

The CHAIRMAN: If any member has any objection to it, it might be voiced. It might at a later time also be decided whether or not recommendation might be made to carry on this, by comparison of the work of the machine and the work of the reporters.

Mr. FLEMING: Mr. Chairman, might I ask this. These devices are not for amplifying sound?

The CHAIRMAN: No.

Mr. FLEMING: Merely the usual tape-recording device?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I understand that this thing should be turned up. They are all under operation now. This should be turned so as to catch the voice of all the other people around it.

Mr. GREEN: Does this mean that the proceedings of this committee will or can be broadcast?

The CHAIRMAN: Oh, no, such a thing could never be done without the authority of the members. At the moment it is just a test to investigate the possibility of such a thing, and I may say it is my own idea and not the idea of anybody else. If the committee does not want to experiment, we will just close it. I thought it might be a good thing to try.

Mr. GREEN: What use will be made of the recordings?

The CHAIRMAN: The recordings are to be erased, as the tapes can be used quite a number of times. After each recording they go through an eraser, which is quite easy to operate, to erase what is on them, and they can serve the next time for another recording.

Mr. GREEN: What use is to be made of them?

The CHAIRMAN: They will be transcribed in the same way as the notes of a reporter are transcribed. You cannot fool a machine, and at times human factors may cause an error to be made in shorthand or transcription by reporters. It is just to make reporting, shall we say, more accurate or perfect.

Mr. GREEN: Are they to be used in connection with the typed report?

The CHAIRMAN: At this moment, no. The only intention at this meeting is to have the proceedings recorded and then transcribed. That is all there is to it. There will not be machines at the next meeting unless the matter is brought before the proper committee of the House for discussion. It is just an experiment.

Mr. COLDWELL: Is it to help the stenographic staff?

The CHAIRMAN: In a way, yes.

Mr. COLDWELL: Is that the purpose?

The CHAIRMAN: The purpose is to decide whether it is good enough to use generally, and it could be a welcome addition to the stenographic reports so as to verify the exactitude of the terms used by some of the members. On committees you have technical terms, and so on, which may at one time escape a reporter, and it would make sure that some of the witnesses do not have to correct the report for inaccuracies and often add things. It had been suggested in the House that one witness before a committee, who had been given the opportunity to verify the report, had added substantial things that he had not said in the committee.

Mr. COLDWELL: There is no utility in it at all unless each person before he speaks identifies himself. The machine means nothing at all unless each person before speaking says, "Coldwell speaking," or something.

The CHAIRMAN: That is the point, but with that you may do away entirely with the reporters staff, and that is not the intention. The idea is, if it is decided that it should be carried on on a permanent basis, there would have