

Mr. AIKEN: If you had separate sets for English and for French debates, would those sets be recording continuously? In other words, the report of the transcriber would merely pick the French out of the tape in each case?

Mr. ERVIN: That is correct.

Mr. AIKEN: There would be no cause to edit the tapes in or out. They would be continuous.

Mr. ERVIN: They would be, yes. With the duplicate equipment going on in English and French, you may not have to have the monitor we spoke of because they are both recording at the same time.

The CHAIRMAN: This may not be within the minutes of our terms of reference, but could some equipment be provided for committee meetings?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. Again, if you will excuse my frequent reference to the Ontario legislative assembly, many of the experiments have taken place there and they have a good deal of knowledge about it. They are experimenting now, and they are successfully using a portable type of recording apparatus for committee reporters. They were forced into this, because they are experiencing a situation such as is being experienced here, namely a shortage of shorthand reporters, and they have had to extend their facilities.

The CHAIRMAN: We have time for two or three more questions.

Mr. AIKEN: I have nothing further.

The CHAIRMAN: May I ask you a final question. Is it your opinion that with the expert editing that we can have with the reporters who are now in the chamber, and if sufficient time were allowed to have operators of this equipment trained so that they could do a pretty good job, the House of Commons then would be able to turn out a daily *Hansard* of the same excellence that we have now?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, sir; there would be nothing in the new system to interrupt the regular schedule and the early printing of *Hansard*. As far as quality is concerned, I would say that it would be at least as good. There might be a margin of improvement because of the opportunity which the editor would have to listen to a recording of the debate while he was editing.

Mr. RINFRET: Might I suggest that it could be a good idea to permit the members at large of the House of Commons to have opportunity to hear these recording machines in operation?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Are there any suggestions that possibly we might do that?

Mr. RINFRET: An invitation could be extended through our caucus meetings, to set a time.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you thinking of this session?

Mr. RINFRET: We all have caucus meetings this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: It might be difficult to set it up this morning on such short notice. An important problem is this: if we are going to come to a decision before this session ends, or if we are going to make any recommendation to the House of Commons, it will have to be done before Friday or Saturday. I suggest one thing to you: it might be possible to set up the equipment sometime during this week in room 16, and then if any member wished to drop out of the house for 10 to 15 minutes to hear it, that could be done, subject of course to the time that Mr. Ervin might have to spend on it.

Mr. AIKEN: I think the suggestion is a good one, but I would fear that at this late date in the session it would create very little more than a debate on the subject, and certainly we would not be able to bring the members of