

Routine Proceedings

My colleague is described by our House leader as one of those elite members of the management board. I ask him: Why do we not bite the bullet right now? If we are going to do this—and I am sure we will get unanimous support for this idea—let us not do it in half measure. Let us do all committees all of the time and let us get another parliamentary channel.

Mr. Gagliano: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for his questions and comments.

I said in my speech that the objective was to create an electronic *Hansard* for everything that is being done around this place. Unfortunately there are two considerations. First, this place does not move as fast as my hon. colleague and myself would like it to move. What we accomplished in this report is a step in the right direction.

Second, there is a major capital cost involved. It is not just to install cameras and some wires. I listed all the committees that we have. Aside from all the legislative and special committees, there are over 20 permanent committees sitting from Monday to Friday. People might think we have a lot of large rooms here, but according to the experts we were told that it would require major capital cost allowances for renovations. If we look at all the rooms that we have, most of our committee rooms do not have enough space. We have to remodel these rooms before we can install equipment.

We have to act fast. This thing was started years and years ago. We have had enough study. We have to start somewhere. We were told that if we wanted to start right away at least one room could be accommodated. We have at least one room where we do not have to do any alternations. We do not have to knock walls down, remove floors and so on. We just have to install some cameras and we have the cameras. Perhaps we will have to buy a couple of new ones, which is not a major expenditure. We could start right away. So that is what we went for.

We have something that is just the beginning. We hope that gradually over today and next week this report will be implemented. The management committee now has the mandate to supervise this new thing. If it is good and it needs some improvement, we will make it. In the meantime we will look to find other means, other rooms and other equipment, as much as we can.

We know we are living in a very tight economic situation. As soon as we can move, we will definitely add more committee rooms which will be televised. I encourage my colleague to keep pushing members of the management committee like myself so that we can have more committee rooms equipped with television cameras like the first one we will be creating very soon.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I have just listened to the remarks and particularly the questions and comments—these last few moments regarding an indication and a willingness to televise the proceedings of this House and its committees as much as possible. I am just wondering if the hon. member can give me an assurance that we will be able to complete all those reports this afternoon which will allow us to do just that, to open up the process for private members, the cameras, and so on.

Mr. Gagliano: Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the hon. parliamentary secretary, who is also chairman of the House management committee, for his collaboration. We had a lot of meetings and he was very patient during them. He knows very well that it took almost a year before we arrived at this report. I am sure he would agree with me that we had a lot of time in the committee to hear witnesses, to ask questions and to get answers. But I am sure he would like to give an opportunity to all members who want to ask questions this afternoon. I think, if he is patient enough, he might get the report before the end of the day. That is the only commitment I can make so far.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak on the motion today to adopt the 23rd report of the broadcasting of committee meetings.

First of all let me say to the House that perhaps I will not take all of my 20 minutes to make these remarks but, then again, at the urging of some of my colleagues one never knows.

I should explain to members across the way the position of my colleagues in the Liberal Party and I on this issue. That is very important. Because of the importance of the committees, as the member for Saint-Léonard has said, it is very crucial that the broadcasting of committees take place.