

“FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS THE SAFEGUARD OF OUR LIBERTY AND CANNOT BE DIMINISHED WITHOUT BEING LOST “

Thomas Jefferson.

TELEVISION

“ ..to inquire into and report on all aspects of media coverage of the House (including proceedings in the House, Main Committee and committees of the House).. ”

The House of Representatives should within the rules of decorum have no restrictions on television coverage of what happens within its confines while the parliament is in session.

Television news crews should be allowed to enter or exit the galleries at will.

Decorum means that television coverage of the debates should not be distracting or intrusive. This can be achieved by restricting crews to the galleries.

The rules covering what the Sound and Vision Office is permitted to send the TV bureaus should be broadened. Besides the current SAVO feed showing only the member with the call or the Speaker, bureaus should also be able to access other in-house camera angles. This is available to MPs and should be allowed to the accredited media.

Rules

This access should be allowed to all news crews with parliamentary press passes. Visiting crews would have to seek specific permission of the Speaker.