

LORD PRESIDENT

TELEVISIONING THE HOUSE

We discussed the draft report and I concentrated my attention on Para 37. I should say there is a dichotomy here. Andrew Turnbull takes the following view:

"I see dangers in setting up the experiment with highly restrictive rules. Once television gets its foot in the door there will be pressure to ease those rules. Better therefore to conduct the experiment on something which is likely to be sustainable in the longer term. Otherwise conclusions may be drawn on the basis of a rather comfortable and unthreatening image".

In my view, unless you lay down fairly tight rules at the outset you will be into Barnum & Bailey's circus in next to no time. Television is not concerned about information or reporting; its primary concern is entertainment.

The countenancing of a wide angle shot in 37 (ii) permits all the necessary leeway for varying the picture. Once you get into cutaways (sub para (iv)) or panning (sub para (vii)) you will be in trouble.

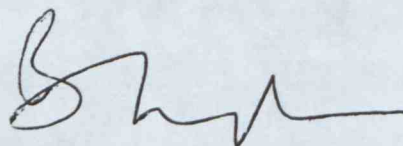
I suggest para 37 should be amended to read:

As now up to (iv) which should then be amended to:

"subject to the preceeding sub-paragraph, the camera should normally remain on the Member speaking until he has finished; cut away shots to illustrate reactions are not normally to be allowed, though medium angle shots, including over the shoulder shots, are permissible where the director wishes to show both the Member who has the floor and another Member intervening or seeking to do so.

v) in no circumstances are split screen shots to be used."

In other words the existing (iv) and (v) are amalgamated, as amended, and (vii) is dropped.



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