

to be a man from the reporting staff here just the same, and he would take the words and the name of every speaker, and the two combined together would help make a more perfect record of the proceedings. If anyone wants to identify himself in the course of a discussion I feel it might not be very easy if he wanted to interject a question to have to say, "Jones speaking." I don't think it would be practical for this type of report, but there would be a reporter here at all times to take the words of the sequence of speakers.

Mr. GREEN: Has the stenographic staff of the House asked for this?

The CHAIRMAN: No, no one has asked for this, it is just an experiment that is being carried on, and once these reports are typed or transcribed the matter will be studied with the head of the reporters branch, and will be sent to the Committee on House Procedure in due course for approval or disapproval so this morning means nothing so far as we are concerned. You are not approving—order, please.

Mr. GREEN: Has His Honor the Speaker—

The CHAIRMAN: Of course, it is in accordance—the Speaker accepted the idea just as an exploratory thing. You see, it might help the stenographic staff or help to have more accurate reporting of what is said before a committee. These tapes will be transcribed and will be compared with the reports from the reporters. It might help them and if it became an established practice some of this transcription might be included in their report or help them to carry on their work, but this morning's meeting, of course, means nothing towards deciding whether this will be carried on or not. Only later, when the question has been studied by the Clerk and Speaker together with the head of the reporting branch will we learn whether it is feasible. No decision will be made one way or the other, before the matter has been gone into.

Mr. KNOWLES: Is this equipment purchased or on loan?

The CHAIRMAN: No, it is here just for demonstration. Nothing has been purchased, it is just for experimentation.

Mr. COLDWELL: I made mention about a steering committee a minute ago, but before we proceed I must say I think there is difficulty. The chairman says these tapes will be erased?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, after they are transcribed.

Mr. COLDWELL: Supposing we have a stenographic report of the meeting, and tape recording, and the tape recording is erased, and two or three months later something comes up concerning a statement that had been made at the meeting, what record are we going by—the tape recording itself, which we do not have, or the reporter's record?

The CHAIRMAN: That is a matter of course that would have to be studied. We are just experimenting with this system. After a machine has recorded the proceedings of a meeting—a machine cannot make a mistake it cannot add or subtract something to what has been said—the reporter or stenographer who transcribes the records verifies that his transcription is a true record. If we had to keep these tapes it would be very costly, and would also complicate matters considerably, but just as we have to trust a reporter's ability to report our meetings, I think we can trust the stenographer who transcribes these records to have transcribed exactly what is on the tape and she can certify it.

Mr. GREEN: Suppose there is a conflict between the recording and the stenographic record?

The CHAIRMAN: What is your opinion, Mr. Green? Would you trust the machine which is technically right or would you trust the human ear which—like yours and mine—could make a mistake?