

If you were to implement the recommendations contained in the report it would depend on the vacancies which would occur because one of the prime factors in the recommendations with respect to staff is that no one's tenure of office is to be affected in any way and that this change would take place as reporters' vacancies occur. I expressed this in a phased program. There are five phases, each phase representing a vacancy occurring and a transfer of responsibility taking place. So, that part of it is indefinite; it may take years.

In respect of the mechanical aspects of installing machines and using these as a backup to assist the editor in editing the material and as a file of debates on tapes, this is something which could be installed in a matter of a month, I should think. Does that answer your question?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. AIKEN: I would like to ask Mr. Ervin if during his study he considered any system that was comparable to the House of Commons, perhaps, in size and any allied system such as simultaneous translation and the microphone system we now use in the House of Commons?

Mr. ERVIN: There was some difficulty in finding a jurisdiction which would compare in all respects with the House of Commons. But, as I stated in my report, I paid a visit to the United Nations, which involves rather a larger number and does have unique problems which the House of Commons does not have. They do have translation, not of two languages but several, and they do employ belt-distaphone recording types of apparatus.

Mr. AIKEN: You mentioned the United Nations; I spent two sessions there. Would you not agree that the proceedings of the United Nations do not take the form of a debate, in any sense of the word, but merely consist of a series of speeches which are read?

Mr. ERVIN: Quite. As I said initially, it does not have many of the characteristics that the House of Commons has. For instance, the problem of interjections in the assembly is not as great as it is in the House of Commons.

Mr. AIKEN: They do not record shoe pounding and thumping on the desks and, aside from that, there is a set speech which can be followed.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes.

Mr. AIKEN: Was there any system which you studied which uses a tape such as the one which was used in the House of Commons? I am thinking of the Ontario legislature, which has similarities but dissimilarities as well.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. I think this would be the closest approximation to the House of Commons but on a smaller scale. I did study the legislative assembly in Toronto where they have a recording apparatus.

Mr. AIKEN: In connection with the Ontario legislature, did you examine the system they used before they brought in the tape recorders?

Mr. ERVIN: Well, it was not possible for me to examine it because it was no longer in existence. However, from my interviews with the speaker and the clerk I gained the impression their system was largely based on the one you have now; the reporters were employed on a contract basis rather than as salaried employees. But, they did go on the floor and take 10 minute takes, and operated under somewhat the same time schedule as is in effect here.

Mr. AIKEN: I am putting it to you that the former system was not at all satisfactory in the Ontario legislature as it related to verbatim reporting. In a great number of cases, rather than a verbatim transcript it was a summary of the speeches made.

Mr. ERVIN: This may be so but it certainly did not come out in any information I gathered from the speaker. I got the impression the difficulty was not in the quality of *Hansard* but more like the difficulties you are now experiencing,