

come about by an improved performance by honourable senators. If honourable senators want greater impact, the Senate should sit five days a week rather than three days a week. That will draw attention to the Senate from the media.

Senator Frith: Why not sit for five days a week and have television coverage as well?

Senator Phillips: I suggest that if the Senate sits five days a week and there is a greater impact we then consider Senator Davey's motion.

Senator Frith: If the media is present that will encourage senators to attend five days a week.

Senator Doody: One never knows when the elections are going to come.

Senator Phillips: I will deal with having the cameras here and the attendance shortly, Senator Frith.

One of the reasons advanced by Senator Davey was that this was a contemporary means of communication, and that democracy demanded that we use the modern means of communication. If any honourable senator wants to broadcast a speech on television, facilities are available in the building. I am not aware that many honourable senators have used them. The Honourable Senator Bonnell years ago offered me the facilities of his television network in Prince Edward Island. I never found any great urge to rush down to the station to record speeches, even when I was incensed at the government.

Senator Frith: You are still working on your radio show.

Senator Phillips: That is right. I am still working on radio. This reminds me more of an Amos 'n Andy show than a TV production.

Another reason advanced for television coverage was the fact that television coverage has worked in the House of Commons. I disagree with that. The House of Commons has gone downhill drastically since television coverage was instituted in that chamber. Now the members forget the reason for the existence of the House of Commons and play to the television cameras.

When Parliament convened last year, the officials of the House of Commons sponsored a training program for all new MPs of all political persuasions. One would have thought they would have spent a great deal of time on parliamentary procedure, on committee procedures, but no, the most important training those MPs received was how to appear before the television cameras. That shows that television coverage has done nothing to improve the House of Commons.

Shortly, members of the House of Commons will be receiving reminders to wear poppies so that when they appear on television they will not be seen without a poppy. Because of that, they have forgotten the reason for wearing the poppy; they just remember the television camera.

If we are to have television coverage of the proceedings of the Senate, I suggest we have different rules from those in the House of Commons. In the House of Commons the camera can focus only on the individual who is speaking. It must not focus on the desk, where the notes are, and the camera must

not record the empty seats around the speaker. It must concentrate solely on the upper torso of the individual speaking. When Senator Davey advocated the use of TV in the Senate, I looked over and was amazed at the number of empty seats around him.

Senator Doody: They all came back when he finished.

Senator Phillips: Naturally, and I expect attendance to improve when I have finished my remarks.

If we are going to have television coverage of the proceedings of the Senate, I suggest that we have one camera positioned where the clock is located so that it can show the complete chamber, so that it will show the Senate with all its warts, blemishes and vacant seats. Then we can attract more attention than we now do.

Senator Davey indicated that the installation of television cameras in the House of Commons cost \$5 million and it costs \$1 million a year to maintain. He went on to suggest that it would be within reason to expect the cost for the Senate to be half that amount. I think the honourable senator was being very conservative.

Senator Davey: I may be a lot of things, but never Conservative!

Senator Doody: That is unparliamentary.

Senator Frith: In his case it is.

Senator Phillips: He forgot that the proceedings of the committees are included in the motion and that committee proceedings in the House of Commons are not covered by television.

In fairness, honourable senators, I think we should have another camera at the Ottawa International Airport at 3 p.m. on Thursday afternoon so that we can see senators taking their flights to Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. That will increase the cost of installation and maintenance. I hope that honourable senators will bear that in mind when considering the cost. The Whip may have to go to the airport as well to check on the attendance out there.

● (1610)

I recall that in the sponsor's remarks he attempted to explain the attitude of the Liberal opposition to Bill C-11. They were very anxious to look at the estimates when they were delaying the passage of Bill C-11. Obviously, the honourable senator has not looked at the estimates since he received them because the estimates include a figure usually in the vicinity of \$25 million a year for the cost of operating the Senate. If we are going to add another \$6 million to that we will increase the operating costs of the Senate by approximately 25 per cent. That is hardly practising the type of restraint that the Minister of Finance requested in his economic statement last fall.

I will shortly be moving a motion in amendment to refer this matter to the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration. I know that the money is not there at the present time. However, I have some suggestions that may provide the money. Those honourable senators who