

*Procedure and Organization*

speeches are read in their entirety. Members of the house who are still here when an hon. member has finished such a speech are literally bored to death. One can see the effect of this kind of speech on the house by watching hon. members and the members of the press gallery when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) delivers one of his read speeches. People become more and more bored, and often you can hear the snores for blocks away. When members deliver long, read speeches in the house no one pays attention to the most important things in them. The people who should be paying attention from the members' point of view, the ministers of the government and the press gallery, do not do so because the speeches are too dull to merit attention. Therefore, the speeches delivered in this way have no effect whatsoever on debate in the House of Commons.

They have one direct purpose; that is, to advise a member's constituents of his views on matters which are important to them, and what he intends doing to see that action is taken on very real problems. The important thing about these speeches is that they appear in *Hansard* so that an hon. member may send them home for his constituents to read, and to the newspapers in his constituency so they may be published. In this way his constituents may know he is doing a good job, understands their problems and intends to speak to the minister concerned, or raise the matter later in the house and try to get some action. This gives the member a chance to report to his constituency what he has done.

In reality this is a member's white paper to his constituency. It is very important to him. These speeches should continue to be written and should get into the hands of the newspapers in a member's constituency, or into the hands of his constituents. But I do not believe there is any reason or justification for their taking up the time of the house and wasting our time, because they have no effect on anybody in the house. If any hon. member has doubt about that, I ask him to look around the chamber when somebody is reading a speech, and he will see the impression the speech is making.

The United States Congress have developed a method of handling this situation without wasting the time of Congress. The United States Congress allow a congressman to file a copy of his speech with the Clerk of Congress. The speech then appears in the *Congressional Record* just as if it had been delivered in Congress. In this way it does the job it is supposed to do. It is sent to the congress-

[Mr. Hees.]

man's constituents and the newspapers in his riding. His constituents learn what he is doing, they are appraised of his views; but Congress does not waste the infinite amount of time that we in this chamber waste listening to such speeches. Every one of us is bored listening to speeches of this kind and there is no reason or justification for it. No member expects to impress the government, no matter what its political stripe may be, because he is talking directly to his constituents. He is not talking to the government or anyone in parliament; he is not trying to influence parliament.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, my second suggestion is that we adopt what I consider to be a very successful practice adopted by the United States Congress many years ago, namely, allowing hon. members who have speeches they feel they must make to their constituents—and it is very necessary that they make this kind of speech, but not in the house—to have them printed in *Hansard* without their being read. In this way the speeches could be sent to the hon. member's constituents and the result would be exactly the same, with the advantage that we would not have to spend interminable hours listening to them. The time of the house would therefore be used more effectively and a great deal of the time of this chamber would be saved, thereby allowing more time to deal with the country's business.

I should now like to deal with my third suggestion. It refers to the making of speeches that are intended to influence our debate. Anybody who has been a member of a government will tell you that ministers pay attention to members of parliament only when they are convinced by the delivery of a speech that a member thoroughly knows his subject and feels strongly about it. This can be judged by the method of delivery of the speech. This kind of impression can only be created by a member knowing his subject thoroughly in advance, studying it very carefully and being convinced that what he has to say is of importance to the house in general and the government in particular.

• (3:20 p.m.)

A member wants certain changes to be made. He feels very strongly about it, and has no need to follow a written script because his thoughts are clearly in his mind. In view of this I suggest we enforce a rule which has existed for many years but which has been left unenforced because hon. members did not want it enforced by Mr. Speaker, or the