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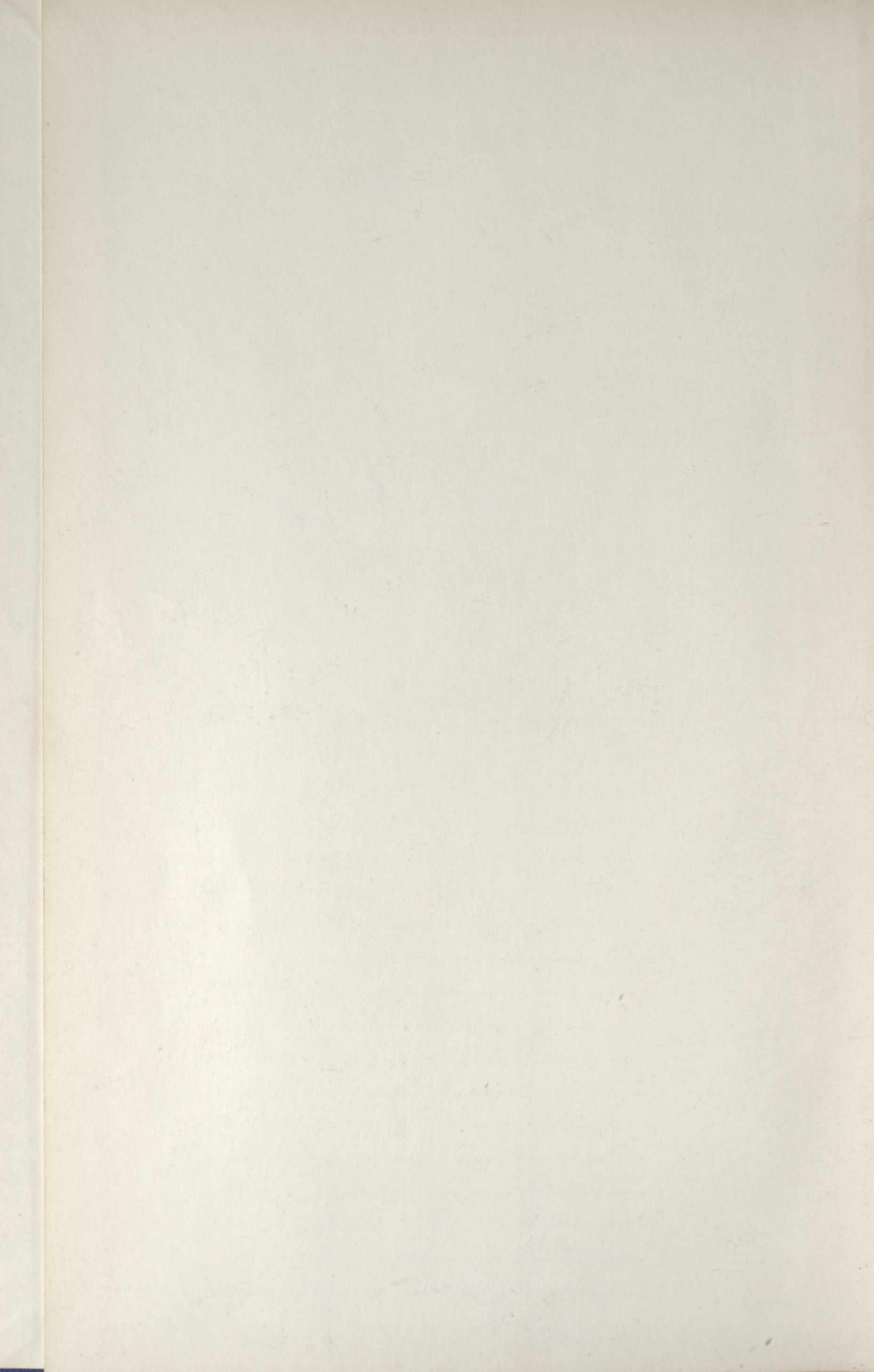
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committee*

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
Standing Committee on
Debates

1963

	Nos.
Batten, Herman M., chairman.	
Buskard, W.D., Editor of the English section of the Debates and Chief of the Reporting Branch, H. of C.	1
Ervin, A.M., Management Analysis Officer of the Civil Service Commission.	1 - 2
Frenette, Paul, Editor of the French Section of the Debates of the House of Commons.	1

HOUSE OF COMMONS
Standing Committee on
Debate

1967

nos.

- Batten, Herman M., chairman.
Fusker, W.D., Editor of the British
Section of the Debates and Great
of the Reporting Branch, E. of D.
1
Irving, A.M., Management Analyst, Director
of the Civil Service Commission.
1 - 2
Frenkel, Paul, Editor of the French
Section of the Debates of the
House of Commons.
1

HOUSE OF COMMONS
First Session—Twenty-sixth Parliament
1963

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
DEBATES

Chairman: MR. HERMAN M. BATTEN

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE
No. 1

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1963
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1963
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1963

Respecting

Report of a Survey of the English Debates
Reporting Branch of the House of Commons.

WITNESSES:

Mr. W. W. Buskard, Editor of the English Section of the Debates and Chief of Reporting Branch, House of Commons; Mr. A. M. Ervin, Management Analysis Officer of the Civil Service Commission; and Mr. Paul Frenette, Editor of the French Section of the Debates of the House of Commons.

ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1963

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEBATES

Chairman: Mr. Herman M. Batten

Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. B. Cowan

and Messrs.

Aiken
Batten
Cowan
Eudes

Howard
Lambert
Langlois
MacNaught

Martineau
Paul
Rinfret
Rouleau—12

(Quorum 7)

NOTE: Messrs. MacNaught, Batten and Rinfret replaced Messrs. Forgie, Nixon and Leduc prior to the first meeting.

ORDERS OF REFERENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
THURSDAY, June 27, 1963.

Resolved,—That the following members do compose the Standing Committee on Debates:

Messrs.

Aiken,
Cowan,
Eudes,
Forgie,

Howard,
Lambert,
Langlois,
Leduc,

Martineau,
Nixon,
Paul,
Rouleau—12.

(Quorum 7)

Ordered,—That the said Committee be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to it by the House; and to report from time to time its observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

FRIDAY, November 1, 1963.

Ordered,—That the Report of a Survey of the English Debates Reporting Branch of the House of Commons tabled by Mr. Speaker be referred to the Standing Committee on Debates for immediate consideration and report.

Ordered,—That the names of Messrs. MacNaught, Batten, and Rinfret be substituted for those of Messrs. Forgie, Nixon, and Leduc respectively on the Standing Committee on Debates.

THURSDAY, November 14, 1963.

Ordered,—That the quorum of the Standing Committee on Debates be reduced from 7 to 5 members, and that Standing Order 65(1)(k) be suspended in relation thereto; and that the Committee be authorized to sit while the House is sitting.

MONDAY, December 9, 1963.

Ordered,—That the Standing Committee on Debates be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by the Committee, and that Standing Order 66 be suspended in relation thereto.

Attest.

LÉON-J. RAYMOND,
The Clerk of the House.

REPORTS TO THE HOUSE

The Standing Committee on Debates has the honour to present its

FIRST REPORT

Your Committee recommends:

1. That its quorum be reduced from 7 to 5 members, and that Standing Order 65(1)(k) be suspended in relation thereto.
2. That it be authorized to sit while the House is sitting.

Respectfully submitted,

HERMAN M. BATTEN,
Chairman.

(This report was concurred in Thursday, November 14, 1963.)

The Standing Committee on Debates has the honour to present its

SECOND REPORT

Your Committee recommends that it be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by the Committee, and that Standing Order 66 be suspended in relation thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

HERMAN M. BATTEN,
Chairman.

(This report was concurred in Monday, December 9, 1963.)

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, November 13, 1963.

(1)

The Standing Committee on Debates met for organization purposes at 2.20 p.m. this day.

Members present: Messrs. Aiken, Batten, Cowan, Eudes, MacNaught, Rinfret and Rouleau—(7).

The Clerk attending, Mr. MacNaught moved, seconded by Mr. Rouleau, that Mr. Batten be Chairman of the Committee.

On motion of Mr. Rouleau, seconded by Mr. Eudes, nominations were closed.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Batten was unanimously elected as Chairman.

The Chairman took the Chair and expressed his appreciation for the honour conferred on him.

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of a Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Rouleau moved, seconded by Mr. MacNaught, that Mr. Cowan be elected Vice-Chairman of this Committee. *Carried unanimously.*

On motion of Mr. MacNaught, seconded by Mr. Rinfret,

Resolved,—That a Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure comprised of the Chairman and four members to be named by him, be appointed.

On motion of Mr. MacNaught, seconded by Mr. Eudes,

Resolved,—That the Committee recommend to the House that its quorum be reduced from 7 to 5 members.

On motion of Mr. MacNaught, seconded by Mr. Rouleau,

Resolved,—That the Committee seek permission to sit while the House is sitting.

The Clerk read the Orders of Reference.

The discussion as to order of business was left to the steering committee.

At 2.30 p.m. on motion of Mr. MacNaught, the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Gabrielle Savard,
Clerk of the Committee.

FRIDAY, December 6, 1963.

(2)

The Standing Committee on Debates met at 2.40 p.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Herman M. Batten, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Aiken, Batten, Eudes, Howard, Langlois, MacNaught, Paul, Rinfret, Rouleau—(9)

In attendance: Mr. W. W. Buskard, Editor of the English Section of the Debates Reporting Branch, House of Commons.

The Chairman made a short statement about the problems created in the House of Commons by the increase work load, problems of finding as well as retaining competent personnel, particularly in the Reporting Branch.

The Chairman announced that the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure composed of Messrs. Aiken, Cowan, Howard, Langlois, Paul and himself, had agreed to invite Mr. W. W. Buskard, Editor of Debates and Chief of Reporting Branch, to explain more fully to the Committee what the problems actually are and what he thinks of the suggestion contained in the Report of a Survey made by the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. Buskard explained to the Committee that the problems are twofold:

1. the staff is too small for the work load;
2. the salary is not high enough to attract competent staff. The salary paid at the House is \$8,200 a year, compared to \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year for competitive positions. Mr. Buskard stated that there are competent French and English Reporters, but they are not attracted with the salary presently paid and the present working conditions at the House of Commons.

The witness also stated that although the work load has increased 50 per cent in the last fifty years, the number of reporters has not increased.

He recommended that two more reporters be appointed, and that a minimum salary of \$10,000 be paid to the Reporters of the English Debates.

In view of the fact that the Report of the Civil Service Commission, p. 32, recommends that a tape recording system be installed in both the English and French Debates Reporting offices,

On motion of Mr. Langlois, seconded by Mr. Paul,

Agreed, (unanimously)—That Mr. Frenette, Editor of the French Section be called to appear before the Committee.

Mr. Buskard impressed upon the Committee the urgency of solving the problem of the English Reporters, and suggested that priority be given to this matter.

He answered questions about reporting evidence in committees.

Mr. Buskard recommended that the House establish, under the Debates Reporting Branch, a training course for reporters, to fill vacancies as they may occur in the senior staffs.

He expressed doubt that the use of tape recording machines would be satisfactory for the job the members of Parliament expect. The Report of the C.S.C. is based on the fact that the proceedings of the Ontario House are reported by tape, according to Mr. Buskard.

After discussion, Mr. Howard moved, seconded by Mr. Langlois, that the Committee ask for permission to print 500 copies in English and 200 copies in French of its proceedings.

Carried unanimously.

In the course of his presentation, Mr. Buskard read to the Committee a letter written to the Speaker of the House on July 25, 1963, containing his observations and recommendations with respect to the Debates Reporting Branch.

On motion of Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Howard,

Resolved (unanimously)—That the letter of Mr. Buskard to the Speaker of the House be printed as part of the proceedings of this day. (*See immediately following today's Minutes of Proceedings*).

Again Mr. Buskard impressed on the members the urgency of finding a solution to this problem.

Mr. Langlois explained to the Committee the mechanical operations of electronic machines used in Montreal; Mr. Buskard admitted that tape recording machines would do a good job under certain conditions, but he does not think these conditions exist in the House of Commons.

Mr. Howard pointed out that in 1948 the Standing Committee on Debates, in its first Report, recommended that the Government consider the advisability of increasing the number of complimentary copies of the daily edition of debates to members, and inquired if this question could be considered by the Committee this session.

Mr. Howard moved, seconded by Mr. Langlois, that the Committee ask that its order of reference be enlarged to permit the study of complimentary copies of the daily edition of debates to members.

The Chairman accepted the motion and the Committee agreed to let it stand until the Chairman obtains further information.

At 3.50 p.m. the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Gabrielle Savard,
Clerk of the Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

JULY 25, 1963

Hon. Alan A. Macnaughton,
Speaker,
House of Commons.

Sir:

Following our conversation of July 22 I am submitting herewith my recommendations and supporting arguments with respect to the debates reporting branch.

The situation with respect to the recruitment of staff has become critical. At the moment the committee reporting section lacks one reporter; the Hansard staff has one man on sick leave who may or may not be able to return in the fall; one committee reporter is on a retirement extension, and there are in prospect retirements within the next three to five years which have to be provided for. I have had advertisements placed in leading newspapers in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, but have not had any sign of interest by anyone remotely resembling a reporter.

There are capable, experienced reporters available, but they simply are not interested in coming to this staff because of a combination of low salaries

and unsatisfactory working conditions. The work load of this branch has increased by more than 50 per cent in the last 10 to 12 years; the sitting hours have become more irregular and longer, and there has never been any tangible recognition of the greatly increased burden under which we have carried on.

In the past I have recommended that the Hansard staff be increased from seven to nine reporters and that a substantial increase in salary be granted in order that the high standard of reporting which we have endeavoured to provide may be maintained. However, these recommendations have not been accepted, though I have a wealth of statistics I could cite to support my recommendations.

For example, in the last few years the committee reporting staff has been increased from four to six; the staff of committee clerks has been increased from five to six; the French debates reporting staff has been increased from one reporter and one editor not too long ago to five reporters and two editors at the present time, though their work load averages about 10 per cent of the work load of the English debates staff. The Senate reporting staff has been increased from four to six, and all these increases I suggest have been made because of the greater volume of work. The Hansard staff has remained at 7 during my entire association with it, which covers a period of more than 40 years; and other than the service-wide salary increases to companies for increased cost of living no increase has been granted in recognition of the vastly greater amount of work.

Incidentally, speaking of the Senate, I must say that this has been one of our greatest difficulties in obtaining staff. Working conditions for the Senate debates reporters are so much better, and the work load so much lighter, than ours, that we have lost several members of our staff to the Senate within the past few years, and whenever there are concurrent vacancies on our staff and theirs, they invariably attract the applicant. Not only is their work load much lighter; they have so much more free time that they are able to augment their salaries very considerably.

I do not know whether such a thing is feasible, but I do suggest that there should be a substantial salary differential in favour of our staff to make our situation more nearly equal to that of the Senate reporters, and that the extension to the Senate staff of any increase in our salaries or improvement in our working conditions should be carefully reviewed in the light of these facts.

Without giving further statistics and arguments to support my suggestions, which I could provide ad nauseam, I strongly recommend that immediate consideration be given to the following recommendations:

1. That the debates reporting staff be granted an immediate across the board increase of 25% retroactive to April 1.

2. That the committee reporting staff be granted an immediate increase of 15%, similarly retroactive. I suggest this lesser amount because in my view it is necessary to maintain a substantial differential between the Hansard and committee sections in order to encourage members of the committee reporting staff to apply to fill vacancies on the Hansard staff, which they have not been anxious to do up to the present.

3. That the Hansard staff be enlarged by the addition of two reporters, making nine in all.

4. That the designations "parliamentary reporter" and "assistant parliamentary reporter" be dropped and replaced by "debates reporter" and "committee reporter".

5. That a member of the committee reporting staff be designated senior reporter and given the Hansard salary, with the understanding that he will assist the assistant editor in charge of committees and perform duties related to the recommendation following.

6. That a new class be established to be called "reporting trainees" or some other suitable title, to consist of not more than three young men or women who can be trained as reporters to fill vacancies as they may occur in the senior staffs. In this way we would provide for our own replacements in future and would not be dependent upon outside reporters. This is a scheme which has already been put into operation by the Ontario government in relation to official court reporters. The suggested chief committee reporter would be expected to be largely responsible for the training of this group.

I must again stress the need for some *immediate* action to meet the urgent need which has developed, and I am confident that if the above recommendations are accepted we will have no difficulty in maintaining the reporting service which the House of Commons has expected and received up to the present time.

Should you or the internal economy commission, which I understand has responsibility for dealing with these matters, desire any further information or background material, I should be happy to supply it to you or to them at any time. I only repeat that something must be done at once to meet the present situation, because when the House reconvenes in the fall there is no doubt but that the demands upon this staff will be heavy indeed.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) W. W. BUSKARD,
*Editor of Debates and
Chief of Reporting Branch.*

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 1963.

(3)

The Standing Committee on Debates met at 9.50 a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Herman M. Batten, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Aiken, Batten, Cowan, Howard, and Rinfret.—
(5).

In attendance: Mr. A. M. Ervin, Management Analysis Officer of the Civil Service Commission; Mr. W. W. Buskard, Editor of the English Section of the Debates and Chief of Reporting Branch; and Mr. Paul Frenette, Editor of the French Section of the Debates, House of Commons.

The Chairman observed that as the proceedings of the Committee are being printed for the information of the Members of Parliament, it would be appropriate to have also printed the Report on which the study of the Committee is based.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Rinfret,

Agreed,—That the Report of a survey of the English Debates Reporting Branch of the House of Commons made by the Management Analysis Division of the Civil Service Commission be included in today's proceedings.

The Chairman referred to the motion made at the last meeting by Mr. Howard. He informed the Committee that the matter of increasing the number

of hansard to members is outside the present terms of reference, but that this problem may be solved to the satisfaction of the mover.

The Chairman introduced Messrs. Ervin, Buskard and Frenette to the Committee. He invited Mr. Ervin to discuss the recommendations contained in the report.

Mr. Ervin was questioned thereon.

Mr. Frenette explained the problems of the French Section of the Debates Reporting Branch; he answered questions asked by Members.

Mr. Buskard was asked to comment on Mr. Ervin's evidence. The latter offered to make available to the Committee the tape recordings that were made in the House of Commons as an experiment.

At 11.15 a.m., on motion of Mr. Aiken, the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Gabrielle Savard,
Clerk of the Committee.

EVIDENCE

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum.

We had our second meeting last Friday and I think you have a copy of the minutes of that meeting.

In attendance at that meeting was Mr. Buskard, the editor of the English section of the debates and the chief of the reporting branch. Mr. Buskard gave us a very excellent exposition of what the problem is.

Before we proceed with the next business before us there are one or two things I would like to mention.

Following the resolution which was passed at the last meeting the report of this committee now will be printed. This report will go to all members and since all members do not have a copy of this report from the civil service commission it may be that some members will be wondering what this is all about.

Since we are unable to obtain additional copies of this report I think it would be wise if it were printed in the proceedings of today's meeting. If the members of the committee agree to this I will accept a motion.

Mr. HOWARD: I so move.

Mr. RINFRET: I second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Rinfret that the report of the management analysis division, advisory services branch, Civil Service Commission be included in the report of today's proceedings.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT
OF A SURVEY
OF
THE ENGLISH DEBATES REPORTING BRANCH
OF
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Management Analysis Division
Advisory Services Branch
Civil Service Commission

Ottawa, Ontario
January, 1963

(Parliamentary Paper 2C)
Project No. 535

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- "B" Reporters Working Days/Hours 1957-61
- "C" Reporters Time Distribution and Production
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- "D" Results of 2nd Recording Experiment
- "E" Suggested Specifications for Tape
Recorders and Transcribers

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This report contains the findings and recommendations of a survey undertaken at the request of the Clerk of the House of Commons with the authority of the speaker. The terms of reference were:

To survey the organization, methods and procedures of the English debates reporting Branch with a view to making recommendations for their improvement.

2. The fact finding phase of the survey was conducted in two parts:

- (a) A review of reporters' working hours, workload, production speeds and the average work-year over the past five years. This phase also included a ten day detailed survey of the expenditure of time in relation to workload by reporters and a series of interviews with members of the reporting staff and representatives of a number of local courts where reporters are employed.
- (b) A study of the systems available to record House debates and the experiences of other similar jurisdictions in the development of such systems. During this phase two tests were conducted in the House of Commons at which time speeches were recorded on Dicta-phone equipment and transcribed by typists under controlled conditions.

3. Full details of these activities may be found under "findings and observations."

4. Recommendations, which are based on the introduction of magnetic tape recording apparatus, include the introduction of a new classification "parliamentary transcriber", two additional assistant Editors and a gradual inclusion of parliamentary transcribers in the establishment as parliamentary reporter positions become vacant.

5. In addition to providing many facilities not now available, the proposed system would eliminate most of the difficulties and hazards of the present system which is wholly dependent upon a continuing supply of highly skilled staff. Salary costs would be reduced by an estimated \$30,000 annually.

6. This opportunity is taken to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation of the House of Commons, the Hansard staff and the typists and console operators who assisted during the recording experiments.

REASONS FOR SURVEY

7. During the initial interview the Clerk of the House of Commons specifically requested that the survey provide information and recommendations regarding:

- (a) the workload and working conditions of the reporting staff and the difficulties being experienced in recruiting replacements, and
- (b) the possibility of introducing recording apparatus which could be connected to the existing sound amplification system and used to provide insurance against a shortage of skilled reporters and to assist the existing staff during heavy workload periods.

8. In support of this request, the Clerk made reference to a series of recent submissions from the reporting staff for an increase in salary of from \$1,000 to

\$1,500 annually and the addition of two reporters to the present staff of seven in the English debates reporting branch. These submissions cited increases in working hours during recent years and the difficulties experienced and anticipated in recruiting staff at the present salary levels.

PRESENT PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING DEBATES

9. The Debates reporting staff consists of the following:

	English debates		French debates
Editor			
(\$8,820-\$10,500)	1	(\$8,120 \$9,800)	1
Assistant Editor			
(\$7,500-\$8,700)	1	(\$7,320 \$8,340)	1
Parliamentary Reporters			
(\$6,840-\$7,860)	7		4
Parliamentary Amanuenses			
(\$4,320-\$4,800)	7		4
Secretary			
(\$4,260-\$5,160)	1		1
Supervisor of Office Services			
(\$4,200-\$4,740)	1		
Clerk 4	1		
Clerk 3	1		
Messengers	7		2

10. The usual practice, in the English branch, is to schedule six of the seven reporters and amanuenses for duty each sitting day. The remaining reporter and amanuensis is given a day off except when required to replace an absentee due to sickness, etc. During each hour of sitting reporters spend ten minutes (five minutes during the first half hour) on the floor of the house recording debates and about 40 minutes dictating to an amanuensis and editing the resulting transcription. The transcriptions from the first half of the day's sittings are edited by the Editor and the latter half by the assistant editor. Edited copy is sent to the Queen's printer in Hull twice a day. In addition, 40 unrevised copies are reproduced progressively during the day for members of the press gallery. Ministers, parliamentary secretaries, party leaders, etc., are provided with carbon copies of their own speeches for the purpose of making necessary corrections prior to the submission of edited copy to the Queen's printer. Members may make similar corrections by calling at the office of the editor immediately after each recess. The last run to the Queen's printer leaves at 11:30 p.m. an hour and a half after adjournment of the house. Copies of Hansard are distributed the following morning.

11. During discussions with representatives of the Queen's printer it became apparent that improvements in the Hansard printing and distribution schedule could be made if the printer were permitted to move the index of contents from the front to the back of each report. This was mentioned to the Clerk of the house. The chief of debates reporting branch took immediate steps to implement this change. At the time of writing, the new format has apparently proven acceptable since no objection has been received from the members. The result has been that Hansard is now available for distribution and mailing from two hours and a half to three hours earlier each day.

FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

Workload and Working Conditions

12. Information concerning sitting days and workload during the five year period 1957-61 is contained in appendix "A". A summary of this information in terms of working days, working hours and salary paid is contained in appendix "B". The results of a ten day time distribution and production study conducted during the period March 26 to April 6, 1962 have been included as appendix "C".

13. The following table of comparison between normal civil service working days and hours and those of a *Hansard* reporter has been extracted from appendices "A" and "B".

	Reporters	Normal civil service
Average working days per year	118 (a)	235 (a)
Average hours per day	6.1	7.5
Average hours per year	719.8	1,762.5
Percent of normal civil service year	41%	
Hourly rate of pay (based on \$7,860)	\$10.92	\$4.45
Average length of working year (days)	207 (b)	365
Average length of work year (months)	6.9 (b)	12

NOTES: (a) No allowance has been made for sick leave. Reporters have been permitted to accumulate 100 per cent of their sick leave credits.

(b) These figures include Easter and/or Christmas recess periods which average 14 days each.

14. There were three periods over the past six years during which the work week of *Hansard* reporters exceeded the normal $37\frac{1}{2}$ hour civil service minimum standard. These occurred as follows:

Period	Weeks	Working Days	Hours Worked	Hours per week per Reporter
1956 July 16	4	23	180	$180 \times 6 = 38.6$
Aug. 13				$\frac{4}{7}$
1959 June 29	3	18	139	$139 \times 6 = 39.7$
July 18				$\frac{3}{7}$
1960 July 4	5	28	237	$237 \times 6 = 40.6$
Aug. 6				$\frac{5}{7}$

15. The average daily workload, in terms of pages of *Hansard*, over the five year period was 48 pages of English and four pages of French debates. The French text represented 7.7 per cent of the total.

16. The ten day study of reporters' time distribution (March 26 to April 6, 1962) may be summarized as follows:

	<i>Minutes Per Hour</i>	<i>Minutes Per Day</i>	<i>Per- centage</i>
In House taking shorthand	9	48	14.5
Travelling to and from Cham- ber	7	37	11.3
Dictating to amanuensis	30	164	49.8
Editing and checking	9	50	15.3
Waiting and miscellaneous ..	5	30	9.1
Total	60	329	100.0%

Average working day - 5.5 hours. Average length - 5.1 hrs. of sitting

Shorthand speed - average 127 w.p.m. - highest 216 w.p.m.

Average daily production per reporter — 6,504 words or 6.8 pages of *Hansard*.

17. From an analysis of the workload it may be reasonably concluded that:

- (a) While there has been an increase in the workload, it would be difficult to support a case for additional continuing staff in the English debates reporting branch.
- (b) Some relief may be necessary during prolonged periods of consecutive "three sitting" days such as occurred during 1959 and 1960.

18. A study of working conditions revealed the following:

- (a) Editors and reporters may and do accept outside employment during parliamentary recesses and are permitted to use government offices and equipment in the course of these activities.
- (b) Editors and reporters accept other employment during sessions.
- (c) The average member of the English debates reporting staff has 12 years' service with the House of Commons, nine of which have been spent as a parliamentary reporter.
- (d) Reporters are presently being paid by the House of Commons at a rate in excess of \$10 per hour worked.

19. The high earning power and favourable working conditions (in comparison with civil servants) of a debate's reporter are reflected in a very low staff turn-over rate. The last four to leave went to the Senate staff where the pay is the same for less work. However these conditions have failed to attract an adequate supply of reporters. Difficulties have been experienced, on occasion, in recruiting because of an increasing shortage of skilled operators. It is difficult to see how further increases in pay will relieve this situation. On the contrary it would probably result in a round of increases in other jurisdictions employing similar skills and end in a stalemate.

Recording apparatus

20. As previously stated, one of the purposes of this study was to investigate the feasibility of employing recording apparatus as a means of producing a record of debates. In addition to conducting experiments in the House of Commons, visits were made to the legislative assemblies of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec and to the United Nations headquarters in New York city. Information was also obtained from the Manitoba and Saskatchewan legislatures where recording apparatus has been used successfully for some years. Information concerning these jurisdictions follows.

Saskatchewan legislative assembly

21. An article on page 171 of Volume XV (1946) of the journal of the society of clerks-at-the-table in empire parliaments by Mr. George Stevens, Clerk of the assembly at that time, describes what is claimed to be, the first attempt to introduce recording apparatus as a means of producing a verbatim record of parliamentary proceedings. Dictaphone equipment was installed in the Saskatchewan legislative assembly in 1947. Prior to this date no *Hansard* was available chiefly because of the cost and the shortage of skilled shorthand reporters.

22. Following the 1947 experiment, during which a complete session was recorded on 400 belts, an installation consisting of 30 microphones, recording and transcribing apparatus and a console situated in the gallery was approved.

23. Problems were encountered, during the early stages, in identifying speakers, catching interjections and in the transcription phase. The console operator's efficiency in switching microphones and in maintaining a log of speakers has overcome the identification and interjection problems satisfactorily. Typists have been trained to "eliminate grosser crudities and produce a satisfactory unrevised *Hansard*". The first typed draft is made available to members for checking then edited and retyped on spirit masters for duplication of *Hansard* which is not produced until after the session. No reporters or stenographers are used.

24. The clerk, Mr. C. B. Koester further states:

The speeding up of this process without drastically increasing the staff of three typists is a problem to which I am presently turning my attention.

25. A review of the Saskatchewan *Hansard* indicates that while the editing and format does not equal the high standard being achieved in the House of Commons version, it does reflect the debates effectively, including many quick interjections, and is produced with a minimum of cost.

Manitoba legislative assembly

26. The Manitoba recording apparatus is connected with a sound amplification system which incorporates a microphone and a speaker at each desk. The console operator switches mikes and records each speaker's name on a log. The recording is made on a plastic disc with Gray audograph equipment.

27. The staff consists of ten typists and three supervisors. The first transcript is checked by supervisors. A retyped format is Xeroxed and reproduced on multilith machines.

28. The clerk, Mr. Charland Prud'homme further states "*Hansard* is printed the following morning and, in most cases, is on the member's desk the following afternoon. It is unedited—no corrections are made on our *Hansard*".

29. Again, the chief difference between the Manitoba product and the House of Commons *Hansard* is in the quality of the printing and the standard of editing. There is no reason to believe the recording system fails to capture the proceedings satisfactorily.

Quebec legislative assembly

30. A visit was made to the Quebec legislature on Thursday, March 29, 1962. The Clerk, Mr. Lemieux provided copies of reports submitted to a committee of five members (the Speaker, two ministers and two former ministers) charged with the responsibility of investigating available methods of recording debates. These reports indicate that, since there is no sound amplification system

in the assembly, it was not possible to properly test a system similar to the ones used in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario in the time available.

31. An experiment was conducted by Mr. Oscar Boisjoly, a court reporter in Quebec city, which involved a combination of shorthand reporting and tape recording using a steno-mask. The committee considered this to be the best system available at the time and a decision was made on February 23rd to proceed as soon as the necessary office space could be provided. A proposal involving the installation of microphones at each desk, a console and tape recording equipment was received too late to be considered by the committee.

32. The proposed system requires the following staff:

- 1 Administrative Officer
- 1 Editor
- 4 Reporters
- 6 Typists
- 3 Machine Operators
- 5 Clerks
- 1 Supervisor

33. It is intended that three shorthand reporters spell one another on the floor while the fourth records the debates on magnetic tape by means of a steno-mask connected with a battery of stenorette recording machines in the *Hansard* room. Typists will transcribe from the magnetic tapes. Transcripts are then read aloud by the editor in the presence of the reporter who checks the text read against the shorthand notes taken on the floor. Reporters will also spell one another on the steno-mask.

34. *Hansard* will be typed on offset masters and reproduced on multilith equipment for distribution to the press and to members whose speeches were recorded. An edited version will then be passed, to the Queen's printer.

35. This system takes advantage of magnetic tape facilities to reduce the requirement of high cost personnel while preserving shorthand notes as a back up facility to be used for checking purposes. It was estimated that four additional reporters would be required if tape recording was not used.

United Nations Headquarters—New York City

36. A visit was made to the United Nations April 12, 1962 where dictaphone facilities have been installed which permit continuous and simultaneous recording of up to six conferences. The recording apparatus is connected to the sound amplification systems and is similar to that used during the House of Commons recording experiments.

37. This equipment was first installed as a means of recording Russian speeches since Russian reporters were in short supply. English and French reporters began to use the belts to assist them in their work and when conference work became heavy and reporters scarce, the installation was expanded to its present size. The present staff of reporters can handle only one conference at a time. The reporters do ten minute takes and dictate direct to typists who type on stencils.

38. When two or more meetings are held simultaneously, belt recordings are transcribed by typists from the pool with assistance from a monitor who is present at the meeting and makes notes to identify speakers, etc.

39. Mr. Read, the head of debates Reporters stated "A transcript from a recorded media which has been edited by an editor is just as good as one which is produced from a verbatim reporter's shorthand. Recording media, however, are less flexible in providing immediate extracts and, in the long run, are slower".

40. The communications engineer indicated that magnetic tape recording equipment would provide better recording quality. Dictaphone equipment using plastic belts was procured before magnetic tape transcribing equipment became generally available.

Ontario legislative assembly

41. Visits were made to the legislative assembly in Toronto December 4, 1961 and May 2, 1962. During these visits the following people were interviewed:

- Mr. William Murdock—Speaker of the house
- Mr. Roderick Lewis —Clerk of the house
- Mr. Val Sharpe —electronics engineer in charge
- Mr. Peter Brannan —editor of debates (contract employee)
- Mrs. McFadden —in charge of transcribers (contract employee)

42. Hansard was first published in the Ontario legislative assembly in 1947. This was produced from shorthand notes and reporters were used until the 1958 session.

43. R.C.A. Victor broadcast quality, sound amplification equipment incorporating the use of desk speakers and desk microphones (as opposed to hanging microphones used in the House of Commons) were installed in 1956. Tape recorders were of regular quality since it was not considered necessary to pay the premium cost for broadcast quality equipment.

44. During the first year, tapes were used as a check by reporters. Immediately following the session, a comparison was made of the recordings to Hansard and it was determined that the tapes had recorded everything that the reporters had copied. The contract for reporters for the 1958 session was, therefore, not renewed.

45. Following the first year of operation, the following modifications were made:

- (a) An inter-communication system was installed between console operator and the equipment room technician.
- (b) Viking 85 double channel tape recorders were installed in order that the names of speakers and supplementary information could be recorded and heard, on a second track, by the typist. At the same time the sonograph transcribers were modified to use split headphones coupled to a separate amplifier for the reproduction of the second channel. Operators are now able to hear the speech through one ear-phone and the name of the speaker in the other.
- (c) Tape recorder monitor heads were added to the tape recorders to enable the operator to ensure that recording was actually taking place.
- (d) Tape recording procedures were changed so that ten minute recordings were taken at a speed of 3 and $\frac{3}{4}$ " per second. Tapes cost less than \$1.00 each and are used for three sessions.
- (e) This equipment will play back, through the desk speakers in the house, any portion of the recorded proceedings, on request.

46. The procedure for producing and editing Hansard transcripts in Toronto is very similar to that used in Ottawa, except that ten minute takes are recorded on tape in place of the reporter's shorthand notes. Because of early difficulties associated with identifying the speaker and capturing interjections, the first

words of which were not always clearly recorded on the tape, the following additional provisions were made:

- (a) Two stenographers take turn about at half-hour intervals on the floor of the house in order to record the name of each speaker and his opening remarks, (approximately four to five double spaced pages per day).
- (b) The console operator records the name of each speaker on the second sound track.
- (c) A log is maintained by the equipment room technician, who monitors the second channel, of the names of speakers in relation to a counting device which determines the position on the tape.

47. The transcribing and the editing functions are under contract to Mr. Peter Brannan, an editor with McLean-Hunter publications who sub-contracts the transcribing function to Mrs. McFadden. She employs transcribers, on a part time basis, who come to work at about three o'clock in the afternoon and work as long as is necessary to transcribe the day's sittings. These girls transcribe from ten minute tapes using sonograph transcribers modified as described above. They are also provided with the names of speakers and the details of interjections as provided by the stenographers and the log of speakers as provided by the equipment room technician. Copies of all speeches are made available to members who are given until five p.m., of the following day to return corrected transcriptions prior to printing. The editor arrives at work during the evening, and edits that day's transcripts before he leaves. It would, therefore, be possible to send the edited copy to the printer the same night if it were not for the fact that members have until the next day to return their corrected copy. Hansard is printed by Ryerson press and is normally delivered two days following the day of the sitting.

48. The results to date indicate that tape recording is, in fact, more accurate than the notes provided by reporters. It is now felt stenographers on the floor do a better job of catching interjections than was previously done by reporters because they have nothing else to do.

49. The fact that both the stenographer on the floor and the console operator who assists in identifying speakers on the second track, provide a back-up to the tape recording, suggests that there would be a more accurate and complete coverage under this system of reporting.

50. Mr. Sharpe commented that he felt that the hanging type of microphone used in the House of Commons would provide a better opportunity for interjections to be caught than is the case with desk mikes in the Ontario legislative assembly. The speaker was particularly appreciative of the fact that he is now in a position to confirm what members said when there is any controversy about the record of speeches in Hansard. He intimated that he was as interested in keeping certain interjections out of Hansard as he was in putting others in. He stated, "We are not publishing a funny paper". In accordance with parliamentary procedure, it is generally agreed that interjections should only be included if commented on by the member speaking at the time or if picked up by the sound amplification system and generally heard throughout the house. Previously, this was a matter of discretion with either the reporters or the editor. Under the present circumstances it is quite clear from the recording whether or not an interjection has been generally heard.

51. An interesting example of a particularly difficult sitting is contained in the record of debates which took place between 11:40 p.m. and midnight on March the 20th. These debates are covered on pages 1370-1371 of the 44th sitting in 1962. The scene in the house at that particular time can only be described

as 'complete bedlam' and it is remarkable that any sense at all was made of the debate which took place. The tape recording, however, faithfully recorded the proceedings and, with the assistance of the interjection stenographer and the console operator, an accurate record of the debate was produced in Hansard. The phrase "interjections by hon-members" is used frequently to indicate interruptions which did not qualify for inclusion.

52. When questioned about the possibility of publishing Hansard for the following day the Speaker said that this is not considered necessary in the Ontario legislative assembly and no good reasons have been advanced to have this done. There is no doubt however, that it could be done by reducing the amount of time the members have to review their speeches as is done in the House of Commons in Ottawa. There is another small problem with relation to the casual nature of the staff employed but this could be overcome if it became advisable to do so.

53. An indication of the satisfaction of the house generally in the system of recording debates is contained in a comment by Mr. D. C. MacDonald, leader of the New Democratic Party in the Ontario legislature, April 18, 1962, at which time he said,

On a number of occasions in the past, we have discussed the publication of Hansard in the legislature and expressed dissatisfaction with the way that it was being handled. But it has been my personal impression that it has never been handled better in this legislature than this year. Indeed, with a serious disability of not having the facilities available that they have at Ottawa for handling Hansard, they have approached the dispatch and the efficiency with which it is handled there, and I for one would like to express my appreciation.

This was followed by a similar comment by the Premier, the Honourable Mr. Robarts.

54. There seems little doubt about the satisfaction and the success of the experience of the Ontario legislative assembly in recording debates. While economies involved have not been accurately assessed, the saving of \$10,000 during the first year is, at the very least, being repeated each year that the system is in operation.

House of Commons Recording Experiments

55. A short experiment using dictaphone equipment to record debates was conducted by the House of Commons Hansard staff during the late spring of 1961. No written conclusions were presented however. The only report on the use of recording equipment that could be located was one presented by the reporters to the Speaker on May 19, 1961 immediately prior to the installation of the equipment.

56. In order to further investigate the feasibility of recording debates the Speaker authorized two additional experiments during March, 1962. A short statement to this effect appears on pages 1815 and 1816 of Hansard for March 15, 1962. Standard dictaphone (plastic belt) recording and transcribing equipment was used in both experiments.

57. The first of these tests was designed to assess the clarity with which debates could be recorded and to compare transcripts typed from dictaphone belts with those produced from shorthand notes.

58. The results of this test followed closely the experience of other jurisdictions during the early stages. Except for getting used to the transcribing machine, the operator had little difficulty in transcribing. The typing time for an average ten minute take was 33 minutes. A comparison with the reporters

transcripts revealed the amount of editing which takes place during the dictation. Some interjections were missed and speakers, of course were not always identified.

59. The second test, which, like the first, was of one week's duration, attempted, within the limited scope of equipment and time available, to legislate for these shortcomings. Arrangements were made to have the typists take notes in the gallery while the equipment was recording their ten minute take. A console microphone was also hooked up to the recorders to test the feasibility of superimposing the name of speakers on the sound track.

60. The typists employed during these experiments had previous, but not recent, experience as amanuenses. One had no previous experience with Dictaphone equipment and used a manual typewriter. The other was not able to take shorthand notes. Recordings were made in accordance with a schedule timed to coincide with reporters takes. Typing time was carefully recorded and no corrections to the transcripts were permitted once the take was completed. Operators were instructed to eliminate words and phrases which were inadvertently repeated and to record the speeches in properly constructed sentences.

61. A summary of the results of the last three days of the second test is contained in appendix "D". Belts and transcripts from both tests are available for examination.

62. The following table compares data obtained from the ten day survey of reports with the three day test with recording equipment.

	<i>10 Day survey of Reporters</i>	<i>3 Day recording test</i>
Average length of take (mins)	9.1	10
Average length of take (lines)	96	115
Average length of take (words)	1,152	1,380
Average typing time per take (mins) ..	30	33
Average typing speed (words per minute)	40	42
Highest typing speed (words per minute)	60	56

63. While typists were able to do a creditable job of editing during the recording experiment—their transcript would require a little more final editing than a reporters transcript. The difference in final editing would not, however, require retyping.

64. The conclusions reached as the result of these experiments may be summarized as follows:

- (a) An accurate record of debates can be transcribed directly from recorded media.
- (b) No difficulty was encountered in the identification of speakers. The few interjections that were missed were not audible in the gallery but would be noted if transcribers were permitted to take shorthand notes from the floor of the House.
- (c) Magnetic tape would provide clearer reproduction and, in addition, provide a second sound track on which the console operation could record speakers names. Superimposition on a single sound track, which was attempted during the second experiment, was not satisfactory.

- (d) Typing from recorded media can be performed at comparable rates of speed to that now being dictated from shorthand notes. More editing time (up to 20 minutes per take as compared to 9 minutes per take) might be required however. This would permit assistant editors to listen to the recording while editing.
- (e) The test results, when considered in the light of the test conditions (untrained staff, single sound track, plastic belt versus magnetic tape, position of typists in gallery, etc.) were most encouraging. The improved performance that may be expected from a properly designed installation, with adequate selection and training of staff would provide a comfortable margin of safety during peak loads.
- (f) *Hansard* printers copy could be produced from recorded media with less staff and without any lessening of quality or any change in the printing schedule.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

65. Any change in the present system of reporting House of Commons debates should take into consideration weaknesses in the present system which have given rise to:

- (a) Dissatisfaction on the part of reporters as expressed in submissions for higher salaries and additional staff during peak periods.
- (b) Recruiting difficulties which tend to place the Speaker and the Clerk in the position of bidding against other employers for the services of a dwindling supply of capable shorthand reporters.
- (c) Concern regarding the hazards of a procedure which is wholly dependent upon a continuing supply of highly skilled staff.

66. While there may be some validity in the proposal that increased staff and higher salaries would relieve recruiting difficulties and ensure adequate facilities during peak load periods, such action would be difficult to justify in the light of present workload and working conditions. Benefits would be largely transitory since salary raises would, almost certainly, precipitate increases in other jurisdictions. Adjustments in other related areas (e.g., editors, other branch heads, etc.) may be necessary if the present salary ratios were upset.

67. These problems have been experienced in other assemblies in varying degrees for some years and attempts to find solutions have, almost invariably, led to the adoption of some form of recording apparatus.

68. Recording systems have been developed to a stage where superior results are often attained at less cost. Some of the benefits being achieved may be summarized as follows:

- (a) The dependency upon shorthand reporters is lessened and may, if desired, be eliminated.
- (b) Flexibility in relation to fluctuating workloads is possible since less skilled personnel are required.
- (c) An actual voice record of proceedings is available to editors who must otherwise depend solely on the ability and judgement of the reporter for accuracy and proper shades of meaning.
- (d) An indexed file of recordings of proceedings is available to the Speaker or Clerk for checking purposes and to members who may wish to hear their own speeches.
- (e) Tape recording is less costly than shorthand reporting.

69. Difficulties associated with the introduction of recording equipment usually fall into three categories:

- (a) *Technical difficulties*—such as a requirement for additional technical personnel and the possibility of mechanical failure of the equipment. The present system is manned by two electronics technicians who are capable of providing whatever assistance may be required. Since the amplification equipment was installed in 1952 it has operated well below specified limits and alternative facilities are instantly available. This has resulted in almost perfect performance. A maintenance record indicates that service interruptions of more than two or three minutes have almost invariably been due to power failure. It is understood that the installation of an auxiliary power supply is being considered. Tape recording can be monitored and duplicate facilities installed at a very low cost.
- (b) *Procedural difficulties* associated with the use of transcribers, capturing interjections, identifying speakers and maintaining a regular time schedule to meet printers' deadlines have tended to discourage the development of tape recording in the House of Commons. The experience of others, which were largely confirmed by the experiments conducted during this survey, indicate these difficulties are more apparent than real. The solutions have already been discussed.
- (c) *Personnel* considerations will be of prime interest to the Speaker, the Clerk of the House and to ministers and members who have often expressed appreciation to the *Hansard* staff for the high quality of their work and a regard for their long service. Recommendations resulting from this survey have, therefore, taken into account the general feeling that the introduction of changes in the present procedure should not prejudice the continuing employment and prospects for advancement of editors and *Hansard* reporters now on the staff of the English and French debates reporting branches.

RECOMMENDATIONS

71. It is, therefore, recommended that:

- (a) a tape recording system be installed in both the English and French debates reporting offices, (see Appendix "E" for specifications),
- (b) ten magnetic tape transcribing machines, modified, if necessary, to meet the specifications in Appendix "E", be procured in conjunction with the tape recorders,
- (c) tapes be used, initially, to assist reporters in dictating notes, by editors, as necessary, in the performance of their work and by amanuenses for training purposes,
- (d) a new classification covering the duties to be performed by a parliamentary transcriber be established. The requirements of this class should include the ability to type from debates tape recordings at a speed of 50 words per minute and to take shorthand notes at 100 words per minute. At least one session as an amanuensis and a good knowledge of parliamentary procedure, the names of members and *Hansard* format should also be stipulated.
- (e) a training program for amanuenses be initiated in order to qualify them for duties as parliamentary transcribers. This program should include practice on transcribing machines and the opportunity to take shorthand notes of the names of speakers and short interjections from the floor of the house.
- (f) provision be made in the establishment for the redesignation of parliamentary reporters to parliamentary transcribers as vacancies

occur and an increase in the number of assistant editors in accordance with the following phased programme:

	Phases					
	Now	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Editor.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assistant Editor.....	1	2	2	2	3	3
Parliamentary Reporters.....	7	5	4	3	1	—
Parliamentary Transcribers.....	—	2	3	4	6	7
Parliamentary Amanuenses.....	7	5	4	3	1	—
Total.....	16	15	14	13	12	11

SESSION SUMMARIES 1957-1961 INCLUSIVE

ITEM	22nd Parliament Fifth Session 1957	23rd Parliament First Session 1957-58	24th Parliament				Five Year Average
			First Session 1958	Second Session 1959	Third Session 1960	Fourth Session 1960-61	
Date Started.....	Jan. 8, 1957	Oct. 10, 1957	May 12, 1959	Jan. 15, 1959	Jan. 14, 1960	Nov. 17, 1960	
Date Finished.....	Apr. 12, 1957	Feb. 1, 1958	Sept. 6, 1958	July 18, 1959	Aug. 10, 1960	Sept. 29, 1961	
Sitting Days.....	71	78	93	127	146	174	138
Calendar Days.....	94	111(a)	118	186(b)	209(c)	316(d)	207
Morning Sittings.....	26	42	48	50	74	95	67
Afternoon Sittings.....	70	78	90	125	144	172	136
Evening Sittings.....	42	54	57	79	92	97	84
Total Hours of Sitting.....	380	462	526	698	855	1,002	785
Pages of Hansard.....	3,520	4,203	4,769	6,420	7,957	9,112	7,196
French Pages.....	231		393	554	789	778	549
English Pages.....	7,492		4,376	5,866	7,168	8,334	6,647
Percent of French.....	3%		8.2%	8.6%	9.9%	8.5%	7.7%
Days with 1 Sitting.....	14	7	16	23	23	23	21
Days with 2 Sittings.....	47	46	52	81	82	112	84
Days with 3 Sittings.....	10	25	25	23	41	39	33
Saturday Sittings.....	2	8	8	3	3	11	9

NOTES: (a) Includes a 12 day Christmas Recess
(b) Includes an 11 day Easter Recess
(c) Includes an 11 day Easter Recess
(d) Includes a 25 day Christmas Recess and an 11 day Easter Recess

Project No. 535
Appendix "B"

REPORTERS WORKING DAYS/HOURS
(Based on five year period—1957-1961)

Working Days

Sitting days 1952-1961	1,313
Average last 10 years	131.3
Sitting days 1957-1961	689
Average last five years	138
Reporter works six out of seven sitting days 6/7 of 138	118 days

Working Hours per Day

Average sitting day (1957-1961)	5 hrs. 40 mins.
785 hours	
<hr/>	
138 days	
Reporters maximum working day	7 hrs. 58 mins.
3 sittings	
Reporters minimum working day	3 hrs. 48 mins.
1 sitting	
Reporters average working day	6 hrs. 4 mins.
2.07 sittings	
Reporters work an average of 24 minutes per day in excess of sitting hours.	

Working Hours per Year

Reporters 118 days × 6.1 hours =	719.8 hours
Reporters hourly rate (based on maximum salary Note (a))	
\$7,800	
<hr/>	
719.8	= \$10.92

Note: (a) Six out of seven reporters receive
the maximum of \$7,800.

REPORTERS TIME DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION RECORD

(10 day survey—March 26 to April 6)

Reporters	Typing Dictation Speeds		Total Time		Dictation Typing		Takes		Waiting		Misc.		Editing		Total Lines	Takes
	Lines Per Day	Lines Per Hour	Days	Mins.	Mins.	%	Mins.	%	Mins.	%	Mins.	%	Mins.	%		
Baker, D. A.....	592	219	8	2715	1300	47.9	715	26.3	140	5.2			560	20.6	4738	45
Clinton, W. J.....	536	189	9	2870	1530	53.3	705	24.6	140	4.9			495	17.2	4825	50
Fisher, C. J.....	590	162	9	3335	1965	58.9	765	22.9	190	5.7	20	.6	395	11.9	5308	53
Price, N. L.....	506	197	9	2795	1390	49.7	705	25.2	380	13.6	30	1.1	290	10.4	4557	50
Robertson, J. G.....	464	237	9	2695	1055	39.2	770	28.6	480	17.8			390	14.5	4173	50
Ward, J.....	523	201	8	2885	1245	43.2	840	29.1	200	6.9	45	1.6	555	19.2	4181	46
White, R.....	595	210	8	2455	1360	55.4	595	24.2	165	6.7			335	13.7	4762	44
Grand Total.....			60	19750	9845		5095		1695		95		3020		32544	338
Percentages.....						49.8		25.8		8.6		.5		15.3		
Averages.....	542	198														

NOTE: One 60 stroke line equals 12 words.

STANDING COMMITTEE

Project No. 535
Appendix "D"

LIST OF RECORDINGS
(Last Three Days of Second Test)

Date and Belt No.	Time of Take	Length of Take	Typing Time	Speaker Identifications	Lines Typed
<i>March 21</i>					
Belt 1.....	2:40 pm	10 mins	38 mins	30	97
" 2.....	2:50 pm	"	42 "	25	129
" 3.....	4:20 pm	"	30 "	11	88
" 4.....	4:00 pm	"	38 "	8	118
" 5.....	5:00 pm	"	30 "	1	101
" 6.....	5:10 pm	"	30 "	2	91
<i>March 22</i>					
Belt 1.....	2:40 pm	10 mins	40 mins	10	126
" 2.....	2:50 pm	"	37 "	14	136
" 3.....	3:50 pm	"	30 "	21	119
" 4.....	4:00 pm	"	29 "	15	122
" 5.....	5:00 pm	"	30 "	26	130
" 6.....	5:10 pm	"	40 "	26	159
" 7.....	8:10 pm	"	35 "	20	141
" 8.....	8:20 pm	"	28 "	27	115
" 9.....	9:20 pm	"	40 "	29	104
" 10.....	9:30 pm	"	40 "	13	115
<i>March 23</i>					
Belt 1.....	11:20 am	10 mins	25 mins	14	77
" 2.....	11:55 am	"	22 "	8	88
" 3.....	12:30 pm	"	33 "	4	117
" 4.....	12:40 pm	"	27 "	8	81
" 5.....	2:40 pm	"	50 "	9	145
" 6.....	2:50 pm	"	40 "	2	163
" 7.....	3:50 pm	"	33 "	1	116
" 8.....	4:00 pm	"	26 "	1	125
" 9.....	5:00 pm	"	25 "	9	98
" 10.....	5:10 pm	"	21 "	9	99
Totals.....		260	859	343	3,000
Average.....		10 mins	33	13	115

Project No. 535 Appendix "E"

*Suggested Specifications for Tape Recorders and Transcribers**Recording Machines (Similar to Viking Model 85)*

1. Must be compatible with the existing sound amplification system and be capable of simultaneous recording on two channels while monitoring the recording on the main channel.
2. Must be equipped with a fast rewind and provide for a quick and simple means of changing tape reels.
3. Tape speeds and reels should be designed for five and ten minute takes and be compatible with standard transcribing equipment.
4. A means of marking and indexing reels should be provided.

Transcribing Machines

1. Should be selected from current standard magnetic tape models of transcribing machines equipped with headphones, foot controls, speed and volume adjustments.
2. Must be modified by the addition of dual track reading heads and a separate transistorized amplifier for the second sound track. Split headphones should be provided so that both tracks can be heard simultaneously and the volume controlled independently.

Installation

1. Recording units in each of the French and English debates reporting branches should consist of three recorders (including one spare).
2. Automatic, timed switching devices designed to turn on alternate recorders at fixed intervals of six or eleven minutes (one minute overlaps) would be desirable.
3. A console microphone and amplifier connected with the second recording track should be included with the installation.

NOTE: Further technical advice on the installation of this equipment may be obtained from Mr. Val Sharpe c/o Department of Public Works, Province of Ontario.

At the last meeting Mr. Howard put a motion in respect of increasing the number of *Hansards* to members. I think this is outside our terms of reference at the moment; however, I do think some way could be found to have this problem solved. It may be we can speak to this on the Speaker's estimates or go to see him. Then, if our problem is not solved at that time it may be that we can find some way to have it referred to this committee. We could do this after we have solved the problem at hand. Mr. Howard, does that solve your problem?

Mr. HOWARD: Yes.

Mr. COWAN: Did you say "solve" or "shelve"?

Mr. HOWARD: Both.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have with us today Mr. Ervin, who is the author of this report that we are considering.

We also have with us Mr. Buskard. Mr. Buskard was with us last time.

We also have Mr. Frenette, who is the editor of the French section of debates.

Mr. Ervin, would you please come to the front table and sit with us. I think some of the members would like to discuss with you the report that you have presented.

Mr. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, before we proceed on this, could I ask Mr. Buskard perhaps through you, Mr. Chairman, to obtain some statistical information in respect of the minimum-maximum salaries or the salary range and, perhaps, all people who have been employed in the *Hansard* reporting branch, the committee reporting branch, and the Senate *Hansard* and committee reporting branch, if they have two there. Would you present those figures for the last five or six years or for some other reasonable period. It may be that you do not have these figures at your fingertips at the present time but I would ask that you obtain them. Do you think that is too awkward to do?

Mr. W. W. BUSKARD (*Editor, House of Commons Debates*): Mr. Howard, do you wish the salary ranges for the past number of years and the number of staff?

Mr. HOWARD: Yes.

Mr. BUSKARD: I think I can give that fairly accurately now but, perhaps, not precisely.

Mr. HOWARD: Perhaps we could save that information for another day. As you know, there is a caucus meeting this morning and we may conflict with it. Mr. Buskard, it would be appreciated if you could give us this information later.

Mr. BUSKARD: I will get that information for you.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Buskard and Mr. Frenette, would you come up to the table with us?

You will be able to get that information for us?

Mr. BUSKARD: Yes, I will.

The CHAIRMAN: At this time we would like to have a look at this report. I presume all members have read this report and I dare say there are many questions based on it you would like to ask.

I would like to start off the questioning by asking Mr. Ervin if the recommendations you have made in your report were agreed to and the House of Commons were to proceed to implement what you have recommended how long do you think it would take?

Mr. A. M. ERVIN (*Management Analysis Division, Advisory Services Branch, Civil Service Commission*): Mr. Chairman, this is a difficult question because, I presume, it depends on a lot of other people.

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,

shortage of stenographers or reporters. The difficulty that was imposed on the speaker, in connection with the system was that he had no confidence it could be sustained because of the shortage of reporters. He may have had other reasons; if so, he did not state them to me.

Mr. AIKEN: You understood that the main reason had to do with the shortage of competent staff.

Mr. ERVIN: That is right.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. AIKEN: I have a few more questions, Mr. Chairman, if there is no one else.

Mr. Ervin, this may be a difficult question; however, I think it is one the committee is going to have to decide eventually. From the studies you have made, do you believe there would be any improvement in the *Hansard* reporting if the new system came in, or would it be merely a case of substituting one system for another? Do you believe the recording apparatus, either immediately or after a set period of trial, can improve on the present system?

Mr. ERVIN: First of all, I would have to say that during my survey I was impressed with the quality of the reporting and the finished product as published in *Hansard*.

There might be some problem for a while, and for this reason I suggest there be a training period to ensure this quality is maintained under a new system. I believe once the training had been effected, the quality would be equally good. This would depend on the editing of the copy. If there was an improvement, it would be a marginal one. The improvement would be that the editor would have the actual spoken word to guide him in the editing of the material; whereas now there is a certain element of judgment involved. I do not say this critically, because I am not in a position to be critical of the judgment involved. However, there are occasions when a spoken word, perhaps, is not reported in exactly the way it is said, because of the editing. The editor does not have an opportunity to do this as well as a reporter, because he cannot listen to what has been said; he has to take the reporter's judgment. In this sense there might be some marginal improvement. However, in my opinion I do not think the object of the exercise would be to improve the quality of *Hansard*.

Mr. AIKEN: Speaking for myself, I think there are times when improvements can be made by the intervention of some human judgment in the use of words. The reason I am asking these questions is that I know of no member who has any complaint whatever about the end result; that is, the reporting, transcribing and the printing. We have it in the mail boxes the next morning almost verbatim.

Before we finish our hearings I believe the committee is going to have to decide whether or not we are going to improve on what we have now, or whether we are going to run into the danger of disruptions over a period of a year, or perhaps two years with no end result that would be beneficial in respect of the reporting. I do not know whether or not you have any comment on this; these are my comments.

Mr. ERVIN: As I say, there should be a very careful transition period which should involve some form of training program. Persons should not switch to the new system until they are competent to do so.

I have no doubt the quality will be maintained. There may be some marginal improvement by helping the editor to exercise better judgment because of the ability to listen to what has been said. Certainly I agree with you entirely that over the years, from information which I have been able to gain, *Hansard* has been entirely satisfactory and, to the best of my knowl-

edge, the element of judgment exercised has been completely satisfactory to members of the house.

Mr. AIKEN: I think the only objections I have heard in the house have been in respect of changes made by the members themselves.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes.

Mr. AIKEN: Thank you.

Mr. HOWARD: As you know, at our previous meeting we did not have a verbatim record taken of our proceedings, and as a consequence we do not have on the record the comments which were expressed.

There is something I would like to put to you. I do not do this for the purpose of attempting to cause a war between you and Mr. Buskard. However, Mr. Buskard did make a comment, in respect of the report you prepared, to the effect that you approached it with a preconceived notion that the tape recording system was far superior and that you tailored your studies and investigations to fit that concept. Have you any comment?

Mr. ERVIN: I would not be in this business very long if I approached surveys with a preconceived notion of what I was going to say at the end. It is completely foreign to a management analyst to approach a job on that basis.

Mr. HOWARD: For my benefit and perhaps other members of the committee, would you give us your background in respect of positions you have held, and so on?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. I have been with the management analysis division for five years. Prior to that I was with the Department of National Defence. I am a senior analyst with the division at the moment.

Mr. HOWARD: What do your areas of expertise include?

Mr. COWAN: What was that word?

Mr. ERVIN: This is jargon.

Mr. HOWARD: It is a word which Mr. Fisher regularly uses and I am still trying to find out what it means.

Mr. ERVIN: There are about 12 areas—I will have to use the word again—of expertise in which sometimes we find ourselves involved. None of us is expert in all of them, but I do claim a better than average knowledge in the field of electronic data processing, work measurement and taping in respect of transcripts, the area of typing and transcribing services. It might be of interest to this committee to know that recently, under my co-ordination, we have completed a series of 14 surveys of transcribing and typing services in government departments, during which time we surveyed the work of over 3,000 stenographers and typists in the Ottawa area. I think we now have compiled more data in respect of transcribing and recording media, including tape recording, and such things, than ever has been done before. I might say this was started prior to the time this survey was undertaken.

Mr. HOWARD: Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Before we return to Mr. Buskard again, may I for the moment ask Mr. Frenette to give us a brief idea of the problems he has in the French section of the debates reporting branch.

Mr. PAUL FRENETTE (*Editor, French Section, Debates Reporting Branch, House of Commons*): Shortage, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: What I am trying to get at is that you, as one of the persons very close to the problem, know what it is. So far as members of parliament are concerned, they hear the debates in the house, and the next

morning receive *Hansard*. We know very little of the problems in between. This is the information I would like to have so far as your section is concerned.

Mr. FRENETTE: I would not like to go over again what Mr. Buskard said, although there may be a difference in our sections.

The CHAIRMAN: I realize your problems are very similar to those of Mr. Buskard.

Mr. FRENETTE: We try to operate in much the same way as does Mr. Buskard; that is, our reporter will take either five or ten minutes in order to have the work out as fast as possible. Now I have only four reporters, which may be too many on certain occasions. However, as soon as a reporter has a take of more than 20 minutes, for example one half hour, this becomes a different matter, because from that point on they are behind schedule in transcribing their notes.

If we could divide an hour into six takes of ten minutes each, giving the reporter approximately 45 minutes to transcribe, edit and review the ten minute take we would have the ideal situation. Is that approximately correct, Mr. Buskard?

Mr. BUSKARD: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. FRENETTE: In view of the fact I have only four reporters, if the reporters must take 30 minute takes, they have only approximately 20 minutes left to transcribe, edit and review the take.

In addition to what I have said, Mr. Chairman, we do have the feeling that the French members are speaking very fast.

Mr. AIKEN: You are not alone.

Mr. FRENETTE: If after one hour we have one take left that has not been completed then, of course, the work begins to pile up, and the completed product is not produced as quickly.

I do not see any solution to this difficulty at the present time. If I had extra reporters I would not be able to use them because I do not have room for more than five under present conditions.

In view of the fact that the French language is now being used very much more in the House of Commons than in the past we are bound to be faced with these difficulties at times, but I do not think it would be fair for me to suggest that I should have a staff as large as Mr. Buskard has because his staff still has much more work to do than we have. That is the situation as far as we are concerned, Mr. Chairman.

I might also say that I could not easily obtain reporters because of the salaries now being paid. The recruitment of French reporters must take place in the province of Quebec mainly, with a few exceptions. In view of the length of the sessions at this time a reporter on my staff must come to Ottawa and live in Ottawa. I am afraid individuals are not interested in leaving the province of Quebec to come to another province where they do not feel at home, in the beginning at least, at a salary lower than the amount they can make in Montreal or Quebec.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Frenette, what salary would a good court reporter receive in the city of Montreal? I am referring now, of course, to a reporter of the same calibre, with the same ability required in respect of a reporter in the House of Commons.

Mr. FRENETTE: Yes, I understand. You are referring to a court reporter.

The CHAIRMAN: I am referring to a good court reporter.

Mr. FRENETTE: In the criminal courts, for instance, a reporter would receive a salary slightly over \$6,000 per year, but the reporter is in a position to do a great deal of outside work.

In the municipal courts a reporter receives a salary of something over \$7,200 per year. These reporters are referred to as bilingual reporters. Bilingual reporters are very rare. These reporters work mainly in the mornings, because the city courts do not sit in the afternoon.

Reporters working in the superior courts do not receive salaries as yet, but they can rely on an income of \$1,000 a month.

To relate these facts to what I said a moment ago, it is obvious that a reporter who can earn \$1,000 a month, living in the province of Quebec, working with his own people, will not come to Ottawa to work where he must commence his work day at 11.00 in the morning for the greater part of the session. The hourly work schedule cannot be considered to be from 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. I think everyone realizes that we commence a session on that basis, but within a month or six weeks the hours become longer and longer. In view of the length of the sessions, keeping in mind the uncertainty regarding the date on which it will finish, I do not understand why anyone would come to Ottawa for \$8,000 or even \$10,000 a year.

I discussed this situation with Mr. Buskard some time ago, at which time he suggested an increase in salary might help solve the problem. I must admit that an increase in salary will settle things to a certain extent, there is no doubt about that, but I am afraid it will not be a complete solution to our difficulties. A French reporter coming to Ottawa to work in the House of Commons is not in the same position as an English reporter in that he is not in a position to work on commissions after sessions if there is time, but must sit and do nothing.

Perhaps I should state that I could get competent reporters if they were paid \$1,000 a month. I do not see how they could be interested in anything less.

Perhaps I should have said this before I answered your questions, but I came here 20 years ago when we received approximately \$1,000 a month for each month of the session, which ran approximately three months. After the session I was able to return to Montreal and carry on with my work there. I found it very agreeable to come to Ottawa for that period of time and return to Montreal for approximately eight or nine months. Sessions are now lasting from seven to nine months. I should also point out that the cost of living has at least doubled, if not tripled since then, but the reporters are still being paid a little less than \$1,000 a month of the session.

For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I do not understand how we could interest more reporters for anything less than \$12,000 a year.

The CHAIRMAN: If the recommendations made in this report are implemented do you think you will be able to maintain the same type of report you are producing at this time?

Mr. FRENETTE: Mr. Chairman, first I should like to state that I have never been able to put my hands on a copy of that report, so I am not familiar with its contents.

The CHAIRMAN: You have not read this report?

Mr. FRENETTE: I have not read the report.

The CHAIRMAN: We will get a copy for you.

Mr. FRENETTE: Thank you.

Mr. AIKEN: I should like to ask a question in relation to the employment of additional reporters. Did I understand you to say you experience peak periods and then drop off periods? Do you in effect have periods when groups of French members speak and then periods when groups of English members speak, creating peak reporting loads and very light reporting loads or a drop off in the quantity of work at which time your reporters are idle?

Mr. FRENETTE: In view of the fact I have only four reporters I would not agree that they are idle for considerable lengths of time.

Mr. AIKEN: Perhaps I should have suggested that they had less work to do at certain periods of time.

Mr. FRENETTE: What I intended to convey was that if I had a sufficient number of reporters to divide each hour into six ten minute periods, that would be an ideal situation.

Mr. AIKEN: You would say they have less to do?

Mr. FRENETTE: I mean to say that if I had enough reporters, let us say, in order to divide the hours into six, it would be ideal. I might have two reporters at a time whom I did not want. I did not express the matter very well because in the first place I did not know what I was called in here for. I was not asked to prepare anything. But I am ready to answer questions.

Perhaps I should enter into the field of committee reporting from which we have had to withdraw because our reporters cannot work, mornings, afternoons, and nights. We never finish before 11 or 12 o'clock at night. It was impossible so we just could not do it. Moreover, our typists could not do it either.

Mr. AIKEN: We did discuss committee reporting and it might be of interest.

Mr. FRENETTE: I think as it is now it would take a special staff for committee reporting in French plus a staff for committee reporting in English. The question is always the same. They would have to be paid. They cannot be bought by the dozen. Even with all kinds of money they cannot be made in a week. It takes five years to make a good reporter as far as I can see. I have been using good reporters from Montreal. But when they first came here it was a different thing. Believe me a committee reporter is not just a pen pusher. He is required to have a background.

When they come here from the province of Quebec they may not be fond of politics, or they may not have studied it before. When they first come here they may not know what it is all about.

Mr. COWAN: That applies to some of the members, too.

Mr. Frenette: When we need a reporter, we need a good one. We have lost two good reporters whom we had made through their work and experience over here in the last three years. Even if you told me to get ten reporters, and gave me all kinds of money, one must be reasonable. If you talk about all kinds of money, I could go all over the world and probably find ten people. But I could not get ten good reporters by tomorrow morning.

Mr. AIKEN: Is there any overlapping now between the committee reporters and the *Hansard* branch? You never have to use *Hansard* reporters in committee?

Mr. FRENETTE: We have used our French reporters in committee because there was not much French proceedings at the time.

I would cite the example of October 24, I believe, when they had been speaking French all day long in the committee on privileges and elections, while in the house they were speaking in French all the time. And that work had to be done by just four reporters.

Mr. AIKEN: Do you only have four reporters for committees?

Mr. FRENETTE: I do not have one reporter for committees. I have four reporters altogether.

Mr. AIKEN: You mean for the house and for committees?

Mr. FRENETTE: Yes. That is the reason why a certain moment came when we just could not make it.

The CHAIRMAN: Are your reporters separated—the House of Commons reporters from the committee reporters?

Mr. BUSKARD: Yes, I have two staffs.

Mr. AIKEN: Is that the total number of your establishment, four reporters?

Even if you get more at this moment you have no authority to hire them; that is, if you could get two more reporters.

Mr. FRENETTE: Well I think I could. I do not imagine they would be able to refuse a suitable offer.

Mr. BUSKARD: Was your establishment not increased? Were you not allowed to have up to six reporters?

Mr. FRENETTE: No, not that I heard of. Maybe it is in some report which I did not see; but not that I heard of.

Mr. AIKEN: Since you have not seen the report, there is no point in discussing it. There again it relates only to the English debates section which has been taken, shall I say, as an experiment, rather than the whole parliamentary reporting system. But speaking in general terms, would you welcome accepting the possibility of a different reporting system such as by tape recording? Do you think that might be an answer to your problem?

Mr. FRENETTE: Well, I will tell you this, I think Mr. Buskard and I are experts in tape reporting. We have been using it for years, from 25 to 30 years, and we have had all kinds of recording machines, the best and the worst. We have tried everything. I will tell frankly that a machine is better than no reporter, but it will not accelerate the work at any time. We had experience, if I may speak of it, some two years ago, was it not?

Mr. BUSKARD: You mean when Mr. Ervin's machines were put in, or before Mr. Ervin's experiment when the dictaphones were tried?

Mr. FRENETTE: Yes. The dictaphone organization installed one of their best systems which was connected to the public address system in the house. I decided I would give this machine a fair trial, the best I could.

As a matter of fact, my female transcribing staff, and Mr. Buskard's transcribing staff in committees are the only ones who are used to working with these machines, because they do it all the time. I can say after working one afternoon under ideal conditions, that is, when there were very few interruptions, and using the most competent transcribers I could find, and a good staff of reporters under ideal conditions, it took us just twice as much time as it usually takes us to do the same work, except that it was not as well done because there was no editing done yet.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you talking about the experiment which Mr. Ervin conducted, or the one prior to that?

Mr. FRENETTE: I did not know it was he; but I mean the one before that.

Mr. ERVIN: There is a short reference to it at page 22 of my report, paragraph 25. There was an experiment conducted. There was no report submitted on it that I could find. The only one I could find was one written prior to the installation of the equipment, as a preliminary report on whether or not they should even consider the experiment. But it was as a result of the inconclusive nature of the first experiment that the Speaker decided that something more elaborate should be conducted to determine whether or not there was any benefit to using it.

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Ervin, would you say that an experiment which was jettisoned in the manner that has been suggested may not prove in truth the real results that could be achieved by a system that would be introduced gradually and with some training background?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, I agree. This is really what I mean to say. I think one of the essential elements of such an experiment is that it must be conducted under controlled circumstances. One must try to duplicate as closely as possible the events that would take place under a properly controlled system. This is what I attempted to do.

Mr. AIKEN: May I ask a couple of questions related to Mr. Frenette's evidence? Your experiment was conducted in the English debates only?

Mr. ERVIN: That is correct.

Mr. AIKEN: Did you make any study of the French reporting system which would enable you to make a comparison between that and the study you made of the English, and to assess the effect that might be brought about in the French?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, I did. I interviewed Mr. Frenette and his assistant on a number of occasions—perhaps three or four. I have a record of the interviews. I came to the conclusion that there was nothing characteristic of the French debates that would not render it at least as effective for this type of transcription as did the English debates. I think I could also say that there exists the fluctuating workload of which Mr. Frenette speaks—feast and famine, long periods when they sit in the house waiting for someone to speak French, and then suddenly all the debate is carried on in French for a period of time, thus creating a pressure of work that is very difficult to balance as far as the facilities and workload are concerned. For this reason, I did feel that perhaps a tape recording system would be the means of bringing about a more equitable balance of workload, because then what would be involved largely would be editing, in which I think much of the important skill is involved.

Mr. AIKEN: But, Mr. Ervin, you would have to have both English and French if the system were installed.

Mr. ERVIN: Exactly. That is why I investigated the practicability, although it was not within the terms of reference.

Mr. AIKEN: There is one other question that I believe is important. Both Mr. Buskard and Mr. Frenette have an immediate problem of staff shortages. If the committee were to recommend that there be an immediate staff increase to cover this emergency, would it set back considerably the plan that you have suggested, or could they be worked together?

Mr. ERVIN: May I express disagreement before this committee on something that has just been said?

The CHAIRMAN: Absolutely.

Mr. ERVIN: I do not share the opinion that there is an immediate problem. If you refer to my report, on page 6 you will find we have conducted a survey of the working conditions of the reporters and their hours of work. I find their average hours per day are considerably less than that of civil servants, and I have taken into consideration the fact that their work becomes quite intense at times and therefore a certain amount of this is justified. I do not agree that the working conditions or the workload would support an addition to the staff.

As far as recruiting is concerned, I do believe that should there be a vacancy in the staff some difficulty might exist in filling it. This would not be impossible, however. Furthermore, I draw to your attention the fact that all the positions, according to the personnel department, are now filled. All the positions that are authorized are filled. Therefore I must answer your question in the light of my understanding of the problem of shortage of staff and difficulty in recruiting. However, if in their wisdom the committee decide to

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.

Mr. BUSKARD: Five minutes.

Mr. ERVIN: The waiting time was between five and ten minutes in every hour.

Mr. AIKEN: In summary, your own opinion is that the *Hansard* reporters are not as overworked at it has been represented.

Mr. ERVIN: I would have to say that, yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you a question, Mr. Rinfret?

Mr. RINFRET: No.

Mr. COWAN: When you comment on the hours and say they are not overworked, of course it has to be remembered that their hours are the peculiar hours of 2:30 to 10.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes.

Mr. COWAN: I suggest they are entitled to a shift differential. Even if they worked only six hours, from 2 o'clock to 8 p.m., I would be all for them working fewer hours because if they do not receive a shift differential in cash they certainly are entitled to get it in hours.

Mr. ERVIN: I suggest this is one of the less desirable factors. The fact that they work from 2 to 10 allows them to work in the morning in other areas of activity, however, which they do. So it is not all that bad.

Mr. RINFRET: Do they actually work in other areas of activity?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. I established that some of the debates reporting staff do work in the morning while parliament is sitting.

Mr. BUSKARD: Did you establish to what extent?

Mr. ERVIN: No, I did not do a thorough study of that aspect. I realize it would be practically impossible to attach any significance to this because to try to find out how much money they were earning would be impossible. I wanted to establish it was something that was being done. It was not being done surreptitiously.

Mr. AIKEN: To a large extent this could not be done while committees are sitting?

Mr. ERVIN: No, this is not so in respect of English debates reporters; the debates reporters do not do committee work or did not at that time, so this did not interfere. It would interfere with the committee reporters but not with debates reporters.

Mr. RINFRET: Do you know how many French reporters are on the committee reporters staff?

Mr. FRENETTE: None. We have been doing work there up until lately when we just could not carry on because of other commitments.

Mr. RINFRET: At this time are the committee reporters supplemented by French reporters?

Mr. FRENETTE: No, not now. We just cannot do it at the present time. It is not being reported.

The CHAIRMAN: What is happening there?

Mr. FRENETTE: This Session particularly, I understand committees are interpreted whenever requested. I would like to have seen an interpreter here this morning, Mr. Chairman, I could explain matters easier in French.

The CHAIRMAN: You are doing very well in English.

Mr. AIKEN: In respect of the committees in which I have sat I believe an interpreter has been interpreting into English and the reporter has been making a record from the translation.

Mr. FRENETTE: That is what I understand.

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Ervin, did you make any study of the committee work in the House?

Mr. ERVIN: No sir, I did not.

Mr. AIKEN: You did not do that even as allied to your study?

Mr. ERVIN: No. I would have to say no; I really did not study this at all.

Mr. AIKEN: Basically you were not concerned really with the over-all load; you were concerned more with the feasibility of putting in a recording system, is that correct?

Mr. ERVIN: In so far as *Hansard* and debates reporting are concerned, yes.

Mr. AIKEN: In the chamber itself?

Mr. ERVIN: In the chamber itself.

I was not concerned solely with seeing the practicability of putting a recording system in the chamber; I was concerned with any change that would improve the present system. It happens I chose recording as the most suitable solution to this problem.

Mr. AIKEN: Now, to go on with another aspect of this matter, what companies are there available which would provide the equipment that might be used? Is there more than one company?

Mr. ERVIN: Oh yes, there are a number of companies; almost any firm engaged in electronics and recording have equipment which could be used for this purpose. There is quite a wide variety of this type of equipment. I recommended a type that I knew to be suitable, and this is covered in an appendix to my report.

Mr. AIKEN: Would this recording system be attached directly to the house system which is now in use?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. The house sound amplification system is the one feature that makes tape recording suitable. You have an excellent means of capturing the debates. It is done by hooking the wires to the amplification system.

Mr. AIKEN: What study did you make of the system of open and closed microphones? It seems to me that the house is divided into perhaps eight or ten sections. I am not sure of the number of sections. But, as you know, only the section in which the person is speaking has its microphone open and the others are closed. What happens to off-the-cuff comments, interjections or even speeches which are started when the microphone is closed? Can these things be picked up?

Mr. ERVIN: This is why it is necessary to have, in conjunction with a recording system, someone sitting on the floor in the position of the reporter now who may take down the member's name and opening words of the interjection. As you know, often the first few words are missed because of the switchover of the microphones. In order that these be captured it is necessary for somebody to be on the floor to take the name of the person speaking, and the first two or three words. In Ontario, for example, they take care of this situation by having a shorthand stenographer on the floor. In addition the console operator, who sits in somewhat the same relative position as is the case in the house, superimposes on a second sound track the name of the speaker as he speaks. He has a microphone and he leans over and says "Mr. Jones" to indicate on the tape who is speaking. In addition to that, the monitor who sits at the control panel or equipment outside the house also records a log of this; so, they take care of this problem in three ways.

I might say this problem becomes less acute, depending on the interpretation which is given by the Speaker with regard to what is to be included in the debates. I believe it is common parliamentary practice to rule that only

those interjections which are picked up by the man who has the floor should be included in the debates; in other words, if it is a frivolous type of interjection, perhaps it is the Speaker's wish this not be included, in which case that renders the problem relatively simple.

Mr. AIKEN: I did not understand that. If all the frivolous remarks were excluded, there would be a lot less *Hansard*.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, indeed. As a matter of fact, the speaker of the Ontario legislature was moved to remark to me one time, "We are not printing a funny paper". For this reason he did not want some of these interjections in. I could not help thinking it would be a good deal less readable if some of them were left out.

Mr. COWAN: Oh, no!

Mr. ERVIN: Even under the worst circumstances, I am satisfied interjections to the extent they wish them included can be included under a tape recording system as well as with reporters.

By way of supporting this, may I say that in Ontario they found interjections actually were picked up more readily by the tape recording system than they were by the reporter. They carried on a duplicate system for a period of a year. They recorded the debates and reported them by the shorthand method. Therefore, they had the ability to compare the tape recording with the transcript from shorthand. They found there had been much missed by the reporter.

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Chairman, it is very close to the time when the committee has to break up. Some of us will have to leave shortly. We have not heard too much from Mr. Buskard this morning, although we did have his evidence last week. I wonder whether Mr. Buskard would care to comment on any of the evidence which has been given this morning so that it will be rounded out, shall we say. Mr. Frenette has explained the situation in respect of the French debates, and Mr. Ervin has put forward his opinions in connection with both the work load and the system he has recommended. I wonder whether Mr. Buskard would care to reply to any of these points at this moment.

Mr. BUSKARD: I do not know quite where to start. Perhaps I might start with Mr. Ervin's comparison. He suggested it was difficult to find something with which to compare the reporting difficulties and practices of *Hansard*. Mr. Ervin went to the Ontario house. I suggest a much better comparison could have been made by using the United States congress or the British House of Commons. Neither of those institutions has a tape recording system and neither is contemplating a tape recording system. In the British House of Lords they put in a tape recording system not long ago as a backup means of helping the reporters, but I understand the reporters very seldom use these tapes. One of our men has recently returned from there and has firsthand experience.

It seems to me that if electronic recording were a completely satisfactory method of procedure the United States, which is the most gadget-minded country in the world, would be using this system at this time.

As far as the Ontario legislature is concerned, the reporters know the standard of reporting that existed prior to the introduction of the tape recording system. The reporting was done on a contract basis using whatever reporters were available, experienced or not, trained or not. Reporters were called in to take half an hour or an hour, whatever time they could spare. They had no knowledge of members, procedure, practice or anything else, and the only thing that could be expected was an unsatisfactory report.

Some reference has been made to *Hansard* being a verbatim report. We have never pretended that *Hansard* was a verbatim report and if we did turn out a verbatim report we would be out of a job within a week.

Hansard is a substantially correct report of the proceedings of the House of Commons. It is edited, and perhaps it is over-edited at times. Very often members come to our office and say: "That is exactly what I wanted to say", but it is not quite what he did say. We endeavour to turn out something other than a stylized essay type of report. At the same time we eliminate repetitions, crudities, bad grammar and things of that sort, and turn out a substantially correct report, but certainly not a verbatim report. We do not intend to do that.

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Buskard, may I interject here and ask you whether this same competent editing job could be done in respect of tape recordings?

Mr. BUSKARD: Yes, this could be done, but you lose the value of the human relationship to the spoken word. The individual on the floor of the House of Commons hears the inflections and understands what is taking place. In addition, the tape recorder is still a mechanical device and cannot think. If two or three people speak at the same time—and you know this happens frequently in the House of Commons—the tape recorder will record a blur of voices. A shorthand reporter will pick out one voice, follow it and produce a readable transcript.

I could quote from reports made of investigations carried on in respect of the tape recording system by competent bodies, judicial and otherwise, which all stress the fact that a tape recorder cannot replace a competent shorthand reporter.

Mr. AIKEN: You do believe in fact that the physical human presence of a reporter in the chamber, who is in the mood of the chamber, can follow the thread of the debate and perhaps pick out the speaker who is carrying the course of the debate at that time?

Mr. BUSKARD: That is right.

Mr. ERVIN: Mr. Chairman, may I shed some light on this particular point?

I agree completely with this point, and I think you must, if you are taping the proceedings, have someone on the floor. That is why in my report I suggest that the parliamentary transcriber, as I have chosen to call the person who will take the place of the parliamentary reporter and subsequently transcribe from the recorded version of what she heard, should sit in the House of Commons during the particular ten minutes for which she is responsible. During that time she will write down the names of the speakers and the opening remarks and then listen to the recording, at which time she will be hearing the debate for the second time. I think this is important.

Mr. AIKEN: I should like to ask a question while I have it in mind. Would the transcriber be able to take longer periods of time in the House of Commons, or would there be any saving of time at all in this way?

Mr. ERVIN: No. I suggest the present time schedule which has been worked out over the years is an excellent one. I cannot suggest an improvement to the idea of working ten minutes in the House of Commons and using the other 50 minutes to listen to the recording and transcribe what took place during that period.

Mr. AIKEN: Then, in fact we would not be reducing the number of employees but just reducing the quality?

Mr. ERVIN: No; that is not correct. At the present time they work in teams. There is a reporter and an amanuensis doing the job. I suggest the amanuensis should be the transcriber and do both jobs, sitting in the house, and then coming out and typing her own work. I suggest this in order to preserve the excellent quality of editing, and I would recommend that you consider the possibility of promoting the reporter. As one reporter retires another should

be promoted to be an assistant editor to edit the work of the parliamentary transcriber. If this is done you not only reduce the staff from 16 to 11, but you also bring about a saving of approximately \$30,000 a year in salaries, which I think is less significant, but nevertheless it is there.

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Buskard?

Mr. BUSKARD: There is one point I would like to make. As far as I know—and certainly not over the last 12 years when I have had the responsibility—there has never been any serious complaint about the quality of *Hansard* reporting. I have been told—although I do not take credit for it because I simply took over the system already in operation—that ours is the best parliamentary reporting system in the world.

The suggestion now is that you should scrap eventually a system which has been found to be satisfactory in favour of something which may or may not work out. I emphasize the fact that that staff, once it is broken up, cannot be reassembled.

Mr. COWAN: You would never have to reassemble it.

Mr. BUSKARD: I do not understand.

Mr. COWAN: If you break up the present staff in favour of tape recording, you would never have to reassemble it. I am sure of that. I have had years of experience with machine recording, and it has been eminently satisfactory.

Mr. BUSKARD: I too have had years of experience, and speaking from my years of experience I would hate to see tape recording replace live reporting. However, that is a matter for you gentlemen to decide.

At the same time, if I may comment a little further, it is almost implicit in Mr. Ervin's report that in all the cases where there has been a switch from manual reporting to tape recording it has been done as a result of a shortage of competent reporters.

I believe that was the case at the United Nations; I believe that was the case in the Ontario house; and I believe that was the case in other jurisdictions. It seems to me that the answer is to institute a training program to provide competent staff.

Such a program has been instituted in at least three places that I know of; one right within the federal civil service, namely, the Canadian Pensions Tribunal, which has instituted an in-training program to train their own reporters. Another is that of the Ontario Supreme Court which has instituted an in-training job training program to train its own reporters. And a third instance is that of an independent reporting firm in Toronto which has undertaken some type of apprenticeship training.

It takes some time for this sort of training to bear fruit, but undoubtedly it will, and the shortage that now exists will be alleviated to that extent.

I have recommended that we do the same thing; that is, that we institute our own training group to provide for the filling of our own vacancies, thus getting away from dependency on reporters trained in other jurisdictions and in other practices. It seems to me that if that recommendation were adopted, we would thereby perpetuate ourselves and assure the house of the kind of service it has been accustomed to for the past 50 years. Mr. Ervin spoke of workloads. He chose one five-year period. Perhaps I could indicate two other periods. I have some statistics covering two ten-year periods, one from 1930 to 1939 and one from 1952 to 1961. In the first ten-year period I mentioned, the average number of pages of *Hansard* was 4,225 per year; in the second ten-year period the average number per year was 7,104, which is an increase of about 70 per cent. During that period of time the number of English debates reporters has remained at seven; it has been seven for over 40 years to my personal knowledge.

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Buskard, I do not want to interrupt your trend of thought, but has there been any change in connection with committee reporting during this period?

Mr. BUSKARD: There has been a change in this regard, that years ago when our workload on committees became heavy we were able to call in extra reporters on a per diem or a per page basis to help out in the heavy work periods.

Mr. AIKEN: But you always had a separate committee reporting branch?

Mr. BUSKARD: That is right. We are now unable to obtain freelance reporters to come in on a daily basis and, therefore, we require an establishment capable of doing the work themselves without calling upon outside help.

I was saying that over the last 40 years our staff has remained constant at seven. The salary has increased from an average of \$3,480 in the first ten-year period to \$6,496 during the second ten-year period. That is the average, of course. The increase is something less than double.

I might emphasize one other comparison. The number of pages per reporter during the second ten-year period averaged 7,000 printed *Hansard* pages. Calculated roughly, there are five typewritten pages to one printed page of *Hansard*. This means that the average number of typewritten pages was 35,000; the average per reporter was about 5,000. If you were to compare that with the workload and salary of an Ontario Supreme Court reporter, at a very low page rate, that would give him an income of between \$12,000 and \$13,000 per year. In order to make our position attractive we have at least to come within shouting distance of that figure. There is a suggestion I think, contained in the report that we are asking for premium salaries, salaries above those paid in competitive occupations. We are not asking for anything of the kind. We are asking that our salaries be made competitive so that even though our salaries may be somewhat less than what people can earn in other branches of reporting, some of the other advantages we can offer may compensate for that, and we have a fair chance of obtaining staff. At the present time we have to compete not only with the reporters who do court work or freelance work, but with the Senate. The Senate has a very much lighter work load, and a great deal more of free time. Some reporters on our staff just wait for a vacancy on the Senate to apply for a transfer there.

Mr. COWAN: That applies to the House of Commons also.

Mr. BUSKARD: As a matter of fact, we have lost at least four or five reporters to the Senate within my period of office. Within the last year and a half we lost a man who went back into freelance reporting where he can make much more money and work under better conditions.

Mr. AIKEN: Mr. Buskard, I have one final question. In what you said did you suggest that in most of the examples of a change from the reporting system to the tape recording system the change was made necessary because a former system was not working?

Mr. BUSKARD: No, I suggested that it was made because of the shortage of competent shorthand reporters.

Mr. AIKEN: In Ontario?

Mr. BUSKARD: Yes, in Ontario. At the United Nations they tape record the proceedings of most of their committees because they cannot get enough competent reporters, and yet they pay \$13,000 a year.

Mr. AIKEN: Thank you.

Mr. FRENETTE: I should like to add something, which Mr. Ervin forgot to say probably. The first few words spoken in the house are lost because the man at the monitor does not switch fast enough, and this will delay the girl who is

going to transcribe—that is for sure. If you have a reporter who stays, let us say, half an hour or an hour in the house so as to check on those few words which may be missing here and there, it will mean that there will be blanks in the girl's transcript and the transcript will have to wait for those words to be completed in the proper way.

Mr. ERVIN: You misunderstood me. May I interrupt you here because you are starting from a false premise. I said that the girl who sits in the house goes back and types what she has heard happen in the house. Therefore, the interjections which she writes on her pad are related to that particular portion of the debate, which she then goes back and transcribes, much the same way as your reporter goes back and dictates to the girl.

Mr. FRENETTE: Would she have to be a stenographer herself?

Mr. ERVIN: The girl in the house has to be a stenographer. In other words, the parliamentary transcriber is a shorthand reporter with somewhat less skill in terms of words per minute than the debates reporter might be now. They are in much more plentiful supply.

Mr. FRENETTE: Would she receive the salary of the reporter?

Mr. ERVIN: I do not set the salaries, but I would suggest—and I did suggest—that in relation to the reporter's salary of \$7,800, she would perhaps make \$6,000.

Mr. FRENETTE: There is just one more thing I would like to add. We dictate on to the dictating machines every day, and we do that very carefully, dictating to the best of our ability, and yet there is a lot which the girls miss. I just do not see how those machines could be clearer than that all the time, when it is not even said clearly by the members. This point has to be considered in a very serious way because when we had that trial of which I was talking a few moments ago, we had that trouble. The reporters had to come back and fill in blanks in so many places that it is difficult to imagine.

Mr. ERVIN: I have the belts for the two weeks' trial period. The Sergeant-at-Arms has them and we could satisfy any curiosity you may have with respect to the fidelity of the reporting. This was done under very crude circumstances, you may remember. I had just a couple of dictating machines installed very quickly.

Mr. AIKEN: I think you will admit that if there was a changeover period it perhaps would be a difficult one. How long do you think it would take until a new system was operating with, say, no bugs in it?

Mr. ERVIN: Let us imagine a hypothetical situation where one reporter leaves in three months time. Immediately that happens I would hope you would have had trained two parliamentary transcribers in order that we could promote one of the reporters to assistant editor, leaving two vacancies. Now, you would have five reporters and two parliamentary transcribers in place of the seven reporters. This would give you enough experience, with what I propose, to allow you to determine whether, in fact, this is being done with equal skill and dispatch.

I would suggest that there would be a great deal of value in having tape recording in the house, whether or not you used it in accordance with my recommendations, as a backup and means of helping the editor. So, jumping into it by buying \$10,000 worth of equipment is not going to be a serious problem even if you do not follow through to the extent I have suggested.

Mr. AIKEN: I have one other question which has been raised in this connection which relates to power failures.

Mr. ERVIN: I am glad you asked that question. That was one subject I thought would come up and I prepared myself for it.

A lot is kept in the technical room of the amplification system. Now, as you know, very few failures have occurred. Some of you may recall that a few weeks ago there was a light power failure in the middle of the city of Ottawa; this caused the lights in the chamber to flicker but as far as the recording and amplification equipment was concerned, the auxiliary generator on the roof was able to take over the load almost instantaneously.

Mr. BUSKARD: That is not correct; it took over the load only in the chamber.

Mr. ERVIN: It took over the load of the public address system.

Mr. BUSKARD: But it did not outside the chamber. Our office was completely stalled for two ten minute periods. Our electrical typewriters could not be used.

Mr. COWAN: But the lights worked in the chamber.

Mr. BUSKARD: We would not be doing our typing in the chamber.

Mr. ERVIN: But, the recording would have gone on because it is hooked up with the sound system.

Mr. BUSKARD: But your power is supplied from outside.

Mr. ERVIN: I do not think a ten minute delay is a serious problem.

Mr. BUSKARD: But there would be no recording.

Mr. ERVIN: It would have taken place.

Mr. BUSKARD: As I said, the power supply comes from outside the chamber and your sound amplification comes from the chamber.

Mr. ERVIN: The same power system that would operate the sound amplification system would operate the recording equipment.

Mr. BUSKARD: Even outside the chamber?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes.

Mr. COWAN: I was not in the house when that happened. However, I understand that the power went off and the poor devil who was reading his speech had to stop because it was black in there so, in that case, you would not have to record anything. That was one of the funniest things I have heard; the lights went out and the member stopped talking.

Mr. RINFRET: How many editors would you foresee for the English debates branch and how many for the French debates branch?

Mr. ERVIN: I can only answer for the English debates branch because I did not go into this other section.

The final establishment I proposed was that there would be an editor, Mr. Buskard, for example, and three assistant editors instead of one, with seven parliamentary transcribers. The theory behind this is that it might take that much more editing in view of the lesser skill of the parliamentary transcriber to do this, although I find they are quite adept at that.

Mr. COWAN: Has the quality of the work deteriorated since the addition of the stenotype machine to the pen and paper reporting staff?

Mr. BUSKARD: No, it has not; it is just a different method of recording.

Mr. COWAN: Well, that is what tape recording is.

Mr. Chairman, it is after 11 o'clock; I know I am not breaking up the quorum by leaving because there is not one.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, before we adjourn I have one question to ask.

Mr. Ervin, who owns these tapes that you used in respect of your experiment?

Mr. ERVIN: They are the property of the Sergeant-at-Arms, I would say. They are kept under his custody. It was impressed upon me that the verbatim reports of the house should not be allowed to leave the house.

The CHAIRMAN: It may be a good idea to allow members of the committee an opportunity to listen to these tapes.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes; they could be obtained very easily. With a portable machine we could set it up in this room.

Mr. FRENETTE: But you could not compare them with the notes the reporters take.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. Here is a sample I brought with me. This is part of the debates as typed out by the amanuensis from verbal dictation from the reporter. This is the transcript that my girl produced during the same period of time, and I have the record to go with this so you can make comparisons.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps we should arrange to do this.

Mr. ERVIN: Do you have any dictation or transcribing equipment in your office?

Mr. BUSKARD: I have one set for my own use but they do have these available in the committee reporting branch.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ervin, Mr. Buskard and Mr. Frenette for appearing this morning.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
First Session—Twenty-sixth Parliament
1963

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

DEBATES

Chairman: MR. HERMAN M. BATTEN

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 2

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1963

Respecting

Report of a Survey of the English Debates
Reporting Branch of the House of Commons.

INCLUDING
THIRD REPORT TO THE HOUSE

WITNESS:

Mr. A. M. Ervin, Management Analysis Officer of the Civil Service
Commission.

ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1964

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEBATES

Chairman: Mr. Herman M. Batten

Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. B. Cowan

and Messrs.

Aiken
Batten
Cowan
Eudes

Howard
Lambert
Langlois
MacNaught

Martineau
Paul
Rinfret
Rouleau—12

(Quorum 5)

Gabrielle Savard,
Clerk of the Committee.

REPORT TO THE HOUSE

FRIDAY, December 20, 1963.

The Standing Committee on Debates has the honour to present its

THIRD REPORT

On November 1, 1963, the House referred to your Committee for immediate consideration the Report of a Survey of the English Debates Reporting Branch of the House of Commons made by the Management Analysis Division, Advisory Services Branch, of the Civil Service Commission.

Your Committee has studied the above Report, heard witnesses and attended demonstrations of the reportings made during a prior session of the House of Commons.

Your Committee recommends:

1. That satisfactory electronic recording apparatus, as referred to in the above-mentioned Report, be installed at the earliest possible date, to be used on a trial basis in selected committee rooms;

2. That, at the earliest possible moment during the next session of Parliament, the Standing Committee on Debates be authorized to examine and study the operation of the electronic recording equipment as used in committees, with the view to considering the extension of the use of such equipment;

3. That the operation and administration of the Debates Reporting Branch, English and French sections, in both the House and in committees be referred to it for study at the next session;

4. That Mr. Speaker and the Commissioners of Internal Economy take under immediate advisement the problem of reporter shortage in both English and French sections of the Debates Reporting Branch.

A copy of the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence (Issues Nos. 1 and 2) is appended.

Respectfully submitted,

HERMAN M. BATTEN,
Chairman.

ALBERTO R. BELLINI

January 20, 1952

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 17, 1952, regarding the matter mentioned therein. I am sorry that I cannot provide you with a more definitive answer at this time, but the information requested is being reviewed by the appropriate authorities.

I am sure that you will understand the need for thoroughness in this process and appreciate the time required to complete the necessary checks.

Sincerely,
Alberto R. Bellini

I am sure that you will understand the need for thoroughness in this process and appreciate the time required to complete the necessary checks.

I am sure that you will understand the need for thoroughness in this process and appreciate the time required to complete the necessary checks.

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I am sure that you will understand the need for thoroughness in this process and appreciate the time required to complete the necessary checks.

Very truly yours,

ALBERTO R. BELLINI

Director

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, December 18, 1963.

(4)

The Standing Committee on Debates met at 9.45 a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Herman M. Batten, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Aiken, Batten, Cowan, Paul, and Rinfret,—(5).

In attendance: Mr. A. M. Ervin, Management Analysis Officer of the Civil Service Commission.

The Chairman announced that Mr. Ervin, as he had offered at the previous meeting, had brought with him some tape recordings that were made in the House of Commons on March 21, 22 and 23 of 1962.

Mr. Ervin described the background of the experiment that was made at that time and some of the conditions which applied. He then demonstrated to the Committee the results of the experiment, comparing the recordings made with the plastic belt and the magnetic tape.

Questions were asked, especially on the technical aspect of the question, and on the opportunity of recommending a change in the present system of recording debates.

Questioning being concluded, the Chairman thanked the witness, and announced that the subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure would meet on Thursday at 2.30 p.m.

At 10.50, on motion of Mr. Paul, the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

THURSDAY, December 19, 1963.

(5)

The Standing Committee on Debates met *in camera* at 8.30 p.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Herman M. Batten, presided.

Members present: Messrs. Aiken, Batten, Cowan, Eudes, Howard, Lambert, Langlois, MacNaught, and Paul.

The Committee considered a Draft Report to the House recommended by the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure. The said Report was amended and adopted unanimously, as amended.

The Committee instructed the Chairman to present the said Report to the House as the Committee's Third Report.

At 10.10 p.m. the Committee adjourned.

Gabrielle Savard,
Clerk of the Committee.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

1776

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, - That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, we have suffered the longest continuance of a Government under a King, whose character is so marked by every attribute by which bad Government is distinguished, that no man who has seen the inside of a British prison, or who has felt the weight of a British tax, can wonder that we have desired to be free.

But a Prince, whose character is thus marked by every attribute by which bad Government is distinguished, cannot be expected to be a Prince of Peace. He is naturally a tyrant, he has no other idea of his duty.

And in proof of this, let us behold the king of Great Britain, who is the author of the Declaration of Independence, who has been the cause of the blood and treasure which have been expended in the late war.

In the name of the People of the United States, we do hereby declare, that we are, and we ought to be, free and independent States, that we have, and ought to have, full power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, enter into Commercials, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, the thirteenth day of September, in the second year of the Independence of the United States of America.

John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress.

John Adams, Vice President of the Continental Congress.

Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of the Continental Congress.

Benjamin Franklin, Member of the Continental Congress.

EVIDENCE

WEDNESDAY, December 18, 1963.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen I see a quorum.

In this report presented by Mr. Ervin he makes reference to experiments that were carried out during a period of debate in the House of Commons. This morning he has brought with him some tapes that he made on that occasion. The tapes that he has made on March 21, 22 and 23 of 1962. I have asked Mr. Ervin to play back these tapes for us this morning so we can listen to them. After you have heard a few of the recordings perhaps there will be questions which you may wish to ask in respect of certain portions of the recordings. That is, how it would work if it was installed in the House of Commons, and other questions that would be of interest to the committee.

I should like Mr. Ervin to identify very carefully for the reporters the different belts that he will play for us, but there is no need for the reporters to actually record the recordings.

I wonder now, Mr. Ervin, whether you would go ahead and let us hear your testimony.

Mr. A. M. ERVIN (*Management Analysis Officer, Civil Service Commission*): Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could just have a minute to describe the background of this experiment and some of the conditions which applied. I think this will make the experiment itself more meaningful to the members of the committee.

First, of all, the procedure for capturing debates in the House of Commons, as presently exists, I think is familiar to you. If you will bear with me I will just run through it.

There are seven reporters, six of whom are on duty at one time. The drill is for them to go into the house for ten minutes at a time except for the first time, which happens to be a five minute period. They take shorthand notes of the proceedings of the house for ten minutes and then return to their own offices where they dictate this verbally to an amanuensis, a very fast typist, who is able to type this, without having to go through the intermediate medium of dictating it on a dictating machine. During this process a certain amount of editing takes place. The reporter does not dictate exactly what was spoken but does a small amount of editing which is quite normal and desirable under these circumstances. As a result of this a transcript is produced, triple spaced, which is then reproduced.

I am sure you are all familiar with this edition that comes out for the purpose of the press and members who have spoken, so they have the opportunity, soon after they have spoken, to review what they have said. This is a very rough and rather crude copy. It is even more rough and more crude by the time it gets to the Queen's printer, because following this it is then edited by the editor or assistant editor. Notwithstanding the marks that are on that copy, it is still sufficiently good printer's copy to allow *Hansard* to be published from it. That is the present procedure.

I tried to duplicate this procedure as best I could with the equipment that was very quickly put together. I would like to describe the set-up which we used in an attempt to do the same thing.

We first of all installed two dictating machines; Dictaphone Time-Master machines, which use red plastic belts. These were so arranged that they would

take two ten minutes of the debates with a small overlap. Just before one shut off we started the other one so we did not miss anything in between. We only had two machines, instead of six, which means that we could only take twenty minutes out of every hour. We tried to take two consecutive ten minute periods in each case so we could experiment with the difficulties of combining the two takes together. The equipment was connected to the sound amplification system, and the experiment was carried out in room 110 on the ground floor. This is just as far away as the debates reporting offices, which is where the tape recording equipment would be, I suggest, if you install tape recording equipment. Distance did not enter into this experiment.

At first I had two amanuenses or two typists who were assigned to me simply to type out the belts without any thought given to name of the speaker. Of course, this is a problem when you are recording because the speaker does not announce his name. Very often the Speaker gives the floor to an hon. member from such and such a constituency which, of course, does help to identify the speaker, but this is not always the case, and interjections are sometimes missed.

However, because the two girls assigned to me were not trained in this kind of work I had to experiment for about a week with them to bring them to a level of competency which would allow them to do this intelligently. They were both willing and helpful. Mrs. Doyle, who may be known to some of you, had previous experience as an amanuensis but she had done none of this work for nine or ten years, and she had never operated a dictaphone.

Mrs. Gibson had operated a dictaphone but took no shorthand. This is necessary, because when I carried out the final experiment they had to sit in the House of Commons and listen to the ten minute take which they were subsequently going to type in order that they could make notes of the names of the speakers and the opening remarks in case the microphone had not been turned on quickly enough when the speaker began to speak. If a girl did not take shorthand, of course, she would have to write this in longhand, which I suggest inhibited the experiment to some extent.

Another feature that I tried, which was not too successful, was to have the console operator, who sits in the gallery and turns on the microphones as the members speak, announce in a throat microphone the name of the speaker as he got up to speak. It was considered that by superimposing this on the recording it might help the typist when she was playing it back in the event she did not get the name of the speaker. This was sort of a double check. This system is used in the Ontario legislative assembly to very good advantage, but this is a single track recording apparatus and I found unfortunately that when the operator was recording a long name like Diefenbaker, for example, this was enough to blot out an equivalent amount of the speech or opening remarks. So you will find, if you hear it on the recording, that this did not work out too well. With tape recording equipment, however, there are two channels so it is possible to record the name of the speaker on one channel without interfering with the speech which is recorded on the second channel.

The girl, in turn, in transcribing her tape has an earphone in one ear over which she hears the name of the speaker and in the other ear she hears the content of the speech. She can control this so that she can turn one out completely or turn up the volume in one and lower the volume in the other. This is the system that would be recommended.

I brought with me today the results of the last three days of the five day experiment. I think this is reasonable because the first two days were used to straighten out the mistakes of the experiment and get the girls used to the tapes. I have the transcripts of *Hansard* for those three days of operations that have actually been recorded in case members wish to see these. I also have the

Hansard rough copy, or blues, I believe you call these, for these three days and the actual typed transcripts that were done from the tape recordings under similar conditions so you may compare, if you wish, the success of one with the other.

I think you will realize that in amplifying this over a speaker it loses a lot of its fidelity and it is not nearly as clear. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that one member of the committee might wish to listen on the earphones to satisfy himself that it is much clearer to a girl listening with earphones than it will appear over the loud speaker. I have also recommended that if you install recording equipment you install tape recording equipment because the fidelity on tape is much greater than on a plastic belt. This belt is designed for normal office use and is excellent for that purpose. Where you wish to get the highest possible fidelity in order that you do not miss any interjections or anything that takes place in the house it is strongly recommended that you go to a recording medium which uses magnetic tape.

In order to give you a comparison between the plastic belt and the magnetic tape I have brought a tape recorder with me this morning, and I have a recording of President Kennedy's speech to the House of Commons on May 17, 1961.

Perhaps I should ask the members whether they have any questions to ask before I proceed with the experiment.

Mr. PAUL: What happens, sir, in the event there is a break in the supply of electricity?

Mr. ERVIN: On the top floor of the building there is an auxiliary generator which will supply power immediately when the lights go off. This situation occurred about three weeks ago. During that period the sound amplification system was not affected. Some parts of the house may have been affected because they may not have immediately come under the influence of the auxiliary generator. Sometimes it takes as long as 30 seconds for the auxiliary generator to take over the full load, but it can be so arranged that it takes the load of the more important things first, and if this is done, there is no effect at all when the lights go out.

Mr. AIKEN: Is the purpose of this experiment to make a comparison between the transcripts? If that is the purpose perhaps we should have them?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. I do not know how you wish me to proceed.

Mr. AIKEN: We actually need three eyes to read the three scripts.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, this is difficult. Perhaps I should let you see *Hansard* covering the periods during which the experiments were made, and you may find that there are certain portions you would like to hear.

Mr. COWAN: Who authorized the original taping; was it one of the committees of the House of Commons, the committee of the whole or the Speaker?

Mr. PAUL: The Speaker asked for permission to do so in the House of Commons.

Mr. COWAN: Who was the Speaker at that time?

Mr. PAUL: The Speaker was Mr. Michener.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, the Speaker was Mr. Michener.

Mr. COWAN: That is what I wanted to know.

Mr. ERVIN: I can give you each a sample of our transcript. I have the transcripts of the tapes that I am about to play. Perhaps you would prefer to follow this?

The CHAIRMAN: That is fine, thank you.

Mr. ERVIN: May I proceed with the experiment?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, go ahead Mr. Ervin.

Mr. ERVIN: This is a belt for March 22, 1962 and is part of the orders of the day. Your chairman selected this I think because he felt there would be perhaps a more representative group of voices involved.

(At this point the members listened to a recording).

Mr. ERVIN: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could interject at this point.

This equipment, of course, has the feature of being able to be increased in speed or slowed down. If the speed is too fast for the girl and she has trouble in typing it, it can be slowed down. This is an advantage that I suggest the reporter does not have when taking shorthand. The tone can also be changed. If I may I would like to demonstrate that, and perhaps you would be good enough to use the earphones, I think you will notice this quite clearly. Unfortunately, when using the earphones the loudspeaker is cut out.

Would you be good enough to use the earphones, sir?

(Mr. Paul listens to the recording with the use of the earphones).

Mr. ERVIN: Would you care to use them, sir?

(Mr. Rinfret listens to the recording with the use of the earphones).

Mr. ERVIN: If there are difficult passages on the tape, by playing the same passage over and over again a girl can usually pick out what has been said.

Mr. AIKEN: I think if you are going to use this system you will have to provide the members with cough drops.

Mr. ERVIN: Yes. This can be controlled to some extent. I think this noise tends to be less on the tape, or at least it does not seem to reverberate quite as much as it does here.

Do any members wish to hear any other tape or a part of any other, or may I continue to play this one?

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you would continue with the one you have, Mr. Ervin. I think the orders of the day is that period of time we want to make sure is covered satisfactorily.

(At this point the members listened to a recording).

Mr. ERVIN: I think most of you gentlemen have been able to recognize the voices of the speakers.

Mr. AIKEN: That is true as long as the tape is run at standard speed, but if you slow it down it is different.

Mr. ERVIN: The identification of the speaker is not quite as difficult as one would imagine.

(At this point the members listened to a recording).

Mr. ERVIN: Mr. Chairman, that is the end of that ten minute take. Another machine would have turned on about a minute or a minute and a half prior to that, so there would always be a minute and a half's overlap.

Would you like me to demonstrate the magnetic tape?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. ERVIN: This will enable the members to compare the fidelity of the recording of the tape against the recording of the belt.

Here is Mr. Diefenbaker introducing Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. COWAN: Mr. Chairman, did you notice how little trouble the opposition caused in 1961!

Mr. AIKEN: I noticed several questions there which were out of order!

(At this point the members listened to a recording).

Mr. ERVIN: I will not play the whole of Mr. Diefenbaker's introduction; I will switch over now to Mr. Kennedy.

I think you will agree that this gives a clearer reproduction of the proceedings than the belt. This, of course, is electronic and it is an entirely different medium.

(The members listened to a further section of the tape).

The CHAIRMAN: Having heard the recording on tape, may we now go back to a recording of a belt of a part of the orders of the day for Friday, March 23, 1962.

(A recording of the orders of the day, Friday, March 23, 1962, was played at this point.)

Mr. ERVIN: That is the end of that tape.

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder if the members of the committee would like to ask some questions of Mr. Ervin regarding these recordings.

There is one question I would like to ask Mr. Ervin. When a tape has been made of a speech in the House of Commons—and I am referring now to the magnetic tape—would there be only one tape made? I am interested in what would happen if the operator made a mistake and wiped out the speech.

Mr. ERVIN: This is a problem that is more apparent than real, I think. In all the transcription that I have become familiar with over the last three years I know of no case in which a girl who was transcribing inadvertently erased the tape, because on most transcribing machines it is not possible to do this. The transcribing machine will not record, and therefore it will not erase. However, I think the members of the house will wish to make sure that the smallest and most remote possibility is covered, and for that I would suggest a complete monitor tape be recorded, a continuous tape of proceedings of the house, which would take place in the room where the control apparatus is situated, which would be a second recording in case any such thing did happen.

Mr. PAUL: Where in the house can you put the recording machine?

Mr. ERVIN: I would suggest the recording apparatus for the purpose of reporting *Hansard* would be in the reporters' offices. Much smaller tapes would be used to go along with the short ten minute takes that would be given. These would be quite small reels. Three of these machines would be installed, I would suggest, two of them alternating with a small overlap, and a third as a standby machine in case something went wrong with either of the other two. These would be installed and the parliamentary transcribers, as I have chosen to call the people who would transcribe from the tape, would transcribe these when they returned from their visit to the house, during which time they would make notes of the speakers and the interjections. They would simply take their tape reel off the machine and go into their office and type it.

Mr. AIKEN: I take it, in summary, you see no technical difficulties in connection with the installation of a tape recording service in the house?

Mr. ERVIN: No, sir, I am satisfied that the technical problems, to the extent they did exist, have now been solved by other jurisdictions who have installed this type of equipment and now use it quite successfully.

Mr. AIKEN: Our problem is not one of a technical nature but rather one of deciding perhaps which of two systems would be more useful to parliament. Is that the way in which you see it?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, I think the choice is yours. I think either system works. The problems inherent in one way be sufficient to persuade you to consider another; and that was the purpose, I think, of my survey.

Mr. AIKEN: I noticed the speech of President Kennedy was very clear and direct, because of the fact that he was presumably reading, in the main, from a prepared text. Is the same sort of fidelity possible in all the house debates?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes, I think I would have to agree with you that President Kennedy's speech is being recorded under rather ideal circumstances, with very little background noise. However, the increase in fidelity would apply regardless of the fact that there might even have been pandemonium in the house. I use that word because it very aptly expresses a condition which existed at one stage in the Ontario legislative assembly.

I had the privilege of listening to a magnetic tape of that particular session during which, in a period of five minutes, there were about 30 interjections from hon. members, and that sort of thing. However I was impressed with the clarity and fidelity of the rapid exchange that took place at that particular time.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. RINFRET: Do you believe that three recording machines would take care of both the English and the French.

Mr. ERVIN: No, sir. I think you should have six, if you introduce this, because occasionally a tape will contain part French and part English. Therefore the French debate reporters must have their own set-up, so that when French is spoken they will be able to use their own facilities.

The CHAIRMAN: You feel that the English debates should have two recorders and one stand-by?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: And that the French debates should have two recorders with one stand-by?

Mr. ERVIN: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, would there be in addition a master tape which could be used, if anything happened?

Mr. ERVIN: I suggest there should be, and that this master tape perhaps might be installed in the same room as the sound equipment. This has been recommended already by your Cossor attendants who are looking after the sound amplification system. I have consulted with them on a number of occasions, and they not only support the idea of tape recording but also the suggestion of having a monitor master tape going on at all times.

Mr. PAUL: I think members of the committee would be interested to know what would be the operating costs of these machines.

Mr. ERVIN: I made an estimate of the cost for the English debates reporters. You could install this for \$10,000.

Mr. PAUL: What about the cost of the installation?

Mr. ERVIN: That would be for English only. Most of the expensive part of the installation is already in, such as the microphones and the amplification equipment. That is by far the most expensive part of it. That is why the province of Quebec did not go into it now, I suggest, because they would have had first of all to put in the costly microphones and a sound amplification system. So the remainder would just be an attachment to the system which you already have of sound recording apparatus for English debates only, and it could be installed for \$10,000.

If you wished to have a continuing monitor, that would be extra. And the French debates equipment would be extra too, of course.

As far as maintenance cost goes, there would be no additional maintenance. You now have a sufficient number of electronic engineers to ensure that this system can be run. As far as the operation of the tape recorders is concerned, this would be done by the present debates reporting staff.

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

the house into the picture sufficiently to understand the meaning of the display. These tapes will be here, and I think if we are going to continue, we might have further meetings next session.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, may we decide this? Maybe if tomorrow we had a meeting of the steering committee we could decide what we should do from here on.

Mr. AIKEN: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall find out during the day where we can have a meeting and at what time, and I will have my office call each member of the steering meeting: Messrs. Rinfret, Aiken, Paul, Cowan, Howard, and Langlois. I will let you know sometime during the day where we can have a meeting tomorrow. Possibly we might hold it in room 16, near the commons, and at that time we might decide where we should go from here.

I should point out to you that if we do not get in a report this session, then all the work we have done is of no value as far as making a report is concerned. Again, our terms of reference said to study and make an immediate report.

Mr. PAUL: What do you think about a meeting after the orders of the day in room 16 tomorrow morning? The house sits at 11:00 a.m. tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right.

Mr. PAUL: After the orders of the day, in room 16.

The CHAIRMAN: The only difficulty there—although I do not suppose it is really a difficulty—is that it would be impossible for me to come at that time. I could come about a quarter after two, but I have a meeting tomorrow from twelve to two.

Mr. AIKEN: I hope it is a luncheon meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: It is. How about 2.30 p.m.? We will be having estimates tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.; maybe we could have a meeting then at 2.30 p.m., and if we cannot hold it in room 16 we might hold it in my office. It would be just a subcommittee or steering committee meeting.

Mr. AIKEN: We could hold it in your office. I think there are only four or five members on the subcommittee.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right. It will be held in my office or in room 16.

Agreed.

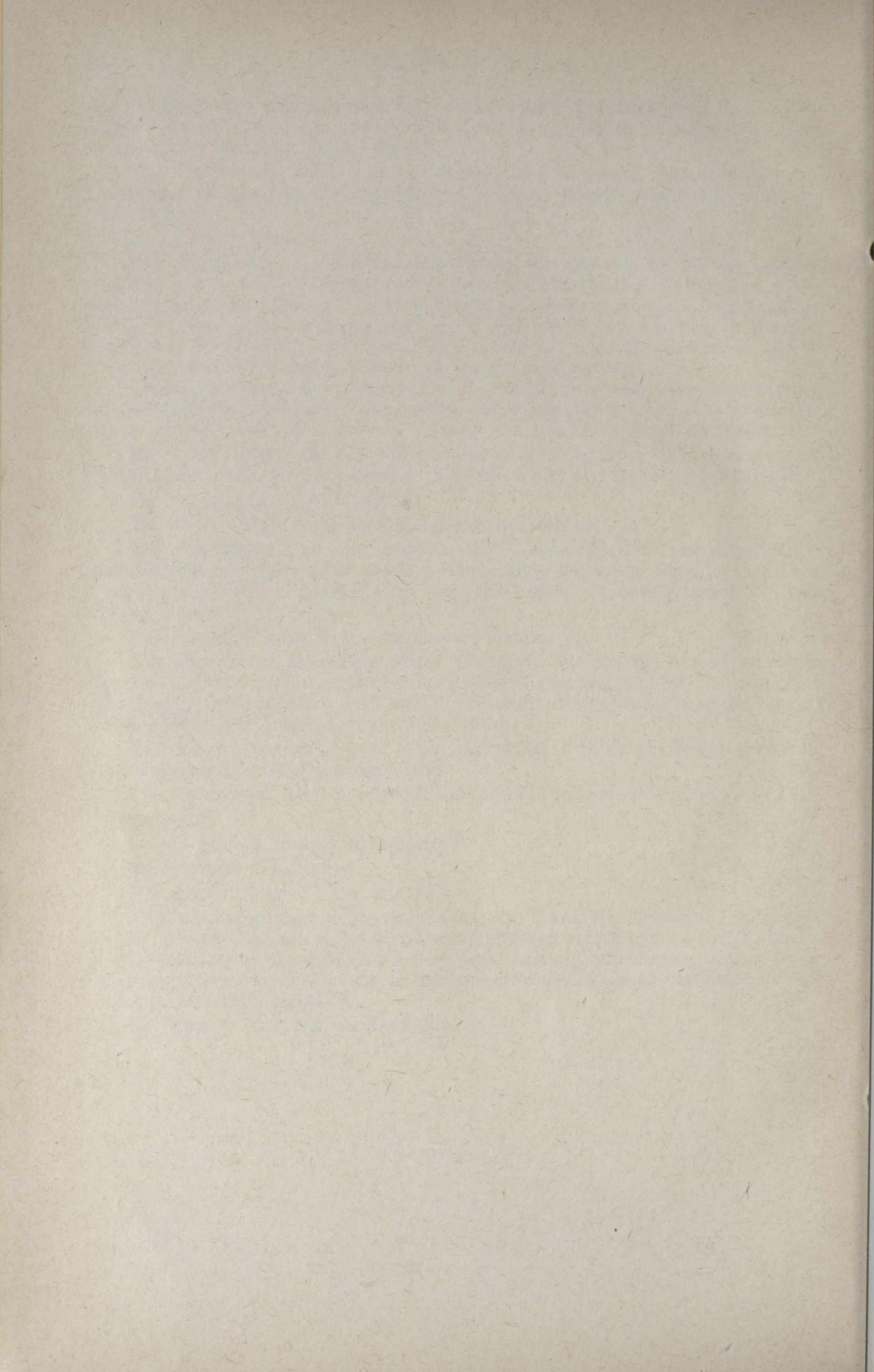
May I have a motion to adjourn?

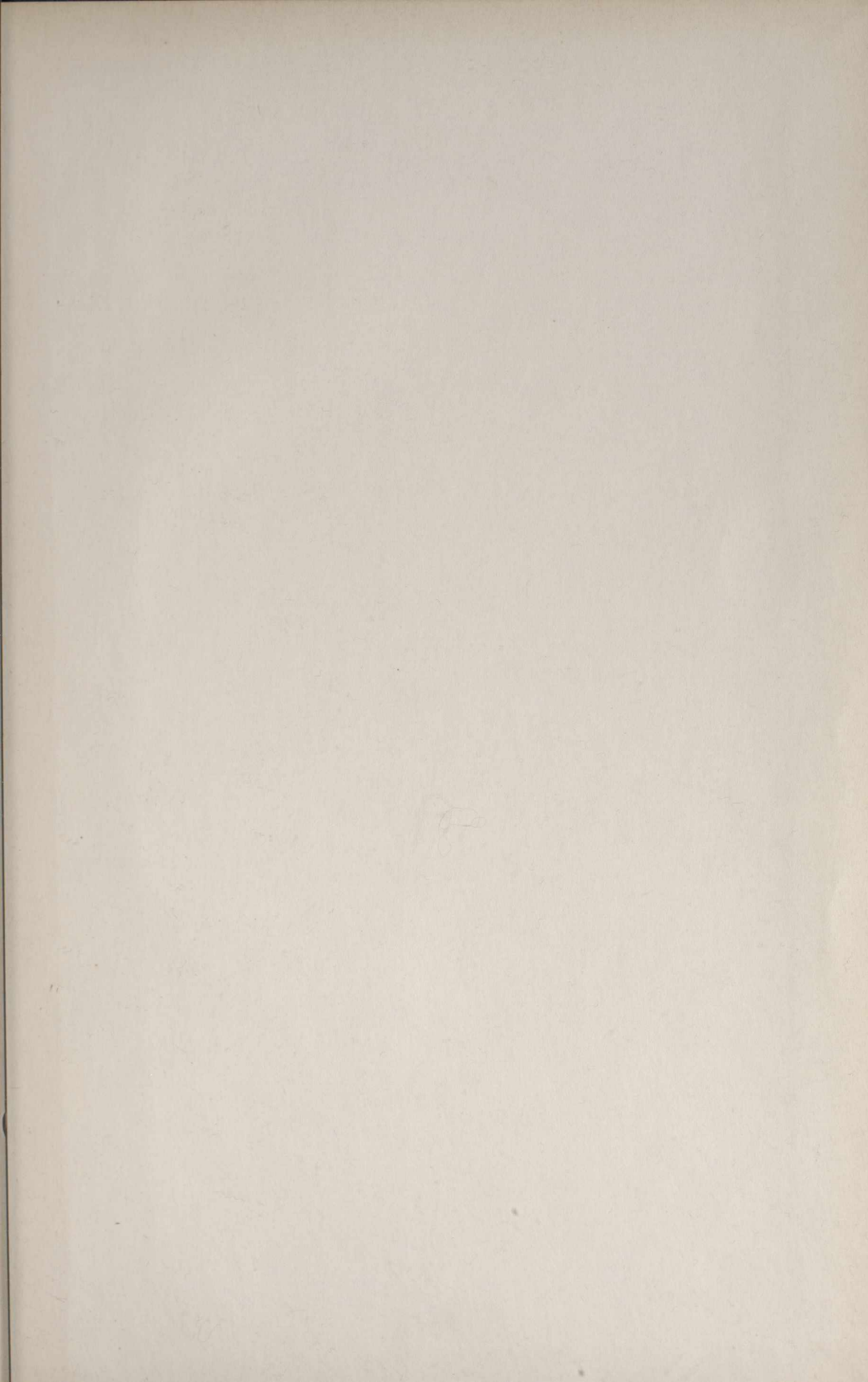
Mr. COWAN: I so move.

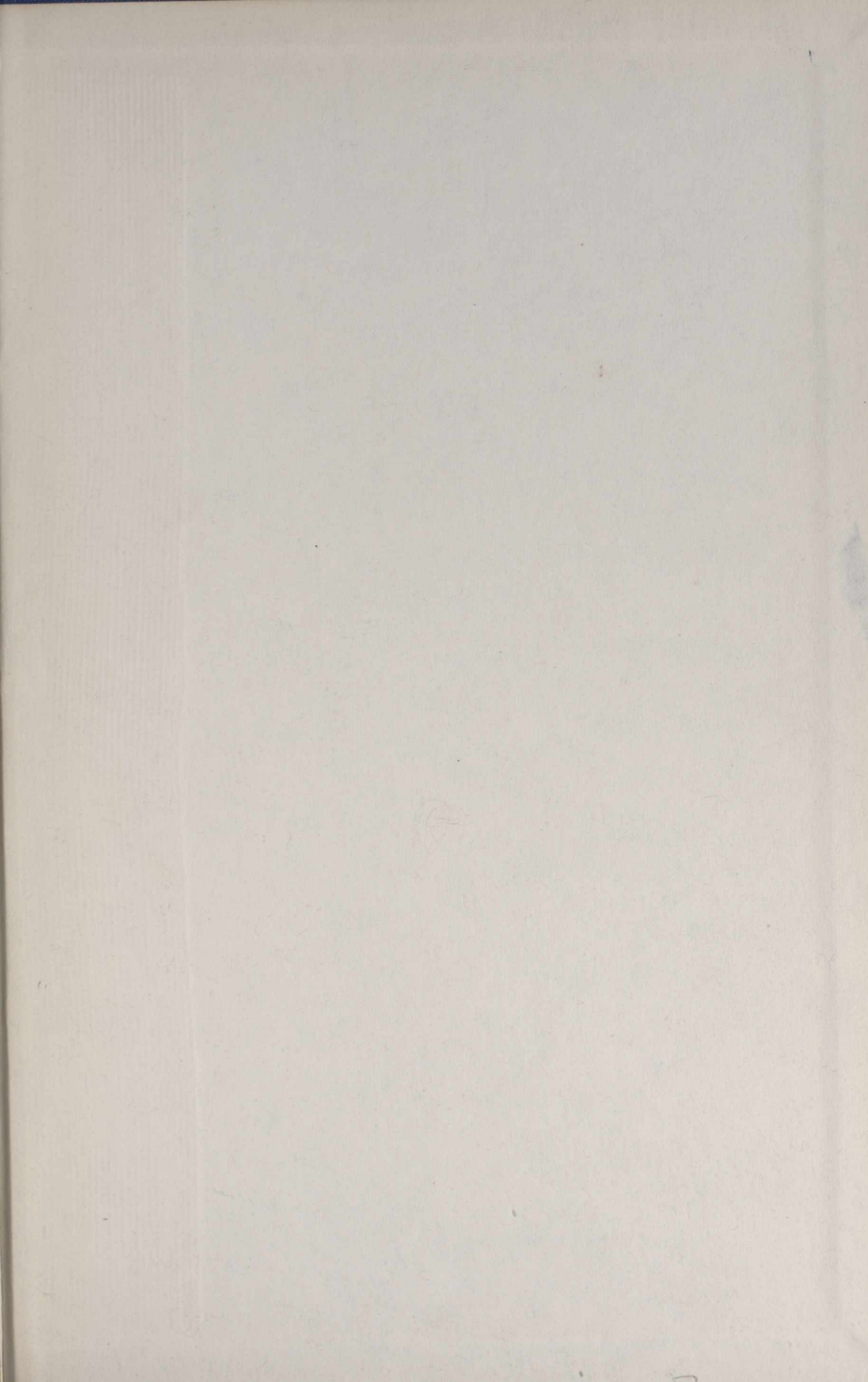
Mr. AIKEN: I second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we leave I want to thank Mr. Ervin for the trouble he has taken to explain to us the plan that he has recommended in his report, and for setting up the equipment here this morning and demonstrating to us what can be done with this type of equipment in the House of Commons. I wish to thank him very much.

Mr. ERVIN: It is my pleasure, sir.







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