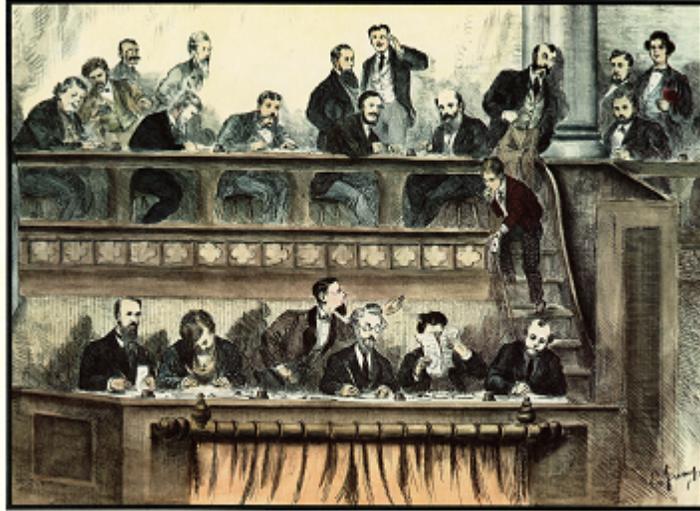


# Tradition and Innovation

Celebrating 125 years of *Hansard*



THE REPORTERS' GALLERY, HOUSE OF COMMONS.  
SCENES AT THE CAPITAL BY OUR OWN ARTIST.



**On May 7, 1980 Madam Speaker Sauvé unveiled the above bronze plaque on the east wall of the Rotunda commemorating the 100th anniversary of *Hansard***

*Tradition and Innovation, Celebrating 125 years of Hansard* commemorates the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Official Debates Reporting Branch of the House of Commons.

The *Hansard* 125 Project Team extends its sincere thanks to the following officials and staff of the House of Commons who helped in this publication:

Mr. Speaker Peter Milliken  
Mr. William Corbett, Clerk  
Mr. Louis Bard, Chief Information Officer, Information Services  
Michel Roy, Marcel Néron and Michel Loiselle, Printing  
Louis Joanis, Systems Integration and Application Development  
Murray Stephens, Reporting Service  
Chantal Laprade, Publishing Service

*Hansard* 125 Project Team:

Martin Bédard  
Michel Boucher  
Christine Burbridge  
Bruce Hubbard  
Bonita Neri  
Brian Potvin  
Anne-Marie Vinet  
John Wallner

May 2005

## Speaker's Foreword

I am honoured to have been asked to provide a foreword for this commemorative booklet celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Official Debates Reporting Branch of the House of Commons.

For over four decades I have been an avid reader of *Hansard*. In my youth I was thus able to follow the day-to-day affairs of the state, and to become more and more interested in the world of politics and procedure.

In 1988, I became the member of Parliament for Kingston and the Islands. As a result, my knowledge of, and appreciation for the people who record and report debates and committee proceedings only increased. This sentiment is true for all members of Parliament, who are keenly aware that the service performed by *Hansard* is critical to the smooth functioning of the parliamentary process.

Now, as Speaker of the House of Commons, I am even more cognizant of the importance of accurately recording and reporting debates and committee proceedings. I have more than once had to refer to transcriptions of the proceedings in deciding points of order raised by members. Since the debates are published under the authority of the Speaker, it is reassuring for me to know that I can count on the professionalism of the people who produce them.

On behalf of all parliamentarians, I thank the men and women of Parliamentary Publications of the House of Commons for their dedication, their commitment, and their contribution to the democratic process. Happy 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Hon. Peter Milliken  
Speaker, House of Commons

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Clerk's Foreword**

As Clerk of the House of Commons, one of my responsibilities is to act as the official record keeper of the House. Those of you who know me even a little will know that I neither write shorthand nor type at a sufficient speed to keep up with the daily output of words from members of Parliament. For 125 years, that task has fallen to a group of dedicated and skilled employees of the House, those who work for what was originally known as the Official Debates Reporting Branch and is now known as Parliamentary Publications.

From the moment in 1880 when the House decided to hire its own reporters and editors to prepare the record of its debates, immediate advancements were seen in both the quality of the text and the timeliness of its delivery. Even in the early years, the transcript of a late night debate could be ready within 24 hours, a big improvement on the days and weeks it could take the newspapers of that era to provide their reports.

It should be noted that the forms used and the procedural content of House publications have changed remarkably little in the last century and a quarter. However almost every other aspect of the process has evolved greatly. The sheer volume of hours of proceedings in a session has sky-rocketed. The number of parliamentary committees and the frequency of their meetings have increased and so, too, has the workload in relation to the preparation and publishing of Committee Evidence and reports. Parliamentary Publications also now plays an important role in the formatting and publishing of legislation and amendments to bills. In addition, the House now offers our publications in a variety of media to ensure their accessibility to all members of Parliament and other Canadians. At a time when information technology is constantly evolving, the challenge of information management has become paramount.

Through 125 years, that which has not changed is the level of service, professionalism and dedication provided by each and every employee of Parliamentary Publications to members of Parliament and the institution of the House of Commons. From the proceedings and verification officer who attends a meeting to capture events and audio, through the transeditor who commits the spoken word to (virtual) paper, the editor who offers an experienced perspective to procedural form and continuity, the publishing and quality assurance officer who often works through the night to make sure a critical deadline is met, and finally the information management officer who ensures the words are accessible, all are more than ready, willing and able to carry out their responsibilities. They do it every day as the deadlines, the political situation and the technologies change around them – and they do it without blinking an eye. For this, I salute them, I thank them and I wish them many more years of continued success. Happy 125<sup>th</sup> birthday!

William C. Corbett

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Chief Information Officer's Foreword**

During the 36<sup>th</sup> Parliament the House of Commons supported by the Board of Internal Economy, created a vision for information technology and information management which encompassed a parliamentary campus environment, strength through information sharing and communication, and using technology as an enabler. The focus was upon delivering services to members instead of the institution. The Information Services Directorate approach adopted took into account the importance of delivering exceptional customer service, being in a state of readiness to make things happen and to maintain sound investment strategies – especially in people as well as in technology.

In the 37<sup>th</sup> Parliament the House of Commons made a specific commitment to improve the delivery of communications and information services to members, to address issues relating to the increased volume of information and to take advantage of the convergence and integration of technologies. Imagine my excitement when the idea of PRISM began to emerge. PRISM was the opportunity to bring it all together. And, present in Parliamentary Publications were the key elements to bring it all together successfully.

First, from the initial days as the Official Debates Reporting Branch the employees of Parliamentary Publications have a solid record of providing excellent customer service to members, concerned not only with quality but timeliness and impartiality. There is a proud tradition of pioneering new technology in order to improve service delivery. You have been early-adopters not only within the House of Commons but in Canada and the world. Further, this delivery has always been dependent upon strong, collaborative partnerships with procedural, translation, printing and technology colleagues both internal and external to the organization dating back over 100 years.

Second, given the interest of legislators at all levels to increase the openness of Parliament and participation of citizens in the democratic process, providing greater and more timely access to a broader audience to parliamentary information addressed a strategic business requirement. PRISM needed to be a reliable tool with which to report and publish a burgeoning volume of information, such as has been seen with the increase in committee sittings, and confidently format amendments to contentious legislation without the risk of errors due to multiple conversions and the occurrence of technical glitches. PRISM also needed to enable members to have anywhere, anytime access to their information on Parliament Hill and in constituency offices across Canada. Parliamentary Publications proactively pioneered this technology, taking up the

challenge of implementation rather than risking an interruption of service delivery by remaining on legacy systems.

Third, the time had come to take the opportunity to rethink the entire process of capturing and organizing the information contained in parliamentary documents by exploiting the convergence and integration of technologies. I knew we could count on employees to rethink the notion of information custodianship, and the roles and responsibilities of all involved. This has required investment in business as well as technical training and even the development of a Parliamentary Publications Website in order to make key working tools available to veteran employees and new recruits alike within this and partner organizations.

Clearly in the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliament the employees of Parliamentary Publications are continuing in the tradition of delivery through innovation and are leading the way in the frontier of information management by focusing on applying best practice information management standards. The history of *Hansard* demonstrates that the pace of change began to increase in 1960s, with many changes throughout 1980 to 2000. As the pace and complexity of change and the integration with other systems inside and outside the House continue we will count on you to remain flexible and ready to lead in this next century. Happy 125<sup>th</sup> and I look forward to working with you to create the future together.

Louis J. R. Bard  
Chief Information Officer  
Information Services, House of Commons

\* \* \* \* \*

## Introduction

Having joined Parliamentary Publications in March 2000, I have shared but briefly the privilege of working with those in the service of creating *Hansard*. However, I have had the opportunity to observe the dedication, angst and effort of all those involved in the timely delivery of accurate, impartial parliamentary publications including Debates, Committee Evidence, indexes, bills and reports.

I have witnessed the challenges of late sittings. After members have concluded the debate, clerks at the table have hung up their robes, television lights have been dimmed and security has locked the chamber, the unseen and often unheralded work continues through to the morning in order that the debate is reported and published in both official languages early the next day. And, the race to accurately input, ensure concordance and respect format for last minute changes for multiple bills or reports simultaneously in order to meet revised (read earlier!) tabling dates is not for the faint of heart.

I have also observed the professionalism of staff coping to master a new technology under the pressures of publication deadlines and the precision required by the nature of the work. I have seen the frustration of users getting by with an interim fix until a durable solution can be implemented. However, the link between the traditions of producing *Hansard* and the evolution of technology is not new. Since early days, there has been a succession of tools, from shorthand and live dictation to amanuenses typing speedily, to first generation mini-computers and digital audio recording, and now to an integrated information system using client server technology, meta-tagging and a mouse. As for working in partnership, the efforts and hard-learned lessons of those who report, translate, publish and print parliamentary information have often facilitated the adoption of new technologies by other services within the House as well as by external partners and sister parliaments throughout the country, the Commonwealth and indeed the world.

Feast or famine characterizes the workload due to the nature of the high fluctuations in the volume of work related to committee travel, legislative agenda, election periods and a flurry of activity before a long recess. This places all staff and our partners under high pressure. For those staff who are not full time employees, this is compounded by their having to find other means to pay the bills. For those in the Publishing Service, they must accept that any delays earlier in the process must be made up in the process of completing their work: their deadline, delivery to the client, is unyielding.

I have also seen the care, precision and attention to detail applied in order to get it right: that is, to have the record faithful and appropriate for members and the institution, not only for today but for the historical record of Canada. And, in the rare instance when a word has been read into the record and challenged in the chamber and aspersions cast in the media, I have seen a reaction of genuine

disappointment and concern from staff. In the millions of words and thousands of hours of proceedings reported and published annually, the rare error helps us to juxtapose the rarity of such errors.

I thank all of you who have worked and contributed to our work for your efforts, professionalism and unfaltering dedication. It is an honour and privilege to work with you in serving members of Parliament and the institution of the House of Commons. On the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Hansard* I say to all of you ...”Bravo, people. Take a bow”.

Bonita Neri  
Director  
Parliamentary Publications

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## **1867 TO 1880—THE EARLY YEARS**

In the beginning was the word, and soon parliamentarians became interested in recording the word in a more permanent and neutral fashion than in newspapers. Between the years 1867 and 1880 a number of schemes were designed to ensure the recording of the debates of the House of Commons including contract reporting and the compilation of newspaper reports pasted on blank pages to form a scrapbook *Hansard*. Originally the debates were reported by newspapers and their biases were not satisfactory to all members. So from the very start attempts were made to produce a more exact transcription by extending contracts to individuals and companies for the reporting, editing, printing, binding, distributing and translating of the debates into French.

As early as 1871 a suggestion was made in the House to provide funds for the services of stenographers for the publication of the debates in both languages. An amendment was proposed that “the expense thereof to be paid out of the personal indemnity of the members of Parliament”, which was defeated.

The issues concerning the reporting of the debates were closely tied to timely printing and distribution. The following series of rules to create a timely document were established. In 1875 these included:

- The transcribed and edited copy would be sent to printing
- The contractor would be held responsible for a fair and impartial copy of the debates and for prompt delivery of copy
- The contractor for printing would be responsible for proofreading
- No written speeches would be used to produce the debates
- Members would be allowed to make verbal corrections in the report of the speeches in galleys but not including variations in idea or sentiment or lengthening of remarks.

Then in 1876:

- Speeches would be translated to produce the French edition, and the House's own translators would be used
- The book edition would be produced from each day's issue
- There would be regulations with respect to managing of reporting staff
- Indexes would be prepared
- The Chief Reporter would have no connection to any newspaper. Nor could he and his staff furnish newspapers with reports.

Delays in production were a constant source of annoyance to members of Parliament. The requirement, stipulated in contracts, was for delivery of the final text of *Hansard* in English by 3 p.m. the following day but the requirement was never met.

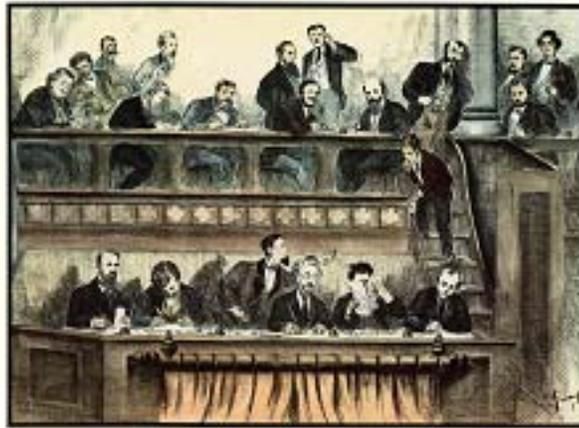
## **1880 TO 1980—THE FIRST 100 YEARS**

At one point a proposal was made in the House to hire a French language translator. The arrangements being made for publication in English and translation into French (and not the reverse) indicate that the debates were reported in English only and translated from the printed copy. This resulted in greater delays in the production of the French language *Hansard* which had to wait until the English version was printed before work could start on the French copy.

On April 26, 1880 the select committee appointed to supervise the Official Report submitted the following resolution:

**As greater permanency in the personnel of Reporting Staff would ensure a higher state of efficiency, the committee recommends that six reporters be engaged and recognized as Officers of the House.**

In the Reporters' Gallery (pre-1916) depicted at right, a seat was reserved for the Chief Reporter who oversaw Oral Question Period, Routine Proceedings and other proceedings of the chamber.



THE REPORTERS' GALLERY HOUSE OF COMMONS  
Sketch of the Gallery by John Maynard

Stephen A. Abbott, Chief Reporter,  
first bearded gentleman on left of front row

The Official Debates Reporting Branch of the House of Commons was established based on a report tabled in the House on May 4, 1880, by Mr. Rufus Stephenson (Conservative member for Kent, Ontario). That is the event we are marking in celebration of our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Tuesday, 4th May, 1880.*

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT PRESENTED.

Extract from Official Report of Debates, May 4, 1880

That was the beginning of the capture and production of unbiased and independent reports of the proceedings of the chamber and its committees by a permanent staff, a few of whom had previously worked as parliamentary reporters in the Canadian Parliament. The emphasis of the Official Report was not placed on verbatim reporting but on the meaning and effect of the words spoken by parliamentarians. At that point the editor of the debates office oversaw both the reporting and indexing of *Hansard*.

Some months thereafter a motion was moved calling for the discontinuance of the Official Debates Reporting Branch, and on February 14, 1881, the staff of the reporting service presented the following report:

**SUCCESS OF THE NEW SYSTEM.**

**Notwithstanding the difficulties incident to the inauguration of a new system by a staff whose members had not previously worked together on an official report, we venture to believe that the Committee will concede the general success of the scheme. In addition to the favor with which the reports have been received by Members of the House, we can confidently claim that a comparison of our work, not only with all previous official reports of the Debates of this House, but with the reports published either in the United States, Europe, or the Australian Colonies, will still more clearly demonstrate the success of the experiment.**

It was noted that *Hansard* compared favourably to the Congressional Record, and that the staff had quickly overcome major difficulties on start-up caused by the Canadian Pacific Railway debate. And the issue of timeliness was addressed:

**The failure of all systems previously tried by this House has been due to the great delay which has taken place in issuing the report in that form, a delay so great as to render that issue practically valueless. Instead of the Report, as in past years, drifting further behind every week until at the close of the Session it was frequently six weeks in arrears, the issue this Session has been promptly made each day, even after an all night's sitting.**

The confidence of the House in its permanent staff had been justified. The output of the reporting staff was considerably more detailed than the newspaper reports. For the third session of the fourth Parliament to the day of the report there were 825 pages of Debates, which exceeded the average output of contracted reports. Daily reports were an average of 30 pages with a maximum length of 48 pages. Blues corrections were made in time for the bound edition, as well as in the preparation of indexes.

The motion for discontinuance was defeated, and so *Hansard* still exists today as part of what is now known as Parliamentary Publications.

Two methods of strengthening the reporter-exclusive staff were suggested. The first was that the number of reporters be increased. The second was that amanuenses, staff who write text from dictation, be provided to assist. The following advantages of an amanuensis system were put forward:

#### ADVANTAGES OF THE AMANUENSIS SYSTEM.

Among the advantages of this system are the following :—

(1.) The Reporter, being relieved to some extent from the drudgery of long-hand writing, would be in a better condition, both mentally and physically, to take full and accurate notes in the House.

(2.) With the assistance of an amanuensis the note-taker would be able to devote more time, and consequently more attention, to the literary character of the report, and also be less liable to misinterpret the utterances of speakers.

Should the Committee concur in these suggestions we would respectfully urge the adoption of the method in force in the *United States Congress*, namely, that the Reporters be paid salaries sufficient to enable them to employ amanuenses. The reasons we urge for having the engagement of the assistants in the hands of the staff are, among others :—

(1.) That the Reporters, being responsible for the character of their work, would feel it to be in their interest to engage only competent men.

(2.) That owing to their professional connection throughout the country, they would have the best possible opportunities for obtaining men whose training and qualifications would fit them for the work.

The recommendation was therefore that reporters be paid a sufficient wage to allow them to employ amanuenses.

Attention was also drawn to the inadequacy of the reporting staff accommodations that were close to a well-travelled corridor and the post office, and the difficulty to ventilate without creating a dangerous draft. The request was therefore made for a room of comparable size to that of the press room. It was signed by George B. Bradley, George Eyvel, E. Joseph Duggan, Albert Horton, Isaac Watson, F. R. Marceau, Stephen A. Abbott, and J. C. Boyce.



**House of Commons Official Reporters, 1886. Front Row: E. Joseph Duggan, J.O. Marceau, George B. Bradley (Chief Reporter), Albert Horton, J.C. Boyce. Back Row: George Eyvel, Thomas John Richardson, F.R. Marceau, Stephen A. Abbott**

Thus began the teams of official parliamentary reporters, amanuenses and editors recording the proceedings of the chamber, as well as its committees, thereby preserving the legislative history of the nation for over a century from the days of Sir John A. Macdonald to approximately 1990.



1898 W. J. Topley photograph showing *Hansard* reporters hard at work in centre of chamber

## THE GREAT FIRE, FEBRUARY 3, 1916

The fire that destroyed the original Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings in 1916 is reported in the *Hansard* tradition of neutrality in the form of an editor's note detailing the arrival of Mr. C. R. Stewart, Chief Doorkeeper of the House of Commons who announced: "There is a big fire in the reading room; everybody get out quickly", to the resulting loss of several lives.

A mere horizontal centred line divides the above-mentioned note from the resumption of Parliament on Friday, February 4, 1916, at 3 p.m. in the Victoria Memorial Museum.

At this time Mr. C. R. Stewart, Chief Doorkeeper of the House of Commons, came hurriedly into the Chamber and called out: "There is a big fire in the reading room; everybody get out quickly." The sitting was immediately suspended without formality, and members, officials, and visitors in the galleries, fled from the Chamber. Some of them were almost overcome by the rapidly-advancing smoke and flames before reaching a place of safety. The fire, which had originated in the reading room, gained momentum with extreme rapidity and was soon beyond control. It continued till the following day, resulting in the almost total destruction of the Parliament buildings, together with the loss of several lives.

Friday, February 4, 1916.

The House met at Three o'clock, at the Victoria Memorial Museum, the Speaker in the Chair.

**THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS BY FIRE**

On the Orders of the Day:

(Extract from Official Report for 9 p.m. February 3, 1916 and resumption of Parliament at 3 p.m. February 4, 1916)

On the night of the fire on February 3, 1916, George Simpson, the parliamentary reporter on duty in the chamber, displayed remarkable courage by remaining at his post until the Speaker left his chair.

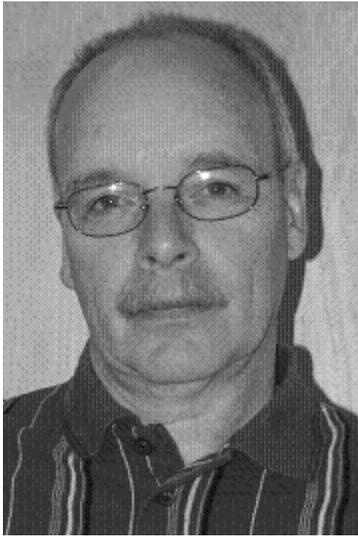
After leaving the chamber he journeyed to the Debates office to alert his colleagues of the fire and then proceeded to the front gates of Parliament Hill with his shorthand notebook in hand. He then went to a nearby hotel room where he dictated, revised and forwarded to the King's Printer the remainder of the speech of William Stewart Loggie (Liberal member for Northumberland, New Brunswick). Mr. Simpson went on to



become the Editor of Debates from 1926 to 1932.

**George Simpson**

## THE HUBBARD TRADITION



by Bruce Hubbard,  
Information Management Officer, Parliamentary Publications,  
Third Generation Hansardian

I was six years old when my grandfather retired from the House of Commons in 1957. Most six-year-olds have memories of standing by their grandfathers as they worked in the basement or out in the garage. I remember sitting beside my grandfather as he sat at his desk, a neat stack of typewriter and carbon paper on one side of him and a notebook full of squiggles and curlicues on the other. I watched as he typed effortlessly at the typewriter keyboard while he read from his shorthand notes. That was my first exposure to the court reporting profession. Little did I know then that I would be part of a tradition at the House of Commons that has lasted 86 years, beginning three years after the fire that destroyed the Parliament Buildings on the night of February 3, 1916.

## Veteran *Hansard* Editor Retiring



THOMAS S. HUBBARD

Thomas S. Hubbard was born in British Guyana, and in his youth worked for a newspaper in Georgetown. In 1913 he was invited to come to Prince Edward Island to work for the Charlottetown *Guardian*, where he took training in shorthand. This led him to work in the provincial legislature until he began his career as a parliamentary reporter at the House of Commons in 1919, eventually to become Editor of Debates in 1952.

My grandfather had a distinguished career during a time when shorthand reporting was the only reliable method of recording parliamentary and judicial proceedings. A shorthand reporter capable of writing at 200 words per minute was indispensable, a veritable human tape recorder. Not only was he a prolific shorthand writer, he had a love of the English language.

He took his job seriously. His reputation was such that *Time* magazine paid tribute to him in an article written on April 15, 1957, just after his retirement. Clearly he earned respect and admiration from members of Parliament whose speeches he edited. This article sums it up quite well:

## THE PARLIAMENT

### *Hansard's* Day

When Commons opened session one day last week, CCF Member Stanley Knowles rose to make one of the least controversial speeches of his parliamentary career. It was a tribute to gentle, 65-year-old Thomas Stephen Hubbard, retiring after 38 years as reporter, assistant editor and, since 1952, editor of *Hansard*,\* the official journal of parliamentary proceedings. Members thumped their desks in approval and craned their necks to peer at Hubbard, who sat smiling and misty-eyed in his press-gallery seat. Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent himself paid the final compliment. Said he: "He was always careful not to modify in the slightest degree the substance and meaning of what was said, but I think we all agree that his editing has made our remarks read somewhat better than a phonographic tribute would have allowed them to."

British Guiana-born Tom Hubbard learned the perils of simple phonography shortly after joining *Hansard* in 1919 as a 200-word-a-minute shorthand reporter. One of his colleagues misheard an M.P.'s plea for Dictaphones in a government office, jotted down "Detective Holmes." In transcribing his notes, the reporter decided to be more explicit, put the M.P. on record as having requested that Sherlock Holmes be assigned to the office.

As editor, Hubbard also learned to protect the members from themselves. On one occasion an M.P., discussing Uncle Sam's rapid growth, commented that "our country is growing too. Mother Canada is growing whiskers on her chin." Hubbard shuddered at the metaphor and consulted the member, who gratefully allowed it to be dropped from the record. But Hubbard drew a careful, well-defined line between phrase and fact. "No politician has the

\* Named for London Printer Thomas Curson Hansard, who began publishing reports of British parliamentary debates in 1803.

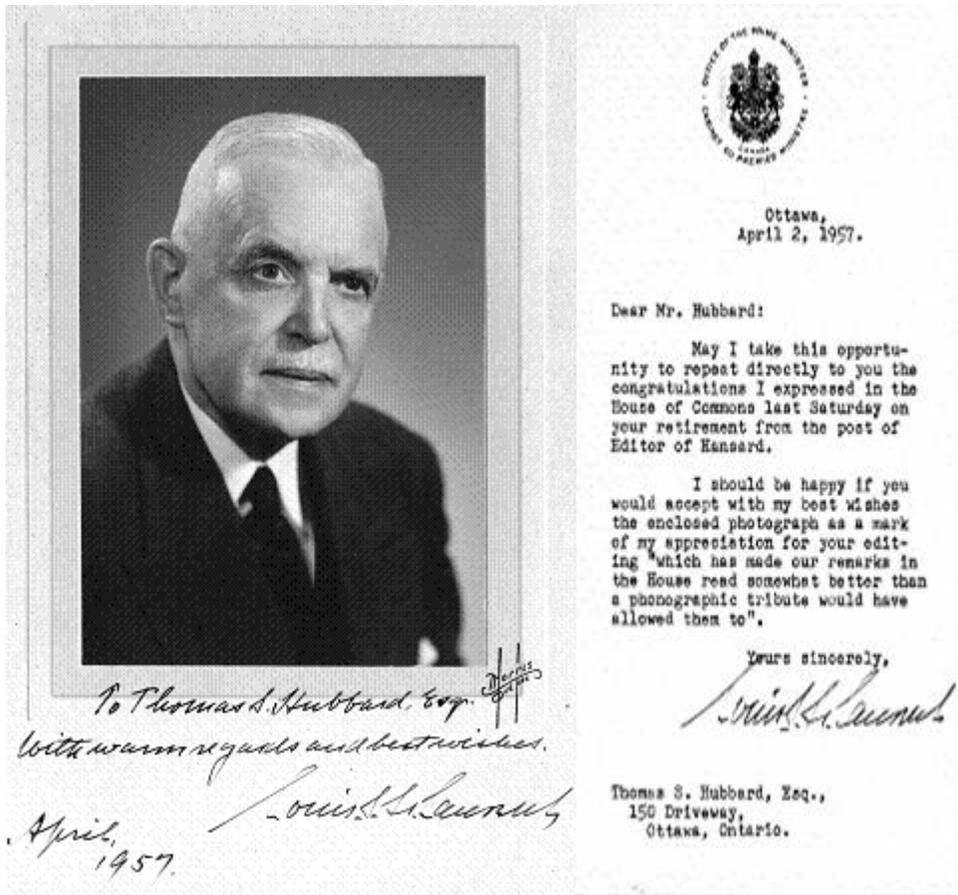


Dwight E. Dolan  
EX-EDITOR HUBBARD & WIFE  
He took the beard off Mother.

right to change any statement of fact in *Hansard*," he said quietly last week. "I have had one or two people beg me to change things, but if it is a matter of fact, then it is impossible to do so."

House members had barely left off pounding their desk tops for retiring Editor Hubbard when they began thumping again for another *Hansard* employee: Mrs. Joan Blair, 34, *Hansard's* first woman Commons reporter. Shapely, fair-haired Joan Blair made her entrance right in the middle of a question by CCF Member Harold Winch, created such a commotion that Winch stopped in midsentence. As Winch pulled himself together and made gallant tribute to "the ability and beauty of our new *Hansard* reporter," blushing Recorder Blair bent over her desk, dutifully scribbled the compliment into the official Parliament record.

Accolades were bestowed upon him in the House of Commons by Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent and members of Parliament from all parties which, as the Prime Minister said, were a tribute to the non-partisan fairness he gave to all members. We are proud to have in our possession a picture and letter from the Prime Minister to my grandfather on the occasion of his retirement.



Indeed, the respect of members of Parliament for my grandfather was only surpassed by his respect for the parliamentary institution. In fact his pride in the reporting profession inspired two of his sons, Thomas S. Jr. and Gilbert, to become shorthand reporters. Tom became a military court reporter with the Judge Advocate's Branch of the Canadian military and was part of the reporting staff taking evidence at the Canadian War Crimes trial in Aurich, Germany following World War II. In 1946 the editor of *Hansard* debates invited Tom to work as a committee reporter for the House of Commons. This father-son reporting team at the House of Commons was the harbinger of the Hubbard tradition. From there Tom joined the Senate Debates and Publications Branch as a reporter and enjoyed a distinguished career there until his retirement as editor in 1980. His younger brother, Gilbert Hubbard, followed in his footsteps to become a parliamentary reporter and editor from 1963 until his retirement in 1995, though he still lends his expertise to the reporting staff today.



**Thomas S. Hubbard, Jr., Bruce Hubbard, Gilbert Hubbard--2005**

When I was deciding what I would like to do for a living I could not help but think of my *Hansard* family connection and what it would be like to be part of that tradition. So, in 1970 I decided to take up shorthand reporting. Technology had led us into the era of machine shorthand, the method used by my uncle, Gilbert Hubbard. I moved to Ottawa and began training. With the help of my uncle and the Hubbard name to motivate me, I too began a court reporting career in 1973.

The day I was retained as a *Hansard* reporter in the fall of 1981 was the most memorable day of my career. I could honestly feel the Hubbard spirit as I walked on to the floor of the House of Commons chamber to take my seat in the reporter's chair for the first time. It seemed like I was supposed to be sitting there, and I wanted to make my grandfather proud.

There has been an impressive technological evolution spanning the three generations of Hubbards on Parliament Hill. My grandfather began by taking shorthand using a fountain pen and steno pad, then dictating from his notes to an amanuensis who typed on a manual typewriter. Gilbert Hubbard came to Parliament using the stenograph machine, reading his phonetically typed notes to his amanuensis who typed on an electric typewriter. During my tenure as a *Hansard* reporter the debates began to be produced using audio recording and computer technology.

I have been privileged to be a part of some of the more moving, tense and even humorous events to have taken place in the life of Canada's Parliaments. I was the reporter on the floor when Harvie Andre moved the motion to adjourn the House, which commenced the infamous bell ringing incident in March 1982.

There was that famous exchange between Sheila Copps and John Crosbie, and I recall straining to get every word Ms. Copps said as she assured Mr. Crosbie she was, “nobody’s baby”. I was lucky enough to be on the floor of the chamber on the day the motion was passed to repatriate our Constitution. I proudly stood in the House with members of Parliament to sing the national anthem. It is a truly unique experience to know that over 60 years earlier my grandfather had the same privilege to take a “front row seat to Canadian history in the making”.

I definitely made the right career decision. It has been 24 years since my first day in the chamber and every day I think of how privileged I am to be part of a family tradition such as ours.

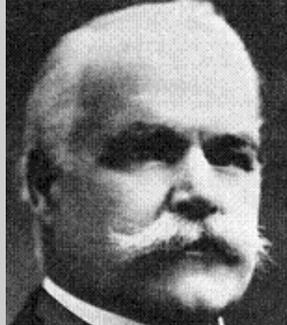
The occasion of *Hansard's* 125th birthday is indeed a memorable time for all of us connected to Parliamentary Publications—a part of Canadian political history we can all share.

## NOTABLE FIGURES

*Hansard* has had many notable figures in its ranks: Among them, Sir John Bourinot who was appointed Clerk of the House of Commons; Alphonse Desjardins, founder of the credit union movement in North America; and the Honourable James C. McCrae who was elected to Manitoba Legislative Assembly from 1986 to 1999 and held several provincial cabinet portfolios, including Attorney General and Minister of Justice.



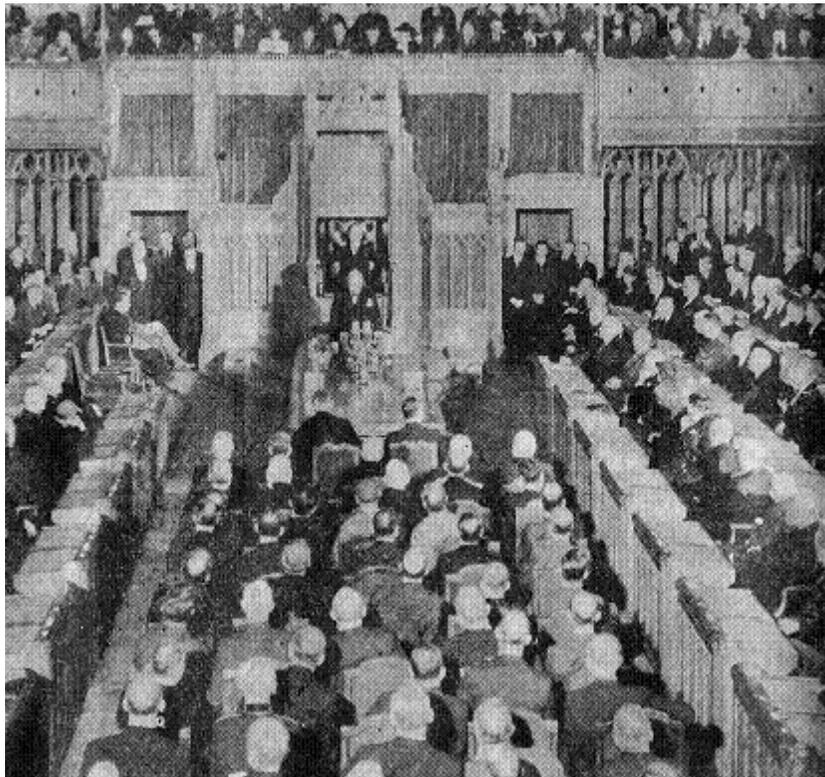
Bourinot



Desjardins



McCrae



Sir Winston Churchill addresses chamber in December 1941 and *Hansard* reporters have front row seat at foot of table

## 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY, MAY 1980



*Hansard* reporters Gaston St-Jean and Brian Potvin (1980)

In her message of loyal greeting to the *Hansard* staff on May 7, 1980, on the occasion of our centenary celebrations, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the 2<sup>nd</sup> wrote:

**I appreciate...all those who are associated with the publication of *Hansard* in Canada and I express my confidence in the continuing impartiality and accuracy of this institution.**



Madam Speaker Sauvé unveiled a bronze plaque in the shape of an open volume of the Official Report (*Hansard*) on the east wall of the Rotunda in Centre Block which reads:

1880-1980

*Hansard* exists, not for the legislator alone, but, in a real sense, for the nation.

This memorial commemorates the establishment of the *Hansard* Reporting Branch as an integral part of the service of the House of Commons.

Also commemorated are those by whose efforts the impartial reporting of debates came into being, as well as all who wrote shorthand in the cause of their country during the first one hundred years of *Hansard's* service to the Commons.

Later on the same day in tributes in the House, Madam Sauvé stated:

From the scribes of antiquity and the transcribers of the Middle Ages to the faithful recorders of *Hansard*, there has

**been continuity in the art, patience and faithfulness which, on your behalf, I want to praise and honour.**

As well, Mr. Yvon Pinard (Liberal member for Drummond, Quebec) as President of the Privy Council, Right Hon. Joe Clark (Progressive Conservative member for Rocky Mountain, Alberta ) as Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Stanley Knowles (CCF member for Winnipeg North Centre, Manitoba) added their tributes.

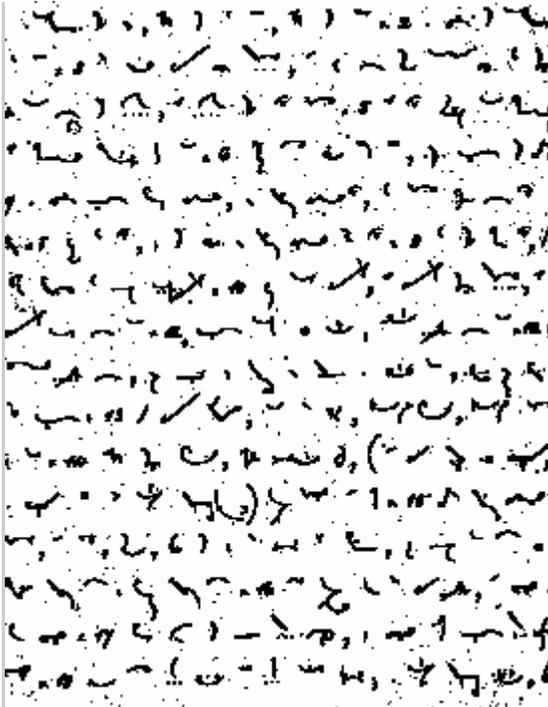
Also in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mr. John Ward, then English Editor in Chief of Debates, authored an informative book, *The Hansard Chronicles*, which detailed the history of official reports in Canada and Britain.

During the month of October of that same year an exhibit of historical information of interest, including copies of *Hansard* from around the world, was on display in the Hall of Honour outside the doors to the Library of Parliament. As was noted at the time, the relationship of these publications to each other was unmistakable and indicated how the principle of parliamentary reporting had found acceptance worldwide.

The first Canadian parliamentary reporters were Pitman and Gregg shorthand writers who recorded the debates, while observing the proceedings of the House of Commons from four desks in the centre aisle of the chamber, and transcribed therefrom the speeches of members for publication in *Hansard*.

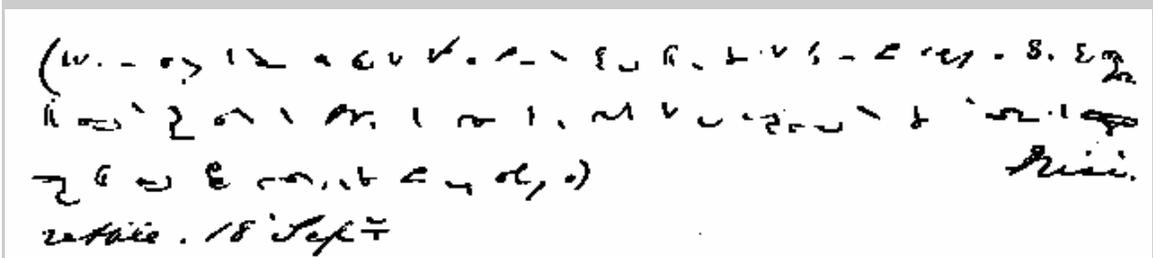
A sample extract of John 1 written in Pitman shorthand and transcribed follows:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name; 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word was



made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. 15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. 16 And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Writing shorthand was a skill acquired by many professionals, including lawyers and journalists, as well as parliamentary, court and tribunal reporters. The following is a sample of an earlier version of shorthand from 1883 (possibly the Thomas Gurney system of shorthand) and written by Sir John S. Thompson, Canada's fourth Prime Minister, and former *Hansard* reporter with the Nova Scotia House of Assembly:



Typewriters, the longest-standing technology to be integrated into the reporting branch, were first used by reporters and then by amanuenses until the mid-1980s. The proceedings were eventually typed on carbon sets for distribution to editors, the Queen's Printer, Translation Services, the press, and members of Parliament, whose copies were produced on blue paper,



hence the term blues. Electric typewriters became standard office equipment in the 1950s.

The editors received the original transcribed text and made their revisions by hand. One of their responsibilities was (and continues to be) reading suggested blues changes submitted by members of Parliament and incorporating any modifications to the text deemed appropriate (i.e. no impact on continuity of text or no substantive change to intent of the words spoken, correction of spelling of proper names, confirmation of quoted material and correction of mishearings). With administrative staff compiling English and French text in the appropriate order, the editors' copy of the text became the "bible". At the end of the sitting day, the revised text was sent by messenger to the printers where it was all rekeyed and typeset, along with the translated text created by the government Translation Bureau.



**Douglas Baker, Hansard reporter, dictates Pitman Shorthand notes to Dorothy Davis, amanuensis, who transcribes on electric typewriter (circa 1960s)**

The delivery deadline for the paper version of *Hansard* continues to be 9 a.m. on the following day to members of Parliament within the parliamentary precinct.

With the advent of electronic publishing, *Hansard* is often available on the Internet around the world in the early hours of the next day.

Another long-standing technology was the phonetically based shorthand machines used by French and English parliamentary reporters to capture proceedings. The machines produce a long paper tape of text, similar to a calculator or cash register printout. Reporters would dictate and simultaneously edit the text for grammatical errors to amanuenses who keyed in the live dictation using typewriters.

Eight reporter-amanuenses teams rotated in 10-minute shifts in the chamber. They inserted procedural form and each performed further proofreading exercises to ensure the accuracy of the text. By the late 1960s analogue recordings were produced and consulted by reporters and others for greater certainty.

## **HANSARD**

The term *Hansard* stems from a description of parliamentary reports commemorating the connection of T. C. Hansard with the reporting of the debates at Westminster from 1812 to 1892. It is widely used as a description of official parliamentary reports throughout Canada and other parliaments in the English-speaking world.

Contrary to what many believe, *Hansard* is not a verbatim transcription of the debates. Chapter 24 of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* provides:

The House of Commons Debates, commonly known as the *Debates* or as *Hansard*, is the report *in extenso* of the debates which take place in the House and in a Committee of the Whole, with due regard to necessary grammatical, vocabulary and editorial changes.

Beauchesne's 6<sup>th</sup> edition, citation 55, reads:

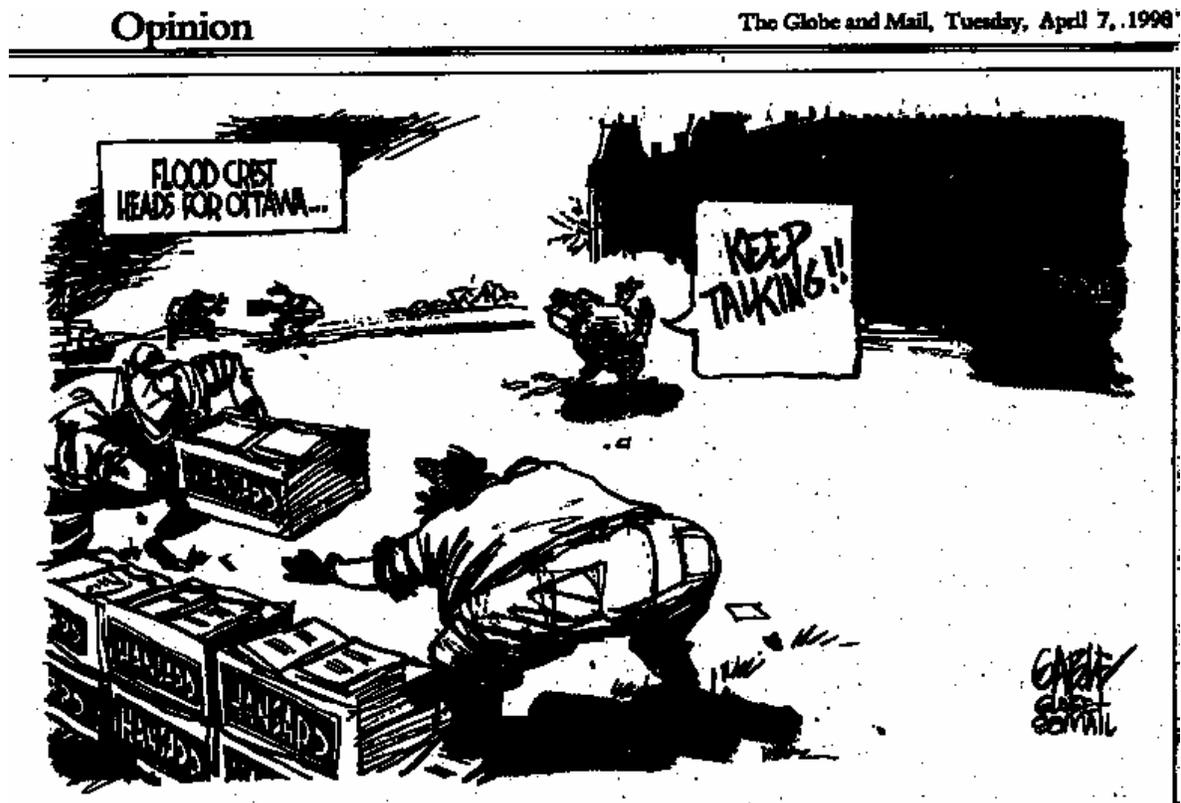
*Hansard* is not a verbatim transcript of the debates of the House. It is a transcript *in extenso*. In the case of repetition or for a number of other reasons, such as more specific identification, it is acceptable to make changes so that anyone reading *Hansard* will get the meaning of what was said. Those who edit *Hansard* have an obligation to make a sentence more readable since there is a difference between the spoken and the written word.

The utterances of the Speaker of the House, a cabinet minister or a back-bencher are treated with the same impartiality.

On February 16, 1971 Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau uttered the now infamous “fuddle duddle” comment, directed to Mr. John Lundrigan (Progressive Conservative member for Gander—Twillingate, Newfoundland and Labrador) during a heated debate about unemployment. When confronted with whether he actually said those words, Mr. Trudeau replied: “If the unimpeachable *Hansard* has noted that I said fuddle duddle then it must be so”.

The pressures of timely and accurate bilingual production of politically sensitive comments in parliamentary publications on the entire dedicated staff, clients and partners involved in the processes cannot be underestimated.

Unfortunate errors occur from time to time which attract negative attention, much to the chagrin and genuine disappointment of staff, but occasionally the limelight will bring a smile to their lips as is evidenced in the following Gable cartoon of April 7, 1998:



Reprinted with permission from *The Globe and Mail*

A resolution adopted in 1977 allowed for the installation of television cameras in the House of Commons. It was agreed that radio and television coverage of the proceedings of the chamber and its committees would be based on principles similar to those that govern the publication of the Official Report.

The focus of the camera is the same as the focus of present day proceedings and verification officers: on the occupant of the chair or the member recognized by the Speaker of the House to speak.

## **1980 TO 2000—TECHNOLOGY AND PROCESSES**

New technology arrived on Parliament Hill in 1981. The offices of 282 members of Parliament were equipped with stand-alone word processors and connected to a broadband coaxial cable Local Area Network (LAN). In the mid-1980s this technology came to Parliamentary Publications (PP) when it was decided to record the audio on analog cassettes due to the increase in the volume of meetings of parliamentary committees.

Committee reporting secretaries attended committee meetings to operate the consoles, opening and closing members' microphones, and record a dubbing track on which they identified speakers and provided "colour commentary" of the proceedings. They were the eyes and ears of the Committee Reporting Service in the committee room.

The reporting secretaries also transcribed five-minute segments of audio. For a time optical character readers (OCRs) were used to scan the typed text. Soon the text was produced on desktop PCs (Rainbows).



**Reporting Secretary Nancy Larabie preparing to transcribe Committee Evidence from audio cassette using Digital Rainbow personal computer**

The text they produced was saved on diskettes and passed along with the audio cassette to a first level of edit in small batches, and then a second level of edit would review an entire meeting's worth of text.

When edit was complete, the text was sent to the committee clerk for distribution to members, as well as to the Translation Bureau. The Publishing Service assembled the English and French language versions of the evidence.

The *Hansard* processes soon followed suit and began using Rainbow PCs. Reporters dictated from their notes to audio cassettes which were transcribed by amanuenses and saved to diskette.

While this system worked well, a second generation of technology, the Commons Automated Publishing System (COMAPS), was begun with the objective of

automating text production. Built upon the OASIS LAN, COMAPS worked by saving text to a VAX cluster and eliminated the use of diskettes. Once a take was completed, a “gold” key command was used to transmit the text. The system had a dual display feature which allowed editors to display English and French texts side by side, a major innovation. A checklist file was used to make sure the two versions lined up exactly to appear on corresponding pages in the respective English and French versions.

While COMAPS was first implemented in production of Committee Evidence, it was soon adapted for use in Debates. Batches of takes were transmitted to the Translation Bureau throughout the day. All the 10-minute takes and their respective translations were brought together by text operators who worked online from the VAX cluster. Their final version was available for online transmission to the Printing Bureau where it was typeset and 12,000 copies printed and distributed to members and officials by 8 a.m.

This era also saw the end of parliamentary reporters in the House of Commons. At first they were replaced by transeditors who took their place at the desks in the chamber to take notes of the names of members speaking, items to be researched, et cetera, and then returned to the Debates office to transcribe the text, making the same basic revisions as reporters. Gradually the transeditors only produced the text and they were replaced on the floor by proceedings monitors who dubbed speakers names into a stenomask for the audio recording and took basic notes of the proceedings.

Shortly after introduction of COMAPS, digital audio recording was introduced. A bank of voice processors replaced the analog recording system. Text production staff no longer relied on audio cassettes but accessed audio directly through desktop PCs. At the time the House of Commons was overwhelmed with requests from other legislatures to see this leading edge technology in action.

Through this time period, our partners were also changing their processes. The Government Printing Bureau of the Department of Supply and Services (formerly the King’s/Queen’s Printer) went from having a large staff of typists who rekeyed, proofed and revised text, to receiving an electronic transmission of text for printing and publishing. By the early 1990s our Publishing Service took over responsibility for the camera-ready preparation of the text which was printed by the House of Commons Printing Service.

**Stylistically speaking...**Often *Hansard* has been asked why it has traditionally under-used capital, or upper case, letters. The terms upper case and lower case referring to the capitalization and non-capitalization of words stemmed from the upper and lower drawers used by typesetters to store their typeset keys. As a result the reporters and amanuenses of the past facilitated overnight printing by reducing the numbers of times typesetters were required to switch from drawer to drawer.

New publishing formats were introduced in April 1995 when Committee Evidence was made available in electronic format only, for the first time. The electronic format of *Hansard* followed shortly thereafter. However *Hansard* continues to print a small number of paper copies for distribution within the parliamentary precinct and public libraries across Canada which subscribe to the Depository Services Program.

As the volume of words increased throughout this period, so did the amount of research that needed to be done to verify text, quotations, names, et cetera. A small research unit was set up to find information quickly for transeditors and editors. Its benefits were seen immediately and the unit was expanded to become the Documentation Centre.

While the processes of Committee Evidence and *Hansard* were evolving, in the late 1980s Parliamentary Publications took on some new responsibilities with the preparation and publishing of legislation. Private members' bills were produced using the same VAX technology and later Interleaf. These technological advances improved production time, increased accuracy and reduced costs. Great efficiencies were realized when legislation could be relatively easily amended through its progress in Parliament without waiting for a large print run.

In 1993 the strict need for confidentiality and the urgency of requests lead to the creation of the Legislative Satellite Unit of the Publishing Service. Using VAX and Interleaf the Satellite Unit was able to work with the Department of Justice, converting the text of bills from its original electronic format to one which ultimately simplified the legislative publishing process.

In 1996 legislation was published to the Internet for the first time. The Legislative Unit prepares for printing government and private members' bills that are introduced in the House of Commons or the Senate from first reading through to the gazetted stage. The unit also prepares amendments and motions to amend proposed by members of Parliament during clause-by-clause consideration and report stage of bills.

The production of committee reports also became a responsibility of PP. Publishing Service staff works closely with committee staff (clerk, researchers and contract editors) and translators to meet the demands of creating reports of parliamentary committees. The requirements of the reports include respecting the sensitivity of draft text, shortened deadlines due to the committee's wish to table sooner, last minute amendments, and the challenge of minority reports. Publishing Service staff also performs a concordance of original language text and translated text to ensure alignment between the two.

## 2000 TO PRESENT—PRISM AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Recording Centre receives incoming audio from proceedings in the House and its committees throughout the parliamentary precinct and across Canada in the case of traveling committees. From there the audio is distributed in five-minute segments to transeditors, editors and other production personnel.

Since the introduction of digital audio recording in the early 1990s, vast strides have been made in technology. The picture (left) shows voice processors required for the recording of chamber and committee proceedings within the parliamentary precinct. The single audio tower (right) is the second generation of digital recording equipment with PRISM.



When the lifecycle of the legacy systems were extended long beyond what was anticipated, Parliamentary Publications was again called upon to play a lead role in the development and implementation of PRISM, an institution-wide procedural information management infrastructure based on SQL and XML technologies. This system is capable of managing all aspects of parliamentary information publishing, including the capture of the spoken word to final electronic and print publications in both official languages.

Launched into operations in 2001, PRISM was founded on the basis of three basic principles: data integrity and consistency, retention of historical records of events, and transition from a document centric organization to an information centric one.

The system runs on a database of procedural and parliamentary information. Our partners in Procedural Services enter basic data into PRISM, such as notices of meetings, the order paper, and the names and affiliations of members of Parliament.

As the gavel begins a parliamentary committee, or the Speaker calls the House to order, proceedings and verification officers enter the events in PRISM. As each member rises to speak or each motion is moved, a related event is created.

Since 2001-02 the capture of Debates and Committee Evidence has been performed on the frontlines by proceedings and verification officers (PVOs), the eyes and ears of the production team, using PRISM to capture the name of the member speaking, the item of business being discussed and the name of the occupant of the chair, and using the stenomask to dub names of speakers, off-mike comments and other information that might be reflected in the Official Report.



PVO Eric Cadieux using stenomask in chamber (2005)

Working from the digital audio, transeditors begin their work after PRISM bundles the events into takes (5-minute segments) and distributes them. After approximately 30 minutes the completed text in a segment is saved in the PRISM database, available to editors and translators, and, in the case of *Hansard*, distributed to members of Parliament as the blues. The committee blues are available to members, clerks and research offices only after the text of an entire meeting has been transedited.

Editors access the text in PRISM, correcting syntax, verifying queried references, adding headings and reading larger segments of text for greater continuity.

Proceedings and verification officers shift between their work as event capturers and dubbers in the chamber and in committees, to researchers in the Proceedings and Verification Centre. They bring the experience and knowledge of having been present in the chamber or a committee room to answering the queries emanating from transeditors and editors. Created in 1992, the centre has accumulated over 83,000 items in its database and is the custodian of the bound volumes of *Hansard*.

Editors consider suggested changes to blues made by members of Parliament. Once the text has been revised and the PRISM database updated, the text is available to the Translation Bureau and the Publishing Service.

The *Hansard* publishing and quality assurance night staff of the Publishing Service starts work on each sitting day of the House at approximately 9 p.m. They ensure the correct XML coding and formatting of events and insertions in the text such as votes in the House or answers to questions on the order paper.

They also integrate the translated text so that two versions of *Hansard* are created each day, one in each official language. Their last steps are to post the electronic version on the Internet (at approximately 3 a.m.) and create a PDF version that is posted and sent to the Printing Service for creation of the paper copy.

Publishing and quality assurance officers perform similar tasks while preparing the Committee Evidence. The publishing deadlines are now 24 hours for blues, five days for priority one committees and ten days for priority two. However, due to the detailed content and research necessitated and the sheer volume of the work, such as a record of 68 committee meetings in a one-week period in March 2005, considerable effort is required to publish on time. Committee Evidence is published electronically in HTML and PDF formats.

In 2005 work is under way to develop a PRISM module to aid in the creation of indexes and the management of parliamentary information. Parliamentary

Publications has made significant improvements by leveraging technological advances in its information management practices. Based on human analysis and organization of parliamentary information, the current and future information requirements of clients, partners and users can be met with various research tools, including electronic and hard copy indexes, as well as search engines. The role of indexer analysts has evolved to information management officers to reflect the focus on building structure and tools into the collection, allowing users to perform their own searches anywhere, anytime.



**Information Management Unit, 2005**

**Kneeling:** Yves Laliberté, François Poliquin

**Standing:** Manon Carpentier, Gaston Massé, Joanne Sacoutis, Chris Lambert, Nicole Blais, Guy Desmarais, Suzanne Proulx, Richard Woodley, Bruce Hubbard, John Wallner

**Absent:** Joan Blanchard

Given the scope of operations and volume of work, Reporting and Publishing Services need a strong supporting cast. Forecasting officers analyze workloads to ensure that required indeterminate, seasonal and on-call resources are available to meet delivery standards. Business application support officers provide timely and responsive training, coaching and functional first line application support to PRISM end-users. They participate in the development of

enhancements and testing of new releases to ensure that the PRISM application is leveraged to meet current and evolving business requirements. Structured business training and communications are also key functions to ensure continuous and effective service delivery to clients.

## PARLIAMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

The role of **Parliamentary Publications** is to capture and organize parliamentary information in order to publish and render it accessible through parliamentary publications in both official languages in a timely, accurate manner and at an appropriate level of quality for members of Parliament and the public.

### Our vision is to

- Construct one flexible reporting and information service
- Establish publishing service standards in conjunction with our partners
- Lead the enhancement of parliamentary information service
- Continue to be world leaders in publishing parliamentary information

### PRINCIPAL CLIENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY PUBLICATIONS:

- Members of Parliament
- Government Departments
- Lobby Groups
- Library of Parliament
- Depository Libraries
- General Public



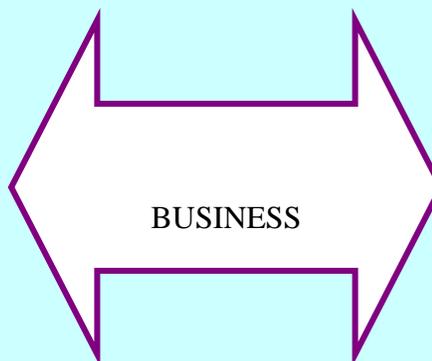
### PRODUCTS:

- Debates blues (Intra Net)
- Debates (*Hansard*) (Internet/PDF/HTML)
- Committee blues (Intra Net)
- Government Bills / Amendments
- Committee Evidence
- Committee / Social reports



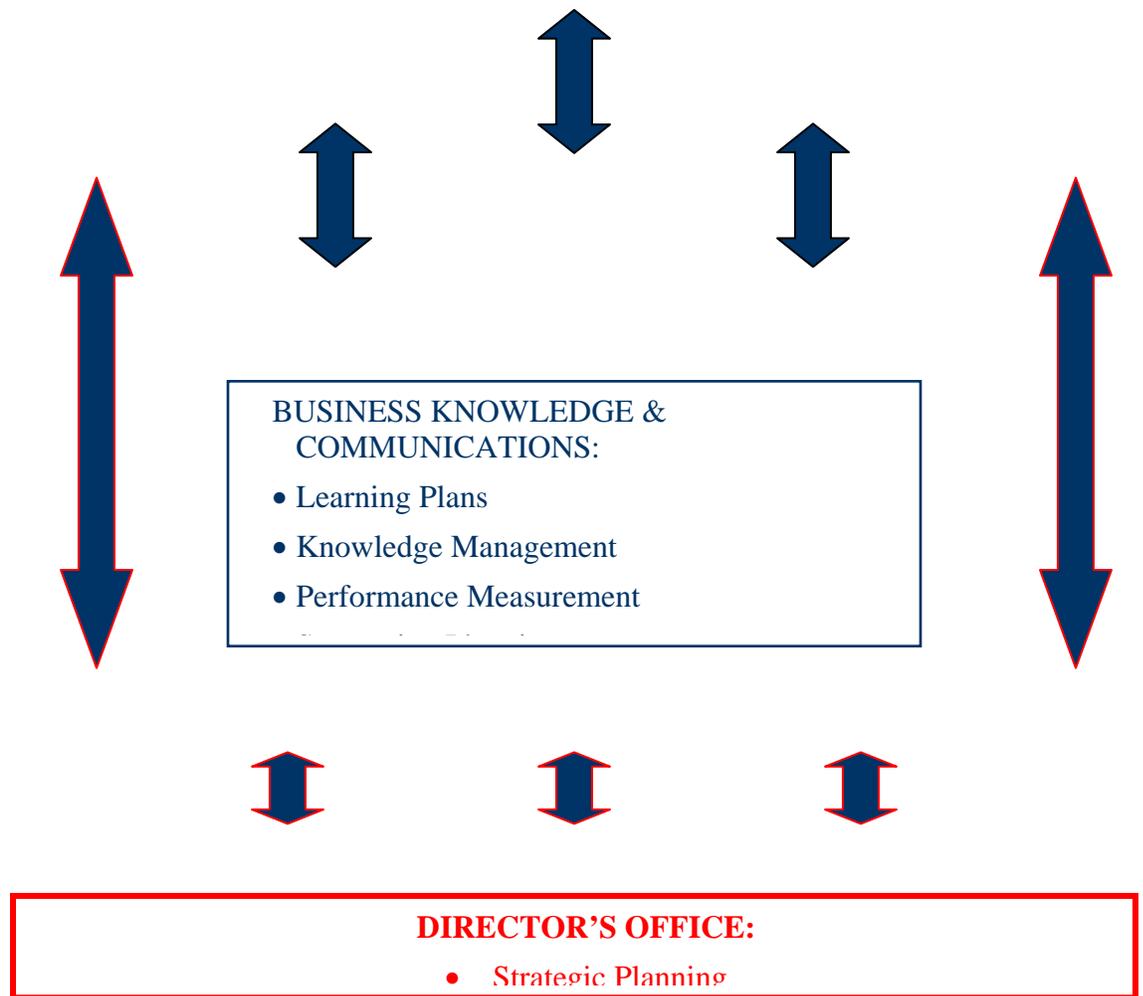
### REPORTING SERVICE:

- Audio Recording & Event Capture
- Transcription
- Verification
- Editing
- Forecasting & Tracking



### PUBLISHING SERVICE:

- Publishing & Quality Assurance
- Proofreading
- Information Management (Index & Reference)
- Forecasting & Tracking



## 2005 AND BEYOND

### WHAT WILL THE FUTURE BRING?

As part of our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and as part of the process of preserving old traditions and creating new ones, we launched our new website on April 28, 2005 on the Intranet.

Standards, guidelines, formats, PRISM modules, helpful hints, standardized preferred spelling lists, the roles and responsibilities of different work groups, as well as other easily accessible and researchable information relevant to the production of all parliamentary publications, have been gathered and organized in this one site. This will facilitate the training of new employees, the advanced training of veterans and the sharing of consistent, reliable information which can only have a positive impact on the quality of our future publications.



From the parliamentary reporters of 1880 to present day proceedings and verification officers, from the amanuenses and editors of the past to the transeditors and editors of today, from the typesetters of days gone by to the

publishers and support officers, and from the indexers of 1873 to the information management officers of present times, what has remained clearly evident is the professionalism and dedication of employees to their tasks.

As we celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we remain confident in the fact that *Hansard* will continue to exist, “not for the legislator alone but, in a real sense, for the nation”, because of the dedication of the many people who have played and continue to play a part in this proud tradition.



***Hansard* 125 Project Team:**  
From left to right: Martin Bédard, Christine Burbridge, Bruce Hubbard, Anne-Marie Vinet, Brian Potvin and John Wallner. Absent: Bonita Neri and Michel Boucher

## HANSARD TIME LINE

Canadian & International History, Prime Ministers, etc.		<i>Hansard</i> History
Confederation (Macdonald, Prime Minister)	1867	Scrapbook <i>Hansard</i> consists of newspaper reports (biased summaries of proceedings)
First successful US patent for typewriter		
First Métis Rebellion	1869	
(Mackenzie)	1873	First index appended to bound <i>Hansard</i>
(Macdonald)	1878	
First US patent for stenographic machine	1879	
National Gallery of Canada established	1880	<i>Hansard</i> Official Reporting starts; George B. Bradley, first Chief Reporter; Six <i>Hansard</i> reporters engaged & recognized as officers of the House (unbiased summaries of proceedings)
	1881	Motion to discontinue <i>Hansard</i> moved & defeated in the House of Commons; Amanuenses employed by reporters
Second Métis Rebellion	1885	
Introduction of Gregg shorthand	1888	
(Abbott)	1891	
(Thompson)	1892	Alphonse Desjardins employed as <i>Hansard</i> reporter until 1918
(Bowell)	1894	
(Tupper, Laurier)	1896	
Boer War	1898	
	1899	Albert Horton, Chief Reporter
	1900	Annual salary of <i>Hansard</i> reporter: \$2,000
	1904	Index first printed as separate publication
(Borden) Naval Bill	1911	Title changes from Chief Reporter to Editor of Debates
World War I starts	1914	
Fire destroys Centre Block	1916	Thomas Patrick Owens, Editor of Debates
World War I ends	1918	
	1919	Thomas Hubbard hired as <i>Hansard</i> reporter (first of three generations to serve Parliament)
(Meighen)	1920	
(Mackenzie King, Meighen)	1921	Alexander C. Campbell, Editor of Debates
(Mackenzie King) King-Byng Affair	1926	George Simpson, Editor of Debates
	1929	Marcel Gabard, first French Editor of Debates
(Bennett)	1930	
Treaty of Westminster	1931	
(Mackenzie King)	1935	
	1936	Earl Courtney Young, English Editor of Debates
	1938	J. Henri MacKay, French Editor of Debates

Rowell-Sirois report on Federal-Provincial Relations; World War II starts	1939	
World War II ends	1945	
UNIVAC I, first commercially available computer	1946	
(St-Laurent)	1948	
	1949	Paul Frenette, French Editor of Debates
UNIVAC I predicts result of U.S. presidential election based on 1% of returns	1952	Thomas Hubbard, English Editor of Debates
IBM introduces the first electric typewriter	1954	
	1955	Index and Reference Branch created
(Diefenbaker)	1957	Warren K. Buskard, English Editor of Debates; Joan C. Blair, first woman reporter
	1960	IBM Selectric introduced
	1961	
(Pearson)	1963	
New Canadian flag debate	1964	
Canada Pension Plan implemented	1966	André Naubert, French Editor of Debates
(Trudeau)	1968	Louis R. Guertin, French Editor of Debates
Laurendeau-Dunton Commission report on bilingualism & biculturalism	1969	N. L. Price, English Editor of Debates
October Crisis	1970	
	1971	"Fuddle duddle" appears in <i>Hansard</i> .
IBM Correcting Selectric II introduced	1973	
	1974	J.G. Robertson, English Chief of Debates; H. Lacombe, French Chief of Debates
First broadcast of House of Commons proceedings	1977	
	1978	Doug Baker, English Chief of Debates
(Clark)	1979	
(Trudeau)	1980	John Ward, English Chief / Pierre Savard, French Chief; May 4 - 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of <i>Hansard</i>
Bell ringing episode Repatriation of the Constitution	1982	<i>Hansard</i> staff on rotating shifts for 14 days
(Turner, Mulroney)	1984	
	1986	COMAPS, introduction of Rainbow computers and the VAX
Persian Gulf War	1991	Transeditors begin to replace reporters; Proceedings monitors begin
	1992	Documentation Centre (now Proceedings and Verification Centre) created
(Campbell, Chrétien)	1993	
	1995	Introduction of Internet publishing
September 11 - Terrorist attacks in U.S.	2001	September 17 - 1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Hansard</i> produced in PRISM (included late debate on 9/11)
	2002	January 25 - Committee Evidence produced in PRISM

(Martin)	2004	October - Government and Private Members' Bills produced in PRISM Parliamentary Publications moves to 181 Queen Street
	2005	Parliamentary Publications launches its own website on IntraParl; May 4 - <i>Hansard</i> 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations

***Hansard 125 Reception—April 28, 2005***

