

Mr. ERVIN: I am glad you asked that question. That was one subject I thought would come up and I prepared myself for it.

A lot is kept in the technical room of the amplification system. Now, as you know, very few failures have occurred. Some of you may recall that a few weeks ago there was a light power failure in the middle of the city of Ottawa; this caused the lights in the chamber to flicker but as far as the recording and amplification equipment was concerned, the auxiliary generator on the roof was able to take over the load almost instantaneously.

Mr. BUSKARD: That is not correct; it took over the load only in the chamber.

Mr. ERVIN: It took over the load of the public address system.

Mr. BUSKARD: But it did not outside the chamber. Our office was completely stalled for two ten minute periods. Our electrical typewriters could not be used.

Mr. COWAN: But the lights worked in the chamber.

Mr. BUSKARD: We would not be doing our typing in the chamber.

Mr. ERVIN: But, the recording would have gone on because it is hooked up with the sound system.

Mr. BUSKARD: But your power is supplied from outside.

Mr. ERVIN: I do not think a ten minute delay is a serious problem.

Mr. BUSKARD: But there would be no recording.

Mr. ERVIN: It would have taken place.

Mr. BUSKARD: As I said, the power supply comes from outside the chamber and your sound amplification comes from the chamber.

Mr. ERVIN: The same power system that would operate the sound amplification system would operate the recording equipment.

Mr. BUSKARD: Even outside the chamber?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes.

Mr. COWAN: I was not in the house when that happened. However, I understand that the power went off and the poor devil who was reading his speech had to stop because it was black in there so, in that case, you would not have to record anything. That was one of the funniest things I have heard; the lights went out and the member stopped talking.

Mr. RINFRET: How many editors would you foresee for the English debates branch and how many for the French debates branch?

Mr. ERVIN: I can only answer for the English debates branch because I did not go into this other section.

The final establishment I proposed was that there would be an editor, Mr. Buskard, for example, and three assistant editors instead of one, with seven parliamentary transcribers. The theory behind this is that it might take that much more editing in view of the lesser skill of the parliamentary transcriber to do this, although I find they are quite adept at that.

Mr. COWAN: Has the quality of the work deteriorated since the addition of the stenotype machine to the pen and paper reporting staff?

Mr. BUSKARD: No, it has not; it is just a different method of recording.

Mr. COWAN: Well, that is what tape recording is.

Mr. Chairman, it is after 11 o'clock; I know I am not breaking up the quorum by leaving because there is not one.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, before we adjourn I have one question to ask.

Mr. Ervin, who owns these tapes that you used in respect of your experiment?