

Supply—Legislation

preferably to those members whose constituencies are such a great distance from Ottawa as in the case of those from the far west and perhaps those from Newfoundland. The matter has been brought up time after time and I wish to state that I stand wholeheartedly behind the request that we be given this type of transportation.

Mr. Chambers: I should like to ask a question regarding the numbering of the offices in the building. Is any consideration being given to improving the system so that visitors may find our offices and, for that matter, so that new members may find their way home each evening?

Mr. Pickersgill: I should like to join wholeheartedly in what the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George has said. I have been around this building for 20 years and I have never yet been able to figure out what the numbering system is. I doubt if anyone else has.

Mr. Speaker: I am glad to state that a study is being made of a more intelligible numbering system. That study was instituted two or three weeks ago, I believe, and was sparked by a letter from the Postmaster General who complained about the same matter, I understand, in previous sessions. I believe that a much more understandable system is being devised. As a matter of fact, I know that a much better system has been devised and it now remains to secure the agreement of the Senate and the Department of Public Works in order to put it into operation. I take it that it might be put into operation most conveniently when a new directory is issued. The matter is well in hand and I hope we shall have a system which will help explain itself.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Talking about systems, I know that this matter does not come under the Speaker but I make the suggestion through him that the government might consider the desirability of transferring to the Speaker authority over the refrigeration system which is now non-existent in the house. Reasons have been suggested why it has not been functioning in recent weeks. I do not expect the Speaker to reply to what I am saying because obviously he must be a disinterested party, but I am wondering why all matters pertaining to the house do not come under the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: In spite of the opportunity to remain silent which my hon. friend gave me, I should like to say that I have been as concerned as he has with the inefficiency of the air cooling system which, as he knows, was installed in 1947. With the approach of hot weather recently I took it upon myself

to ask the Minister of Public Works, whose department is responsible for the heating and cooling of the building, to see that we got a better system. I know there are some difficulties which it may not be possible to overcome this session but I shall not be content unless we have an efficient system before another session.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I think I was the first person who brought this subject into the open in this house. I was quite unsatisfied by the technical explanation given to us by the Minister of Public Works that the election of 200-odd Conservative members had increased the hot air so much in the chamber that the cooling system would no longer work. I thought the minister was exaggerating the power of hon. gentlemen opposite. But lest there be any misapprehension about the matter I would point out that in happier days in previous sessions, as I mentioned, the system seemed to work perfectly.

Mr. McGee: With reference to the remark just made by the member for Bonavista-Twillingate, may I say that a report is circulating throughout the building that the engineers found that the cooling system broke down under the impact of so many Liberals in the house in the past. I should like to support the position taken by the hon. member for Vancouver South as it represents the wishes of all members of the house whose ridings are a considerable distance from this city. I support their request for a limited and reasonable number of air passes.

The reason I rose was to inquire about the number of free copies of *Hansard* allotted to each member. I understand that comes under this item. This matter is the cause of one of the many difficulties I have encountered in representing a constituency with over 200,000 people. I believe the number of copies of *Hansard* is 16 and there are at least 16 newspapers servicing various parts of the riding in which I live. If I were to designate that these free copies of *Hansard* be sent to these newspapers I would not be covering the ground. I wonder whether the Speaker might have some suggestion with regard to what I know will be the general agreement of members of the house to provide for the relief of McGee in this matter.

Mr. Speaker: A similar question was asked by the hon. member for Port Arthur. The present arrangement was approved by the house on May 28, 1948, and the order of the house will be found in the *Journals* of that day at page 490. The order authorized 16 copies to be sent free on the nomination of each member and hon. members are familiar