

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
7TH COUNCIL, 44TH SESSION
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL
NO. 2-44



RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 2-44

RECORDING AND SOUND
REINFORCEMENT SYSTEM FOR
COUNCIL CHAMBER

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered

Recording And Sound
Reinforcement System For
Council Chamber

Present Method

At present the recording of the Debates of the Council of the Northwest Territories is carried out by a Toronto-based firm of Court Reporters working under contract to the Territorial Government. The approximate cost for a three week session is as follows:

Contract	\$13,200
Travel	3,480
Expenses	<u>5,450</u>
Total	\$22,130

Problem

This high annual operating cost could be only slightly reduced by hiring if possible, a court reporting firm from the west coast. This change would save only about \$2730 per session.

Solution

A very substantial saving, in the long-term, could be effected by converting to the use of electronic sound recording equipment of the type used by the Canadian House of Commons for recording the proceedings of travelling committees. The estimated cost of the equipment required is \$7300.

A suitable system would consist of the following equipment:

- (1) a 2-track four deck recording assembly would provide for up to 20 persons recording on one tape track and an operator dubbing speakers names and other information on a second track.
- (2) four transcribing assemblies compatible with the recording equipment.
- (3) eleven microphones fitted with desk stands - each microphone to be shared by 2 members.
- (4) one microphone control console providing individual selection of ten microphones.
- (5) required interconnecting cabling.

Under this system when Council is sitting an operator would be on duty at the control console. This person would manipulate the controls to ensure that the microphones in front of persons speaking were open while all others were closed. By keeping only the microphones in front of persons speaking open, extraneous noises fed into the system, would be kept to a minimum.

Converting to this system would, of course, necessitate employing locally for the period of the session three or four additional typists to prepare the masters for printing the transcripts. This work is now done by the court reporting firm. An operator will also have to be employed for the period of the session.

It is estimated that costs involved will be:

Additional salaries (per 3 week session)	\$2000 (O & M Recurring)
Purchase of equipment	\$7300 (Capital)

Consideration could also be given now to the purchase and installation of a sound reinforcement system to enable Council Members to hear each other more clearly and to enable the public to hear properly Council's deliberations. All equipment would be portable so that it could be used in this chamber or elsewhere and with this or other furniture. This system would be integrated with the recording system.

The cost of the sound reinforcement equipment would be approximately \$1000.

The estimated total costs of installing and operating the proposed equipment would be:

Capital cost of equipment	<u>\$8300</u>
Additional salaries per 3 week session	<u>\$2000</u>

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the sound reinforcement and recording system proposed be purchased and put into use at the Summer Session, 1971.

HERMES ELECTRONICS LIMITED

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CANADA

November 13, 1970

File Ref: R8-11/DPW

NOV 20 1970

Mr. W.H. Remnant
Clerk of the Council
Government of the Northwest Territories
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

Dear Sir:

Further to your discussions with our Mr. Vosburgh re: tape recording of the Northwest Territories Council Meetings for transcription purpose, we take pleasure in submitting the following brief description of a portable Recording-Transcribing system we feel would meet your requirements.

The system we envisage would provide selectable microphone coverage for up to twenty persons recorded on one tape track, while the speaker's names are dubbed on a second track of the same tape. This would retain the physical relationship between the dubbed name and the speaker's voice. The recording assembly would contain two pairs of record decks (4 decks) facilitating duplicate two-track recording complete with overlap. Overlap is produced by starting the quiescent pair of record decks prior to stopping the active pair, thus, intelligence recorded at the end of one pair of tapes is identical to that recorded at the beginning of the following pair of tapes.

The Play-back or Transcriber assemblies would be completely compatible with the Recording assembly and would provide listening facilities via light-weight headsets or built-in loudspeakers, each individually volume controlled, Track configuration would facilitate listening to the Floor intelligence only, the Dubbing intelligence only, or the Dubbing superimposed on the Floor intelligence. The footswitch controls "stop" and "rewind" functions, eliminating all manual control during normal transcription.

For a Portable Recording-Transcribing System as depicted above, we take pleasure in submitting the following proposal for your consideration.

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ELECTRONIC AND OCEAN SYSTEMS

OTTAWA

WASHINGTON

To supply one Portable Recording-Transcribing system consisting of the equipments listed below.

- a) One, two-track four deck Recording assembly complete with all necessary control functions, amplifying and monitoring facilities. All decks will be designed to employ International Standard Cassettes inserted in front "Key-slot" guides rendering it impossible to jam the cassette or insert it incorrectly. The assembly will employ low-inertia drive mechanisms with electro-dynamic braking to minimize tape stress and damage. All pre-amplifiers, equalization units and bias oscillators will be of advanced solid state design. The assembly will be housed in two high-strength light-weight carrying cases.
- b) Four, two-track transcribing assemblies complete with earphones and foot switch controls. These assemblies will employ deck mechanisms and advanced solid state electronics identical to those employed in the recording assembly. Control facilities will be as follows:
 - (1) Playback from track 1,2, or 1 superimposed on 2, through headsets and/or loudspeakers individually volume controlled.
 - (2) Footpedal control of "start", "stop", or "backspace" and fingertip control of "fast forward".
- c) Eleven, Miniature Professional Omni-directional Microphones fitted with folding anti-shock desk stands.
- d) One, Miniature Microphone Control Console providing individual selection of ten microphones, master level control and monitoring facilities.
- e) One complete set of interconnecting cabling.

The microphones, microphone control console and interconnecting cabling will be housed in a high-strength light-weight carrying case.

To supply all equipments listed in (a) to (e) above as one Recording-Transcribing System.

For the Firm Fixed Price of \$7,236.00 tax excluded.

Due to normal in-built delay in obtaining materials from our suppliers, we would require a minimum of eight weeks in which to manufacture the proposed system.'

Should you require any further information and/or specifications on recording-transcribing equipments, we will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

Trusting that we may be of further assistance in this project.

Yours very truly,

AGBS/mm

cc--Mr. E. Vosburgh
Mr. A.G.B. Judd
Corporation House Ltd.

A.G.B. Judd
Vice-President, Marketing

Specifications for Recording and Transcribing Assemblies.

- A) Power source - 117 V.A.C. 60 Hz.
- B) Three specially designed A.C. motors per deck, two to drive each reel independently and one synchronous capstan motor providing constant capstan speed.
- C) Control mechanisms completely interlocked to prevent damage from misuse.
- D) Electro-dynamic braking
- E) Wow and flutter below 0.2% R.M.S.
- F) Frequency response ± 3 db. 30 Hz to 10 K Hz.
- G) Signal to noise ratio -47 db.
- H) = Record playback speed $1 \frac{7}{8}$ I.P.S.
(International Cassette Standard).