

increase the staff or the salary, of course this would have no effect on the possibility of introducing what I had in mind.

Mr. AIKEN: It might take longer to implement in view of the fact that retirements from the present system might be longer delayed?

Mr. ERVIN: Exactly, yes.

Mr. AIKEN: Perhaps you should enlarge on your statement because the premises on which I asked my question were not correct in your opinion. Were you going to add something?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. I just wish to add that I thought it might be of interest to the committee to know whether or not the conditions since my survey ended had changed. I took the trouble yesterday to carry out some aspects of the survey covering the last two calendar years which have elapsed since the last data were reported. I find that as far as workload is concerned the number of sitting days in 1962 and 1963 are actually less than the five-year average that I reported here, and that the number of *Hansard* pages that were recorded are again less than in the five-year average reported here. So there has not been an increase in the workload during the last two calendar years over the five-year average expressed in the report. I felt it necessary to find that out before I could make the comment about workload and staff requirements.

Mr. RINFRET: Were there more French debates?

Mr. ERVIN: I am sorry, I did not obtain that information for 1962 and 1963.

Mr. COWAN: In 1962 and 1963 there were elections, and parliament was not sitting during those terms.

Mr. ERVIN: I am sure there were many good reasons.

Mr. COWAN: There needs to be only one; it is not necessary to have many.

Mr. AIKEN: There is another matter which I should draw to your attention. You said the average time worked was considerably less than that of the average civil servant. I read your report but I am not sure whether you made a comparison with other civil service categories doing a similar type of concentrated work to that which the *Hansard* reporters undertake. Is there another group in the civil service doing work comparable to the work of the *Hansard* reporters?

Mr. ERVIN: No. I did not make any direct comparison. I found it very difficult to find comparable situations. I felt rather it was my duty to reflect in the report the actual amount of work that was being done so someone in authority could assess whether this was reasonable or not. The question had been brought up that the workload of the *Hansard* reporter had doubled or tripled in the last 50 years, or something to this effect. I felt this was less significant than what he was actually doing now, and that is why I approached it from this point of view.

Mr. AIKEN: From your knowledge of reporting systems and transcribing systems, you would be prepared to admit that reporting and transcribing are concentrated work?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, and I can only quote the figures that we consider to be adequate in transcription work in ordinary typing and transcribing areas of activity where a girl is required to transcribe from a dictating machine. We expect her to spend up to 80% of an eight hour working day on this, and this works out at 360 minutes, or six hours out of the 7½ that she is expected to work from the machine; the remainder of the time is what we might call personal and fatigue allowance. I notice of the 6.1 hours a day that the reporter works, he has a small amount of time in each hour that may be devoted to this.