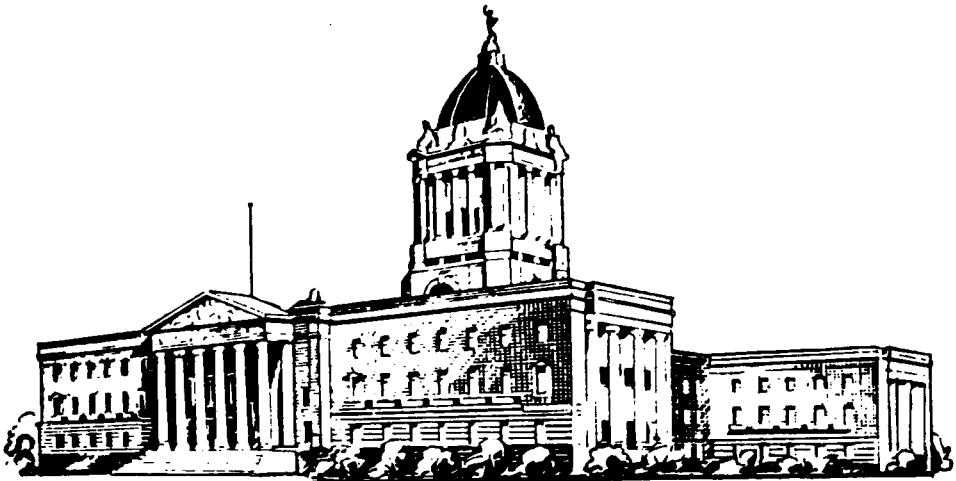




**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
RULES OF THE HOUSE**



**TUESDAY, April 25, 1978, 10:00 a.m.**

# Rules Of The House

## Tuesday, April 25, 1978

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Hon. Harry E. Graham:** Gentlemen, I believe all members are present. I think we have a committee of nine. I notice that all members are here. I suppose one of the first things we should do is — I think in the past the quorum has been five has it not?

**MR. GREEN:** We haven't bothered to check, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Do you want to establish a quorum for this type of meeting or not?

**MR. GREEN:** We have a quorum of half the members of the committee I think the rules say.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Would somebody move we establish a quorum of five. This meeting has been called because I have received two or three applications. One is an application by Winnipeg Videon Limited, an application to broadcast on a live basis the audio portion of the legislative proceedings. I believe we have two or three people here who would like to make presentations to the committee. Could those people indicate, could you state your name.

**MR. SID BOYLING:** Sid Boyling of Winnipeg Videon.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Have we any others?

**MR. STEVE HALINDA:** Steve Halinda, CBC, Winnipeg.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Any others?

**MR. MARK STEFANSON:** Mark Stefanson from the Legislative Press Gallery Association.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We have three people that would like to make presentations. How would you like to proceed with this? Mr. Green.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that we should start from where we are and see whether there is a problem. My understanding is that the members of this Legislative Assembly, or of the Legislative Assembly, have agreed — and I don't know that there's been any change in that — that we have no objection to the electronic media, the visual media, doing whatever journalistic work they want to do in the Legislative Assembly, that we have never expressed fears about editing, that we have never expressed fears about who they are going to televise and how much time they are going to give to other people. In that regard, we have said that they will be able to exercise the same type of journalistic wisdom, or lack of wisdom, as is done by the newspapers and radio and that we have no intention of trying to edit or limit their proceedings.

What we have said is that they should get together and tell us how they intend, because of the equipment involved, to do this in the Assembly and at their expense. That is basically where the committee stands.

If we are going to hear presentations, I think that they should direct themselves to that. I'm not interested in hearing presentations which say, "Don't worry; we're not going to film you when you've got your feet on the desk." As far as I'm concerned, they can film me when my feet are on the desk or wherever they are and we have all, I think unanimously, come to that conclusion. So that there is no misunderstanding, the Legislative Assembly, the previous one — and I don't know that there's any change — the Speaker made that communication to the media, if I'm correct, that we have never expressed concern as to who was going to get the coverage or how they are going to be fair or whether they are going to take people in postures which are unflattering, that has never been a concern of members. What we were concerned with is how the equipment is going to get into the gallery. We have been concerned with lights shining on us; we have been concerned with heat that is generated by such lights and I would hope that if we are going to hear briefs — and I ask the honourable the House Leader whether his memory and mine coincides on this — if we are going to hear briefs, that they do not waste their time with the supposed suggestion that we are worried about what they televise or what coverage we get. We, as politicians, no doubt would like to have better coverage than worst coverage but we know that that is in the hands of the press and we have no intention of changing that or interfering with that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Jorgenson.

**MR. JORGENSON:** Mr. Chairman, one thing further to what Mr. Green has said. His memory is not faulty. The original rule that we made, or the position that we took, we were going to make no distinction between one form of communication as opposed to another. I have a letter from CKY-TV which indicates — I think they're basing their presentation on an erroneous assumption — the second paragraph of their letter states, "The government provides a sound system in the House but

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permits the radio media to air live pickup from the floor of the House useable in its entirety or in the form of excerpts." We didn't provide that. It was the radio people that paid for the cost of installation. We simply provide the physical facility, that's all. They paid for the cost of making those installations. What we have suggested is that if the television stations, or the Videon, or whoever, wants to come here and film they do so at their own expense, not at taxpayers' expense. I want to make that very clear and if that's going to be the burden of the presentation by the television people then they're wasting their time as far as I'm concerned because they make a suggestion here that to accomplish this: "the government will bear the original cost — lighting, cameras, switching personnel. The Manitoba Telephone System, a government agency, will be required to microwave the signal to a television station requesting it and to the headquarters of CATV systems." I'll tell them right now that as far as I'm concerned, they pay for the cost of their own installations. We'll provide them with physical facility and we want to know, as Mr. Green has suggested, what that will consist of. That's what we want to know.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Gentlemen, I have looked back over whatever reports were available to me and believe that the last time this issue was dealt with by the Rules Committee was in 1971 or 1972 and that time it was indicated that if there were any applications the Rules Committee would deal with them at that time. So I assume from that that it did not fall within the realm of the Speaker to make any decisions so that is why this Rules Committee has been called.

**MR. JORGENSON:** That's all we want to hear application.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The honourable Mr. Green.

**MR. GREEN:** Yes, but Mr. Chairman, just so that there is no misunderstanding about it, we do indicate that we were prepared to be televised, that the concern was where they are going to put the cameras in the gallery and the amount of heat, etc., etc., so that —(Interjection)— Yes, how the intended to do it so that we could approve of that. There was never, at least in the last five years, any opposition by the members of the Legislature to be covered journalistically by the media, the television as distinct from any other journalistic coverage.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Well is it then possible to deal with the application of Winnipeg Videon and we deal with that one first. Is that agreeable? (Agreed) Perhaps we can call Mr. Boyling.

**MR. SID BOYLING:** Gentlemen of the Standing Committee. My name is Sid Boyling, Vice president and General Manager of Winnipeg Videon Limited.

Winnipeg Videon Limited is licensed by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission to service by Cable T.V. the Winnipeg area west of the Red River. Our ultimate objective is to carry live the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and, depending upon the circumstances, repeats of these broadcasts.

We appreciate that video coverage is not available to date so our proposal is for permission to use at no cost, the present Legislature audio service on Videon's cable system Channel 7. Videon has applied to the CRTC for permission to carry the audio portion of the Legislative Assembly. In making our application, we do not consider this service in the category of news but rather information. This is in line with our present Community Channel 13 which policy is dedicated to carrying information created and presented by the people of Winnipeg.

The new use of Channel 7 audio will be to supply to audio unedited content of the Legislative Assembly as created by the Provincial Government. This cabling will be the electronic audio Hansard — no comments, no deletions, substitution, no judgments of emphasis. We feel it will provide another service to the people, the opportunity to hear the Assembly as if in person.

Ultimately, we would hope that we will see the day when private and government bodies will unite to bring the people closer to their elected representatives by unedited, live cable television broadcasts. We look forward to the day when the Provincial Government will regularly originate by television the proceedings of the House. We hope the Manitoba Telephone System will deliver, free of charge, the proceedings to the cable system head-end and that Videon Cable T.V. should then deliver this service at no additional charge to the subscribers. This project is the electronic extension to modern day use of Hansard. We are asking to receive free the audio of the Legislative Assembly and until other agreements are finalized, we will arrange our own delivery to Videon's cable system head-end.

We have been recently informed that the CRTC proposes to hear our application to program this information on either May 8th or 9th in Calgary. It would be an advantage to our May 8/9th presentation if we could state your decision.

We would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Are there any members of committee who would like to ask questions? Mr. Fox

**MR. PETER FOX:** Mr. Boyling, did you at all have any communications with the Press Gallery in respect to . . .

**MR. BOYLING:** No.

**MR. FOX:** You didn't.

**MR. BOYLING:** We don't consider this as a news facet. We have one community channel and we're applying for a second community channel. The principle of our community channel is Channel 13 is where the people originate and control the content. The second channel that we're applying for is where the people will receive information without any editing or any control by the cable company. If we broadcast the proceedings of the Legislature, it would be in its entirety. If we do the City Council, it would be the same. If we cover a convention, it would be in the same manner. In one case the people originate and control it; in the second case the people would have complete access to the entire proceedings.

**MR. FOX:** You realize, of course, that the Legislative Assembly has to deal with a vehicle whereby it provides these facilities. Through custom and usage, it's always been the Press Gallery Association that has dealt with this kind of broadcasting of whatever took place outside of Hansard. What you are suggesting would mean that it would open the door to other organizations all because they are not news coverage but they are for a special purpose.

**MR. BOYLING:** An information service.

**MR. FOX:** That's true, so you're either going to have to go through the vehicle that we have selected to get information from the Legislative Assembly or else it means that we have to, as members of the Legislative Assembly, try to accommodate maybe a hundred different organizations for information purposes.

**MR. BOYLING:** I question the validity of your argument because the one point we are basing it on is that we are an information source in the category of Hansard insofar as content goes. It's not a matter of other vehicles of expression. There's no control by the medium in this case.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Green.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Boyling, you are comparing it with Hansard. Hansard is the official written publication of the Legislative Assembly done by the Assembly. Are you proposing to us that we have a visual Hansard in addition to our written Hansard or are you wanting to disseminate on your private channel a program material — which I think is very admirable, I see nothing wrong with it — but is it the same as Hansard?

**MR. BOYLING:** Yes, it will be exactly the same as Hansard, to answer your first question.

**MR. GREEN:** All right. May I ask you, I have seen relatively compact portable cameras that a person could sit in the gallery with, focus on whomever he wishes and also pick up sound and then play it on television. Is this an invention that is only in my imagination or is it possible?

**MR. BOYLING:** No, I'm not talking about the invention; I'm talking about the technique.

**MR. GREEN:** Well, I'm asking you whether there is a technique which would permit somebody from your station to sit in the Press Gallery with a relatively compact camera and pick up sound and then disseminate it on television.

**MR. BOYLING:** As a non-technical man, I would agree with you, as a non-technical man.

**MR. GREEN:** What you're saying is that you agree with me . . .

**MR. BOYLING:** To the best of my knowledge.

**MR. GREEN:** . . . that neither of us knows anything about it.

**MR. BOYLING:** Right, speaking for myself.

**MR. GREEN:** I see.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Steen.

**MR. WARREN STEEN:** Mr. Boyling, your company currently is covering the City Council meetings?

**MR. BOYLING:** Yes.

**MR. STEEN:** Do they cover the City Council meetings in their entirety and show the Council meeting in its entirety on the Sunday mornings?

**MR. BOYLING:** Yes.

**MR. STEEN:** You are covering the House of Commons, do you cover the . . .

**MR. BOYLING:** No, no we don't cover the House of Commons.

**MR. STEEN:** Well, which outlet . . .

**MR. BOYLING:** That would be Greater Winnipeg Cablevision on the other side.

**MR. STEEN:** They cover the House of Commons.

**MR. BOYLING:** I've never seen their broadcast.

**MR. STEEN:** Oh, so you're not familiar with the . . .

**MR. BOYLING:** No, my understanding is that they cover the entire Question and Answer Period which is not what I'm talking about.

**MR. STEEN:** You are talking about covering the total proceedings, Committee of Supply, etc

**MR. BOYLING:** Whatever is in the Legislative Assembly made available to us. If there are two simultaneous meetings . . .

**MR. STEEN:** And playing it back the following day to the public?

**MR. BOYLING:** No, our application is to do it live.

**MR. STEEN:** To do it live. Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Green.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, again, perhaps I should indicate to this gentleman that there is a disposition on this committee to refuse what you are suggesting, either live, dead edited or unedited so given the understanding that the whole is equal to the sum of its parts you can do any one of these things if you will tell us how you intend to do it.

To give you an example, although I can't speak for the committee on this, from my point of view this afternoon, if one of your people sat in our press gallery with a camera which was portable, and didn't hit the other journalists over the head and knock them out, I would have no objection to you doing it this afternoon. What do you need from us which is different from what I have just said?

**MR. BOYLING:** I don't agree with your concept.

**MR. GREEN:** Yes, well what do you suggest should be done because our committee has no objection, to my knowledge, to either the whole or part of what you are suggesting. What do you want from us in order to enable you to do this, because we have expressed, in the past, a distinct unwillingness to give you anything. Now, what do you want from us?

**MR. BOYLING:** We would like to pick up the audio system from the Legislative Assembly.

**MR. GREEN:** What do we have to do to enable them to do that?

**MR. FOX:** We don't have to do anything. The radio people installed the system, all they have to do is discuss it with them. That was my first question, whether they had communications with the people in the press gallery who had radio connections.

**MR. JORGENSON:** There are radio jacks in the gallery, are there not?

**MR. BOYLING:** My understanding was, and so I'm obviously in error, that there was an audio system used by the Legislative Assembly to record the Hansard, so it's not controlled by the government in any way.

**MR. JORGENSON:** There are jacks in the gallery and in the press room where the reporters plug in their own machines and get the feed-off from the Legislative Assembly, that's all.

**MR. BOYLING:** And that's the only system?

**MR. GREEN:** Will they let you plug it in? Have you asked them?

**MR. BOYLING:** I haven't applied to them because I understood the procedure, and my background understanding was that this was a system controlled by the . . .

**MR. GREEN:** If they let you put in the plug, what else do you need?

**MR. BOYLING:** I think we need your permission.

**MR. GREEN:** Well, if all you want is to put in the plug, then you have my permission. I don't know if that's good enough, but you have my permission to put in a plug.

**MR. BOYLING:** You are talking technically to me again. What I want is permission to broadcast in its entirety.

**MR. GREEN:** Sir, I cannot help but do what I'm doing because we have never denied the concept of what you are suggesting, we have merely said, "You let us know how you are going to do it," so that I am certain that my friend, the Member for Morris, the House Leader, doesn't get a sunburn or sweat all day from the lights. I am concerned with him, and that comes from self-interest, because what applies to him applies to me.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Well, gentlemen, is there a consensus? There is no objection.

**MR. GREEN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't know what this gentleman needs of us, other than the putting in of a plug, if that's all he needs then I'm prepared to move that he put in the plug .

**MR. JORGENSON:** The plugs are there, he just simply has to get permission from the press gallery, I would think, to use the jacks. As far as this committee is concerned we have no objection.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hearing no objection I would assume then that the problem is one of nothing more than approval from the press gallery.

**MR. JORGENSON:** There are a couple of other representations to be heard, Mr. Chairman, don't jump the gun we'll hear them first.

**MR. GREEN:** That's right, Mr. Chairman, I was just indicating that we have not objected to this type of request in the past.

**MR. STEEN:** Mr. Chairman, both Mr. Green and Mr. Jorgenson have stated that they don't disagree in principle with the concept, but they have both said we would like to know whether increased lighting is going to take place; how much space, perhaps, in the Speaker's gallery is going to be occupied by camera crews; and if they are going to do it live, is it going to be transmitted by battery or by cable, or how? Are you going to have to run special cables from the gallery to the outside of the building, and how are you going to transmit to your station, and so on? Before passing approval, I think we would want to know what the mechanical aspect of the subject is. The two gentlemen that have spoken earlier have said that they don't disagree with the concept, but tell us what the mechanical problems are before you go ahead and get permission.

**MR. JORGENSON:** The original decision of the committee was that we had no objections to the electronic media filming in the Legislative Chamber, providing that it did not interfere with the normal operation of the Chamber. What we want from your people is simply a letter outlining the technical installation that you propose so that we can have a look at that and make a decision as to whether or not this committee is going to allow you to continue. If it interferes in any way, and that is the only concern we have, then we would perhaps suggest modifications. If it does not interfere with the operations of the Legislative Chamber then I see no difficulty. But we have suggested on several occasions, to the electronic media, to the television people, that the proper route for them to follow is to submit a written application before this committee outlining the technical installation. They have chosen not to do that, for what reason I do not know, but again I suggest to you that the course for you to follow is simply to give us a technical outline of your installations so that we can judge it on that basis.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Kovnats.

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**MR. KOVNATS:** Mr. Boyling I'm sure that it is your intention to film the proceedings in the Legislature because of the excitement and all of the nice things that happen in the Legislative Assembly. Would you have any aversions to, well particularly once it gets off the ground and it competing in the ratings, the Neilson ratings, with Archie Bunker and shows of that nature, would you have any aversions to other television companies — CBC, CTV or others — coming into the Legislature also to film the proceedings. And I throw this out to the other gentlemen on this group are we just starting a horror story inasmuch as we have one, and then we will have more, and the lighting will be more complex. Would you have any aversions to other television companies coming in and filming the proceedings, or are you asking for an exclusive?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please, order please. I think we're getting a little off base. What we have here is an application purely for the audio portion. It involves no cameras whatsoever.

**MR. KOVNATS:** I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, it's been brought up before about cameras, and I would like to know his views on cameras also, and lighting, because it will be very complex. It's not just one company we're talking to at this point, it'll be more.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Well, gentlemen, would you prefer to hear further presentations?

**MR. FOX:** Could we not have an answer from Mr. Boyling on this question?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Certainly.

**MR. BOYLING:** I would like to read just one line out of my application. "Our proposal is for permission to use the audio service." That's all that we're applying for today, so it has no relative bearing. I'm prepared to speak to the concept of televised broadcasting, which is not consistent with the usual practice, but just to speak to our own application, it's for the audio only.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, if I could ask Mr. Boyling a question. It follows up, I think, from what Mr. Jorgenson was saying, that if Mr. Boyling plugs in his plug at the building end, where does the wire go from there?

**MR. BOYLING:** To our head end at St. Norbert.

**MR. WALDING:** And who will be responsible for taking the wire out of the building and to wherever you take it?

**MR. BOYLING:** Well, we said we would assume that responsibility at the present time. We were discussing other agreements for delivery, but until other arrangements are finalized we will arrange our own delivery to Videon Cable System's head end.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Mr. Boyling. Next on the list, I believe, is Mr. Halinda

**MR. HALINDA:** Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Steve Halinda; I'm the new director at CBC Winnipeg.

Mr. Chairman, I have no other submission other than the letter that has been mailed to your office. I understand copies have been distributed to all members of the Committee. I understand the Press Gallery Association has also dealt with this matter in brief. What we in effect are proposing is an experiment which would involve portable electronic television equipment, which in our case would require no additional lighting or microphones, but which would require enough space for a tripod and two technicians at the west end of the press gallery, or on the main floor if you so decide.

A portable RCA TK-76 camera would be used to record the video and a sound pick-up would be employed or connected to the feed service now provided radio in the gallery.

We would be willing to conduct this experiment at any time during the current session. If the experiment is found to be satisfactory to both the House Committee and ourselves, in terms of quality, we would follow up the experiment with a meeting to ensure distribution of the material to stations requesting same. In other words, we are not seeking an exclusive service. It is in this area of distribution, however, that we feel the Government Information Services Department should become involved.

Once again, I should mention that if the experiment proves successful and all parties agree, we would make every effort to have our equipment in place, but we could not guarantee anyone that said equipment will be available every single day of the session, and that's because of any possible technical problems that we may encounter.

I would be most happy to answer any of your questions, gentlemen.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Green.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Halinda, this looks like the kind of thing that we hoped would come about, at least as I read it — I want to make sure. Have you spoken to the press gallery as to whether they're going to be annoyed with a tripod at the west end of the press gallery?

**MR. HALINDA:** I haven't communicated directly with them, however, the member of our news department who belongs to the Press Gallery Association informed me that there might be some objection from the Press Gallery Association, so I am awaiting their presentation as well.

**MR. GREEN:** You see, when the press gallery is full, it's pretty full. Looking up, you see them all sitting there, and the question of the tripods and cameras is going to be some problem to them. I wonder whether there are other locations — for instance, if we did some work and partitioned some space in the centre of the Speaker's gallery — and I'm not suggesting that this will happen, I'm just exploring alternatives — maybe everybody will switch their seats — the seats are terrible. I'm wondering whether there is an alternative to the press gallery, and I'd be willing just to talk about it. I can't be certain: make any commitment. But if there was a space in the centre of the Speaker's gallery which we partitioned off and moved out the step seats — I presume that it could be done from that area. And another question which is very important, because one of the things that this Committee will be worried about, if past experience is any indicator, is that we will not want to do it for one; we will want to do it in such a way that anybody who is legitimately in the business of televising, and I guess there are as many as four stations who might say that they qualify under that at the present time. Is there a way in which you people could co-operate so that we're dealing with one camera, or at most two cameras, in a space that can handle that? Or, in the alternative, and knowing that we do have a problem essentially with logistics, can your CBC reporters go in with small portable cameras without the tripod, and just take the scenes that they like and put them as film clips? Could you start with that instead of tripods?

**MR. HALINDA:** To the first question, Mr. Green, there has been a preliminary test conducted on one of the loges to the west of the Speaker's Chair, and it is an advantageous location because it's a little higher and if every member rises to speak then we could conceivably have an unobstructed view of every member of the House.

I should qualify the production involved in this operation. This is not an extravagant television effort. What we are concerned with most of all, is first of all to get your interest rekindled in television in the House. The first step, we feel, would be a service which we would like to be a part of, a service providing television news clips, not only to ourselves, but to all stations in the province, of actual debates in the House. But this will in no way resemble what is being done in Ottawa, or in other legislatures across the country.

In respect to large commitments, commitments of funds, I am afraid that the precedent has been set in many regions now, or many provinces, where governments have insisted on taking over control of the operation and the equipment. I know that that isn't the case here, because four or five years ago that was one of the arguments, that the television stations should come up with the capital and install the equipment if it met with House approval. I don't think any television station in Canada today, or network, is going to approach you and say, "We want to install the cameras and the lights." I think that's out of the question.

What we are proposing is, first of all, we would like your permission to conduct the experiment. If we find that the standards are acceptable to broadcast then we would be most agreeable to a joint effort with Government Information Services where we would do the actual shooting and the recording, Government Information Services would take a feed and then distribute as they see fit.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether Mr. Halinda has directed himself to my question. Perhaps I ramble too much. I am asking why you couldn't do that with a non-tripod, with a straight portable camera. Take a few clips to see how they look, and then CTV can come in with a little portable and do exactly the same thing during Question Period.

**MR. HALINDA:** Various reasons, Mr. Green. We would like to, for the sake of the continuity for television production, we would want to see how one camera is going to be able to pan from one side of the Chamber to the other in response to a question. We want to see how the heat factor in the room is going to involve the calibre of the picture when there are so many bodies in a room the heat rises dramatically and this affects the quality of your picture. This is the kind of test we'd like to conduct, as well as the synchronization of the House sound with the visual.

**MR. GREEN:** But if the entire thing was a problem because of the tripods . . .

**MR. HALINDA:** Oh, I see your point.

**MR. GREEN:** . . . why couldn't you do this . . .



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**MR. HALINDA:** Well, we'll have to await the Press Gallery Association presentation because I'm not familiar with . . .

**MR. GREEN:** Well, can I ask you a hypothetical question, which is illegal in the House, but we do anyway. What if the tripods is the entire problem, what if people said, "Well, if you can get up there with a camera that's small enough so that you can carry it through the doors to stand behind the journalists and do your filming and that doesn't prevent anybody else from doing the same thing would that be of no value as an experiment?"

**MR. HALINDA:** No, it would be of value as an experiment, however, how many people would you permit in the House to conduct this kind of experiment?

**MR. GREEN:** Well, I count a maximum of, as I understand it and you'll correct me if I'm wrong, maximum of four. Just as we have, you know, we have the Winnipeg Free Press, the Winnipeg Tribune and there are other members of the Press Gallery that when it's full, it's full. The Press Gallery will have to deal with the question as to how many people but I suppose the eligible ones are CBC, CKL Channel 9 — not cable 9 — and Channel 13, is it? Those are the four that one would expect may be there from time to time a camera.

**MR. HALINDA:** Well, I understand there is an arrangement in the Alberta House where they have stands behind the Speaker's Chair elevated and each station may bring in a camera and mount it on the stand and shoot from that position.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, may I direct Mr. Halinda to a problem which I, for the moment, think is insoluble but which I merely bring to his attention. If the television people could get together they could probably have higher quality work with one stationed camera. Well, let's assume the best would be with one but I, having some professional pride myself, know the problem of trying to say that one will do the job and who will use it, etc. So I know that you have a problem with that kind of suggestion. That would probably give you the best technical result and the worst journalistic result in terms of journalist's imagination. The best would be for everybody to put in whatever equipment that they want but that's impossible because we just don't have physically the space. What we wanted from the media is for them to solve this difficulty and it seems to me that the solution that you suggest has a problem from the point of view of the tripods and that's something that if the media could settle, think you'd have no problem with us. If the media can't settle that, then I would be prepared to say that if they could come in — I am talking now just as one member — that if they could come in to the press gallery with a portable camera and not hit anybody over the head with it, that they could do just as well as the other media.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Well, Mr. Green, perhaps we may have some further enlightenment on that from the Press Gallery themselves when we hear the press. Mr. Walding.

**MR. WALDING:** If I can make one suggestion, maybe put it in the form of a question, Mr. Chairman I was just speaking to Mr. Fox, the past Speaker here, about it. You probably are aware that the Speaker comes into his Chair through some blue curtains at the back there and goes out the opposite way. He tells me that there's about three or four feet at the side. Would there be any objection, any problem involved in putting a tripod in behind the curtains there and poking the lens out through the curtain? That way, anyone speaking to the Speaker would also be speaking to your camera.

**A MEMBER:** We've already looked at that.

**MR. GREEN:** And you would be invisible.

**MR. HALINDA:** At this point, we'll try anything.

**MR. WALDING:** Will you go and have a look at it.

**MR. HALINDA:** We will have a look at it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I believe Mr. Walding that has been looked at.

**MR. HALINDA:** I should add though, I'm not a cameraman but I'm sure that the cameraman must have an unobstructed view of the proceedings. You're not talking about the 18th century lens sticking out the red curtain, because that wouldn't work. I mean, he must have an unobstructed view to be able to swing the camera lens from side to side.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Are there any further questions of Mr. Halinda? Hearing none, perhaps we can now hear from the Press Gallery.

**MR. MARK STEFANSON:** Mr. Chairman, Members of the House Rules Committee, first of all let me state that this presentation by the Association primarily concerns the application by the CBC and as we've never fully discussed, or never discussed at all, the application by Winnipeg Videon.

I would like to read to you three resolutions that the Association passed at a special meeting on April 19th. I think they clearly state our position on the application by the CBC to set up a television camera in the Legislature.

The first motion: That the Gallery supports in principle the televised coverage of the Legislature proceedings. This was carried unanimously by the Association.

The second: That the Gallery go on record as insisting that any T.V. signal provided from the Legislature be available to any broadcast outlet in the province. That was also carried unanimously.

The third motion: That if the camera for televising the Legislature has to go into the press gallery, passage not be blocked and that any seat lost be taken from the TV stations and not from the print or radio reporters. That was also carried unanimously.

I think those three motions clearly state our position on this question of the CBC's application for television camera in the House. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Green.

**MR. GREEN:** Yes, I think that with respect to items No. 1 and 2, there's no problem. With respect to item 3, what will the Press Gallery say if we immediately receive an application from Channel 9 and Channel 7 and we're talking about three tripods, not one tripod?

**MR. STEFANSON:** Well, there's no possible way I can see how they could accommodate it.

**MR. GREEN:** All right. Have you people directed yourselves to that problem because we want to try to solve this problem but we do not see, in the long term, that there's going to be any possibility of providing a facility to one television outlet which is not available to the others and, therefore, the only problem with this particular request is that we believe — perhaps wrongly, but we believe — that if the CBC has it, CTV will want it and the Global will want it and we do not see how we can choose one over the other.

**MR. STEFANSON:** I believe the CBC indicated though in their application that they are willing to provide the tape to the other outlets through the facilities of the Information Services.

**MR. GREEN:** Yes, but you know, I'm not really worried about the cost to the public. I do not know whether you have asked the other outlets whether they are prepared to have their coverage of the legislative Assembly done under the auspices of the CBC.

**MR. STEFANSON:** Well, I would imagine that letters were sent out by the House Rules Committee or any other outlet to make a presentation here. I could be wrong on that but I would imagine that if they have strong objections, they'd be here this morning to register them.

**MR. GREEN:** Well, if you're telling me . . .

**MR. STEFANSON:** I could be totally wrong on that assumption but . . .

**MR. GREEN:** Well, if you're telling me, and you are the representative of the Press Gallery, that the Press Gallery sees no problem with this, in dealing with the CBC on this suggestion that they be the coverage, then we'll have to certainly consider that. I find that to be astonishing.

**MR. STEFANSON:** Well, basically, the point of the Association, the entire question revolves around space limitations. The whole question is space limitations.

**MR. GREEN:** Can you tell me what's behind the Press Gallery? Where you people are sitting in the Press Gallery, there's a wall behind you. What's behind that wall?

**MR. STEFANSON:** That's the corridor. That's a solid wall.

**MR. JORGENSON:** We did examine that. We found there was one problem there. I think that the main structure comes right in behind that wall. We had considered at one time knocking out that wall and enlarging the gallery. Our engineers in the Public Works Department said it was not possible because of the fact that the main support for the building comes right behind that wall, so it would be difficult to do that.

I rather suspect that there are, following the suggestion made by Mr. Halinda, or a comment made by Mr. Halinda about Alberta, there might be a possibility of erecting platforms on either side of the Chamber — I don't know. Perhaps we should have somebody have a look at it to see what can be done. And if the cameras can be accommodated somewhere near the loges, that may be one way that the cameras could be placed in the Chamber without interfering with the operations of the Chamber.

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But that's something that would have to be determined, and I think determined not just by this Rule Committee, but by the media themselves, the Press Gallery and the television people. I think that the perhaps should get together, maybe with the engineers, so the Public Works people could determine just what can be done. I'm sure the government or the House will be quite happy to co-operate as much as possible to facilitate the installation and operation of cameras in the House.

I repeat, as Mr. Green has said, we have no objections in principle to the televising the proceedings in the House. We just want to make sure that it does not interfere, that it doesn't dominate the House and replace the House.

**MR. STEFANSON:** May I respond to that, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes.

**MR. STEFANSON:** We had some preliminary discussions, at least myself and the representative here for the CBC about another location for the camera, aside from placing it above the Speaker's Chair where the Press Gallery sits, and we never heard anything conclusive from the CBC, if that would be agreeable to them. That would be left of the Speaker's Chair, and I believe the curtain would be separated, and there may be some need — I don't know — to elevate the camera, but that's something I guess that will have to be pursued further.

**MR. JORGENSEN:** May I suggest that the CBC bring their technical people over here, their camera people, look at potential sites or locations for those cameras, and then in conjunction with our Public Works people and the Press Gallery, perhaps something can be worked out.

**MR. STEFANSON:** But I think the Association feels that — as I said in the Motions that were stated — that we have no objection to it whatsoever. All we're concerned about is the seating arrangement that it doesn't infringe upon seating capacity, because space limitations are prevalent in the Press Gallery, and that's the primary concern.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Apart from the physical problem of getting the cameras in the Press Gallery, as a press person, what does this do to the concentration that you may require on the proceedings of the House with a camera whirring away beside you, or somebody moving around jockeying for position. Would this have a disturbing effect on the Press Gallery as we have known it?

**MR. STEFANSON:** Well, I would have to answer that on my personal basis. I can't see any problem. You know, that's my own personal feeling. I don't see any problems because reporters are used to working in noise.

**MR. STEEN:** Mr. Stefanson, I believe your third Motion from your Press Gallery Association was that if the TV was to be located in the Press Gallery, the space that they would occupy would be at the expense of TV space allotted. Correct?

**MR. STEFANSON:** Correct.

**MR. STEEN:** What is the formula that you use now. How much space does the TV have in relation to radio and the written press?

**MR. STEFANSON:** The written press, the newspapers, have two seats. The television stations have two seats and the radio stations have one seat.

**MR. STEEN:** So each newspaper is permitted two seats?

**MR. STEFANSON:** That's correct.

**MR. STEEN:** And each radio station, one seat. And each TV station, two seats. And with the numbers of outlets in Winnipeg, and following that formula, you would be over your 13 or 14 capacity. So how do you determine who gets into the Press Gallery, first come first served basis?

**MR. STEFANSON:** Yes and no. We had discussions earlier this year before the Session started, and we should have a hard and fast rule, and we decided primarily, nothing hard and fast, that common sense should prevail, and if there was any problem in respect to seating arrangements, that we would have spare seats in the vestibules to the right and left of the Press Gallery and we could move chairs in at a moment's notice in case there were quite a few reporters that turned out, more than the 13 or 14 that the Gallery can accommodate.

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**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Any further questions of Mr. Stefanson? Hearing none, thank you very much. Gentlemen, I would like to refer you to a letter of April 20 — I believe you have copies, from CKY — I don't think we have anyone from CKY here, but I believe they were informed of this meeting. I think the letter is self-explanatory.

**MR. FOX:** In respect to the letter from CKY, there is one erroneous concept in here, and that is that government provides a sound system in the House which permits radio media to air live pick-ups. I think we already expressed that that was not the case, and consequently the rest of what is suggested in the letter also then goes on a wrong premise.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I believe the indication in the letter from CKY is basically — if I'm correct — they do not want to expend great sums of money at all. They were hoping that government would pick it up.

Well, gentlemen, you've heard the presentations that we've had so far. Would you care to deal with those two items now, or do you want to go through the other two items that are on the agenda first?

**MR. JORGENSEN:** There is no change, Mr. Chairman, in the position that we've taken in the past. We still want an application outlining their technical installation. They have failed to do that up to this point, so therefore there's nothing to consider.

**MR. GREEN:** If the Committee is satisfied that the position of the CBC is agreeable and does not work a discrimination against the other stations, I have no objection to them going in there with a tripod and filming. I mean, there is some difference — I agree with Mr. Jorgenson that essentially we've said the same thing — I find it difficult to believe that we are going to solve this problem by permitting one television company to go in there with a tripod. But if that is agreeable, to put a tripod in the Press Gallery, and the Press Gallery will arrange the seating, then I am skeptical should but I'm not entirely sure that Mr. Jorgenson foreclose what they are saying. Okay, there will be a tripod in the press gallery, there will be no additional lights, there will be no sound, there are no facilities required. If that's okay with the media and we are not told that we are discriminating, then perhaps we should entertain that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Would you then be prepared to make a motion to allow this experiment to proceed?

**MR. GREEN:** I would like to know whether I am saying anything that other members of the Committee find objectionable. I think that I would like to do that, yes. However, I would like to know whether indeed it's true, and I think that we have some responsibility to find out, that Global, and CKY, and Channel 13, do not demand equal status which means four tripods, which is impossible.

**MR. STEEN:** I think, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Green's suggestion is an excellent one but I think that we owe it to the members of the Legislature to have in writing a plan of action from CBC as well as some assurance in writing from them that their tapings will be available to the other news media.

Also I would like to know where the camera is going to be, if it's going to be in the press gallery, do people like Mr. Stefanson, representing the Press Gallery Association, have they granted space for them, and are they satisfied, and I think CBC should give us something in writing outlining that they have talked to all parties concerned and have the permission of all parties to proceed and act on their plan of action, and give it to you as the Speaker, so that you have something in writing as to what their commitment will be to the members of the House. I don't think that we can just go along and say that we have heard their presentation and bang, you can have it, start this afternoon. I think that you as Speaker, should have something in writing as to what their plan of action should be.

**MR. FOX:** Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to go along with the concept that the experiment be tried. I only have one reservation and that is in the second page of the CBC's presentation and that is the distribution of the material to stations requesting same. They indicate they would like to have a meeting after they've tried it and then get the Government Information Services department involved in the distribution. I think that is not what we originally had intended and that is one of the parts of the experiment I would like to have excluded.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Gentlemen, I know it's highly irregular, but is it possible for the Chairman to make one or two contributions to this? I can say that earlier, when this matter first came up, I approached Mr. Stefanson and we did take a look at the press gallery. At that time it appeared as though there may be two or three seats that would be taken out of the one end of the press gallery. We then looked for an alternate location that would be suitable, and on the left of the Speaker's chair, behind the curtains in the doorway, if that doorway was used, that would provide about four to five feet of space for the setting up of a camera at the left of the Speaker's chair. It does give them opportunity to cover the entire floor area of the Chamber; I think that would be probably a suitable location for an experiment to take place. And again I say, an experiment.

One of the problems that has concerned me, is the fact that we have always been concerned about providing a feed to all other services. CBC has indicated a willingness to participate in that. One of the questions though that has concerned me is the time frame that that distribution would take place. If that distribution occurs 48 hours later, it is not of much value to other services and we haven't heard too much yet as to how that distribution could take place, or would take place. Perhaps if members have some other questions to ask, maybe Mr. Halinda might be able to give us some information that respect.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, I would have a tendency to say that I am willing to accept anything that the gallery will accept which doesn't require public expenditure or installations on the part of the government. For instance, if the gallery will accept a CBC tripod and agree with it, and they will allocate the space, then I have no objection. I don't sit in the gallery, it's they who have a problem, and if it doesn't involve any steps on our part I don't see why we shouldn't do it. If the gallery will today accept a portable camera coming in and taking a clip of a question to the Premier which does not require anything other than — it doesn't even require a tripod — but requires a person to be able to take a picture which has hitherto been unacceptable, then I would accept it. I don't know whether we need be involved if nothing is required of us, and if there is no disturbance. So, the CBC experiment in that it requires government services, we would not agree.

This is what Mr. Fox has indicated, and I tend to agree, that if the CBC can get the permission of the gallery to have two seats allocated so that a tripod goes in there, then good luck to them, I really have no objection and I would almost again be prepared, subject to exploration unless somebody shows me that this is a wild idea, to move that to the extent that the gallery has an acceptable way of permitting television coverage within the confines of the gallery, and which requires no facilities on the part of the government, that the Committee has no objection to them so doing. I would almost be prepared to do that, in which case your CBC experiment can go ahead if the gallery says that they will let the tripod in.

**MR. MCGILL:** Mr. Chairman, the principle that Mr. Green now endorses of accepting some arrangement that will not involve the government in expense or in distribution of tapes and so on, is a reasonable one but he provides a number of conditions and stipulations in addition to that which we feel really should be presented to us in a written form with an opportunity for other people in the media to examine and to accept and for CBC to come back and say, "Yes, this has the approval of the press gallery, it has the approval of other media people involved and we propose to do it in this specific way, which we feel will not interfere with the proceedings of the House, nor will it in any way perhaps detract from the beauty of the Chamber in the form of permanent installations."

But I think there are so many conditions here, although we accept the principle, that we should really ask for a submission that we can again accept and we are certain that other people who are indirectly involved are apprised of the proposal and are prepared also to go along.

**MR. GREEN:** Hasn't that been done? They have given a submission; the submission is that the CBC put in a tripod; we don't have to do anything. They have said that we will do information services which I agree that we exclude, and the gallery has come in and said okay. Well, how much more of a specific submission — and if they have any other submissions, fine, but what about this specific one — have they not made it, and have we not said that the only exclusion is that insofar as disseminating Government Information Services will not be involved? Is there anything more about the submission that lacks precision?

**MR. MCGILL:** Just to respond, Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Green. I'm not completely certain that other television organizations can be spoken for at this stage right now, so there is that area.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, that's my exact point. If we're going to open it up for one, we have to open it up for them all on equal bases and that is something that we haven't covered today. We have to have a detailed presentation from them all and how we work it is not going to be simple, it's going to take some discussion and some further time than we've spent on it this morning to come up with an answer.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Well, I'll go down the list I have here. Mr. Steen, Mr. Kovnats and then Mr. Green.

**MR. STEEN:** Well, just following along, Mr. Chairman, the same line of thought that Mr. McGill raised, earlier when Mr. Halinda was making his presentation, Mr. Jorgenson asked him a question and he said, "I'm not a cameraman, I can't answer that, we'll have to look into it." So I would think that what we should receive from CBC is a written submission to you, saying, "Yes, we have spoken to the other outlets, television outlets, and we have made arrangements to provide them with our facilities they wish to have it. We have got permission from the press gallery and they have allotted us a spot for our cameraman," and that we have the assurance in the written submission that they have covered all bases before they proceed. I think the general concept is an excellent one. I just think they should go about it in an orderly fashion.

**R. KOVNATS:** Mr. Chairman, I think that everybody has spoken that we do require more of a submission from all of the television companies, particularly the CBC. I don't know what the cost involvement will be but on a comparative figure I believe that at the House of Commons on a permanent basis, there was a cost of about \$4 million for installations and \$1 million a year for operations. I think that this is something that will ultimately be something that we have to consider, I'm not prepared to support anything that the government has to put any money in and I am sure that with the CBC proposal even at this time, that they will be looking for some input from the Provincial Government as far as a contribution toward the cost. I think that we do require a written submission with the CBC getting the agreement of the others to proceed, and I think that we can't proceed any further until we do have such a written proposal.

**R. CHAIRMAN:** Any further questions on that? Mr. Green.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that we're all in agreement as to what should happen here. I'm a little worried that it's going to come out that we are holding it up, and therefore I want to take a more positive attitude. I want to say we agree, subject to the following: that the gallery makes the arrangement and that there is no argument about inequality as between stations, that we want them to resolve those two problems, and that if those two problems, and I think they are the only ones that we heard — (Interjection) — Well, or ourselves, but I'm worried about us saying we still have to get a submission, we have to consider this.

I think that we should be telling them, no, we agree. We recognize the following problems — first of all we are not going to use Government Services, that would be one stipulation. Second stipulation — that we want an assurance that the other stations are not going to claim that they are being discriminated against. And thirdly, that we want the assurance of the press gallery that physically they can handle it and that it will not be a problem with the House.

Now the only difference between the two kinds of expressions of opinion that I've come across is, he said that we should wait for their further submission with regard to these questions and I want to tell them that we agree that the problem is now to deal with those stipulations. Those are the only three that I heard from honourable members, so let there be no suggestion that somehow this committee is still in doubt about this question. I don't believe we've been in doubt for six years.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Would I then be correct in assuming that the number one concern of this committee is how CBC intends to distribute the film to the other stations and in what manner they would . . .

**MR. GREEN:** And whether the other stations agree with that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That is the number one concern of this Committee then.

**MR. KOVNATS:** Mr. Chairman, I see on the list that there is an Andy Arnott from CKND. I wonder if he was prepared to make his presentation also, and maybe we could find out at this point whether there is some feeling about CKND supporting such an enterprise of the CBC doing the filming.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is Mr. Arnott here?

**MR. ARNOTT:** Mr. Chairman, we're only here as observers and really don't have a submission to make but we are working on the basis that if the CBC is allowed to put a camera in the gallery or wherever, that the signal would be made available to us or to anyone else. How we would pick up the feed, whether it would be with our own equipment or through some other source, the distribution of it is not really been dealt with as yet. But my understanding is that whatever the CBC does is available to everyone else. And it's been said that that would be the case.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Well, this is a very informal meeting. If any one wants to ask any questions of Mr. Arnott or of Mr. Halinda or of Mr. Stefanson — I understand Mr. Stefanson has indicated he may want to say something further.

**MR. ARNOTT:** The only concern is, obviously and Mr. Green has said, putting three or four cameras in there is going to cause a great deal of concern to you people and probably cause a great deal of noise and racket and everything. Obviously the best set-up would be one camera in the House and the signal available to everyone else, and as Mr. Halinda has already signified that would be the case we are quite willing to go from there and work out some understanding about how that signal would be made available to us.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Very good. Mr. Stefanson?

**MR. STEFANSON:** I think the Association totally agrees that one camera would be the best arrangement and as was indicated in our motions and was indicated in my preliminary discussions with the CBC, nothing of a formal nature, but we had been under the assumption that they were

asking for the camera to be located left of the Speaker's Chair, so that's primarily the question I addressed ourselves to. And if that's the case, if it can be located there, the Association, I can see no objection in any way, shape, or form.

**MR. GREEN:** And if it's in the Gallery?

**MR. STEFANSON:** This is where the problem crops up because of space limitations.

**MR. GREEN:** Yes, but you've indicated in what you said about the Gallery, that it would have to their space that was used.

**MR. STEFANSON:** Right.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, I think we have a deal.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Very good. We still have two other matters on the agenda here.

**MR. GREEN:** Well, can we dispose of this one?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Very good.

**MR. GREEN:** Can we accept a consensus of the Committee — I want to see if I am properly stating — that we agree with the principle of permitting the televised media to operate in the House provided it does not in any way require any installations or change in the atmosphere in the House, as provided that the Press Gallery can accommodate them, and provided that they are able to prove the satisfaction of the Speaker that there is no dispute as between the various television outlets. (Interjection)— Pardon me? —(Interjection)— Yes, and that there is no requirement of the government, or other requirement of the government.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Am I then to assume that the Committee has then left it in my jurisdiction to allow it to proceed as soon as the agreement with the others have been worked out mutually for a feed of the camera that is being used? Is that agreement? (Agreed)

Mr. Steen.

**MR. STEEN:** When Mr. Green mentioned in his Motion, to the satisfaction of the Speaker, which assuring the other outlets of fair play, I am prepared to accept that then.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I will also go one step further and notify all members of the Committee when we get that assurance and that agreement. Fair enough? Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** I understand, Mr. Chairman, that this is on an experimental basis, and what length of time is the experiment to last?

**MR. GREEN:** Well, as long as they agree with it, you see, there's no requirement to us.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I don't think it is up to us to suddenly cancel any experiment . . .

**A MEMBER:** A couple of days of Committee of Supply and they'll take it off the air.

**MR. GREEN:** You see, Mr. Chairman, I think that the experiment should continue until the Press Gallery advises us that there is a problem with it. Because there's nothing required of us. Or until the Committee . . . the Committee might have an unforeseen problem, then they could bring it back to the Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Very good then. We have two other items on the agenda, one is an application and it is not a written application. I've had two applications from organizations of handicapped people who find it is impossible for them to get into the visitors' gallery in a wheelchair and they would like to have permission to view the proceedings of the House in some manner. Now, as I foresee the problem, the only place that they can do it is from the floor of the Legislature, and that I think, causes more problems than what it would solve, but that's up to this Committee to determine.  
Mr. McGill.

**MR. MCGILL:** Mr. Chairman, is this for a particular sitting of the Legislature, or is this a general acceptance of attendance as and when these groups would decide? If it were to be an arrangement for a single sitting of the Legislature in any one session, it would put it on a somewhat different basis than I would think, than . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I was under the impression this was whenever half a dozen of them happened to be in the building.

**R. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, I can see no objection to it, but it would have to be on that basis, that they arrange one sitting or two sittings during the session when they are there and that's it. You wouldn't have them coming in five and six at a time, any day, or day after day after day; it would disrupt the proceedings of the House, I think, to too great an extent. But I think you could certainly accommodate them, to give them the benefit of sitting in on a session, to set aside a day or two days, rearranged times, and so the members would know also, and then that's it.

**R. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, I would like you to refer to the Public Works Department, this problem. I'm not certain that there isn't something that can be done whereby these people could get to the gallery, with a space for either wheelchairs in the gallery, or assistance to people to move from the wheelchair to normal seating. But I think that there is a legitimate problem here. I don't think that we would be overwhelmed by it, and yet, I think it is a legitimate concern. And if the Public Works Department has the question referred to it and tells us what is necessary in order to provide either ramping, or other facilities to permit a wheelchair to get into the public gallery, we may be able to solve it so that they are dealt with on the same basis as other citizens rather than sitting in the gallery. And I'd like to hear from them before we make a definite decision on this question.

**R. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Green, I am advised that a standard wheelchair is two inches wider than the passageway at the back of the Visitors Gallery upstairs, that there is not enough room even if you got them into the Visitors Gallery, you can't move the wheelchair down at the back, in the Visitors Gallery.

**R. GREEN:** But can't that be helped? Can't there be one door in which — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Chairman, let's know that this is forever; let's know that there will always be such people, and all of the buildings that are built now try to make that kind of provision. Now, I'm not suggesting that the entire gallery be altered, but if there is one place at which wheelchairs are accommodated, and if the ramp is so narrow at the back of the seating, then it seems to me that one of those big seats with the huge back has to be changed, the ramp has to be extended, and that doesn't have to be done throughout the gallery, it can be done in a place where then the guards are able to get wheelchairs into the gallery. Then you have to build ramps on stairs, too. But I think that all of us have been personally acquainted with people in such positions — and we're not talking about a one-time effort, we're talking about forever, and I really think that we should ask them to look at it.

**R. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Jorgenson.

**R. JORGENSON:** You have referred this matter to the Public Works people?

**R. CHAIRMAN:** I have not referred it to the Public Works people as such, no.

**R. JORGENSON:** Well, maybe that would be the first step, anyway.

**R. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Kovnats.

**R. KOVNATS:** Mr. Chairman, I think that there requires a little bit more investigation than just referring it to the Public Works Department without any direction from us. I think that if we are going to go to the expense and I think the expense is a factor, that we do have to consider all the aspects of including manners in which we are able to get the wheelchair patients up into the gallery or on to the floor of the Legislature, and I think that we have to consider washroom facilities also. So, I think that it's a whole program investigation to accommodate the people in wheelchairs, rather than just getting them into the gallery or on to the Legislative floor, and I think that the Public Works is the department, as Mr. Green has suggested, to give us a report on it so that we can make a decision based on how we can accommodate the people in wheelchairs.

**R. CHAIRMAN:** Any further discussion on that? Then the matter will be referred to the Public Works Department.

We have one other item here which I believe has some interest to members because it is coming up for debate today, I understand, in Private Members' Hour, and this is the problem of Orders for Return transferred for debate. We seem to have had a little bit of fuzziness or misunderstanding; is there any method . . .

**R. JORGENSON:** Yes, there was a little fuzziness on that, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I may just add the particular rule, and I don't think it will take very long to make a decision on it because the rule is pretty clear unless somebody deliberately chooses to misinterpret it, and that's been known to happen. "Where debate arises on a motion for an Order for Return, or an Address for Papers, the motion shall be transferred by the Clerk to the items of Orders for Return and Address for Papers and the subsequent Order Papers for debate at the next sitting at which Orders for Return and Address for Papers takes precedence." That day happens to be Wednesday. So that an Order for Return introduced for the first time, if I interpret the rule correctly, can only be introduced on a Wednesday.



**MR. GREEN:** Yes. Just to write it down, Mr. Chairman. From time to time when we see things that look a bit ridiculous, we should note them so that we can get rid of them. I think that that motion, that the Speech from the Throne would be engrossed and sent to Her Majesty, etc., that that's a redundant motion, or it should be included in the first motion. It should be included in the motion on the Speech from the Throne. That one we'll have to deal with in camera, but I think that the other motion, that the Speaker should write it down for reference to the Clerk. In 1966 Gil Molgat adjourned that debate was it Gordon Johnston? And theoretically, there's no time limit on that debate, so you have a Throne Speech Debate — that's 8 days — then you have another motion which you can debate forever, which doesn't make sense. —(Interjections)—

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** There's one other matter I would like to have you think about a wee bit, and it occurred yesterday, and that is, when you have a matter of urgent public debate the Speaker has a one hour notification. But then each recognized political party has 5 minutes to debate the urgency, and then the Speaker must make his immediate ruling after that. It may very well be that the Speaker that one hour has been inclined to rule in a certain way on it, but the argument that is put forward in the Chamber may raise some other matters which he may want to consult with the rules on, a whether or not the Speaker should have the option of deferring a decision and setting aside that debate for some future time is something I just want you to think about.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, when we devised that rule, we gave you a very good one. Perhaps you didn't notice it, but there is a . . . It's only in rare circumstances do I think that the Speaker should rule it out of order and not votable, because if the Speaker has doubts as to whether the motion is out of order, he shouldn't have to worry about it. He should say that the motion has been put, are you ready for the question? And the House will say whether they want to debate or not. I don't know what you did yesterday, cause I wasn't here, I gather that you ruled the motion out of order, which is legitimate. I mean, then your ruling can be adjourned and you have the same vote, or probably a similar vote.

But what the Speaker did last year on numerous occasions is he followed that part of the rule which said, "You have heard the question, you've heard the debate, shall the debate proceed?" And then the majority of the House then decides whether it should go ahead or not. So I would recommend to you, Sir, that you not be worried too much about the actual question of the order of the debate, and just find out whether the House thinks that it should be proceeded with, and in most cases I predict that the majority of the House will likely vote against it, that's just a prediction from past experience.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Well, it was the first time that it has come under my chairmanship.

**MR. GREEN:** I understand, but there is that provision. The provision is that we do not do it in accordance with the ruling, not necessarily, that the Speaker can put the question because it is a motion that the House debate a matter of urgent public importance. One argues for it, somebody else argues against it, and then we put the question, and if it's voted in favour, the debate proceeds; if it doesn't, the debate stops. And the Speaker doesn't have to be on the hook for what is, perhaps, an unnecessary ruling because it can be decided by the House.

**MR. JORGENSON:** In the final analysis, it is the House that has the authority in determining whether or not the debate proceeds. You rule on a question of order, when, and there are occasions when the motion is so obviously out of order that it cannot be entertained by the Chair. There have been occasions and one of them is if it does not come under the jurisdiction of the government. I recall on one occasion, when a motion was moved that the House consider some matter that happened in Newfoundland, and the Speaker ruled it out of order.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Are there any further matters for this committee? Have I a motion for adjournment? Committee rise.