

General follow-up



ONTARIO

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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March <sup>29</sup>30, 1973

When I wrote to you earlier this year about the possible formation of a Hansard organization or association, I suggested a three-month time lapse before communicating with you again. However, I have received a number of favourable replies and I felt that a progress report would be in order.

I have received replies ranging all the way from agreeable to highly enthusiastic from the following provinces: Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

The only unfavourable reply so far, was from the Chief of the Ottawa Hansard Reporting Service (English branch) who said he did not feel that the benefits to be gained were substantial enough to justify the establishment of the kind of organization suggested.

I may still hear from some of the other people approached but I am writing to you in the meantime because of a problem that has arisen here, the solution of which may well be helped by discussion, co-operation and possibly collaboration between the various provincial Hansard organizations.

We in the Ontario government Hansard Reporting Service had planned to replace our reel-to-reel tape recording system with a Philips-type cassette system identical to that adopted by the Ottawa Hansard Service (a system which appears to be working extremely well). Unfortunately however, the manufacturer of this equipment (Hermes Electronics Ltd.) has withdrawn from this particular field and we are faced with finding an alternate supplier.

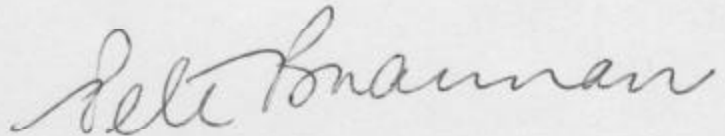
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I understand that some other provincial Hansard services had expressed interest in this equipment and that is why I believe an exchange of information may prove valuable. We are faced with the prospect of having to order a relatively limited number of recording and transcribing units, which will have to be custom built and naturally the price will be affected by the volume of production. If there is likelihood of any other provincial services requiring this equipment in the foreseeable future, substantial mutual benefit may be gained by collaboration and the co-ordination of orders.

I have jumped the gun somewhat in writing this letter to ascertain whether any of you are interested in a conversion to cassette equipment. I will be in touch with you again shortly concerning the Hansard association concept.

Meanwhile I will attach a copy of the brief description of our own needs which we have prepared for the guidance of manufacturers. This is still subject to modification, but it will give a broad idea of what we had in mind, and I would appreciate hearing from anyone interested in a similar conversion as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Brannan".

Peter Brannan,  
Chief of Hansard  
Reporting Service,  
Ontario

Encl.