendations have been made after extensive study and consideration by the Committee. We have reviewed the broadcasting operations of other legislative bodies. The House of Commons was one of the first legislatures to allow gavel-to-gavel broadcasting. As such it has served as the model for many other jurisdictions. Many of them, however, have moved beyond us. They have learned from our mistakes. The time has now come for us to re-evaluate our own broadcasting policies, and to learn from the experiences of others.

Nevertheless, an automatic review of the broadcasting of the House and its committees should be carried out at the end of two years. Such a review should be comprehensive, and ensure that all Members have an opportunity to express any concerns, or reservations that they may have. As the House will then have the benefit of two years' worth of expanded coverage, it will be possible to look at the reality, rather than relying on speculation and conjecture.

The Committee believes that the proposals in this Report are sound and will prove successful. At the same time, it is important that all Members be assured that, besides the on-going supervision and control by the Monitoring Committee, there will be an extensive review of the new regime at the end of two years. By then, we should have enough experience, and the wrinkles will have been ironed out. The changes implemented can then be assessed, and changes made if necessary. Obviously, the Committee would be entitled to present a report to the House at any time if major problems arose, or basic changes were required.

On the basis of our investigations, many of the fears and concerns that Members have regarding loosened rules for the broadcasting of the House, and the televising of committee proceedings have not materialized in other jurisdictions. The Committee has listened to the concerns expressed by many Members, and appreciate their raising them.