1 ABSTRACT

The Public Records and Archives Management Act was enforced on April 1, 2011 in Japan. The outstanding issue of the act is how to preserve congressional records. The National Diet of Japan shall, in consultation with the Prime Minister, take necessary measures for the appropriate preservation of Historical Public Records and Archives in accordance with Article 14. That is, record management in the Diet is the exclusion from application of the act.

Both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors in the Diet amended and laid down their document management regulations under the provisions of the act. The term “Record” as used in there regulations shall mean a document that, having been prepared or obtained by an employee of the Houses in the course of his or her duties is held by the Houses concerned for organizational use by its employees. A picture and an electromagnetic record are included in that document.

My study was conducted with electromagnetic records as the subject, especially video records of congressional consideration. The minutes of the Diet are up to the web site of the National Diet Library. But the comment which is spoken by the Member is removed from the minutes frequently. On the other hand, videos are recorded the comment of the Member as facts. But videos are removed from the web site about a year later.

With that in mind, I surveyed and compared the current situation of preservation of video records of the majority of countries in the world.

2 INTRODUCTION

2-1 BACKGROUND

In Japanese case

The limitations of minutes. The comment which is spoken by the Member is removed from the minutes frequently.

The meaning or potential of video of the proceedings. Videos are recorded the comment of the Member as facts.

The Permanent Preservation of Video Records of Congressional Consideration at the National Diet of Japan

Ayako OHKURA (大蔵 细子) University of Tsukuba, Graduate School of Library, Information and Media Studies

3 FINDINGS

3-1 MINUTES

In Japan, USA and France, when someone makes an irrelevant remark like to wound to the House’s dignity or insult another Member, the chairman can exercise the powers of elimination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Handling</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>France</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speech which the chairman orders to rescind is deleted from the minutes.</td>
<td>An irrelevant remark isn’t described in shorthand report.</td>
<td>The chairman can rescind the floor. In that case, he/she can order not to describe in the minutes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>However, it is described on the original material of the minutes.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legal grounds

- The Diet Law, Article 116
- The Rules of the House of Representatives, Article 206
- The Rules of the House of Councillors, Article 161

precedent

The standing orders of the National Assembly, Article 54.

Table 1: Handling and legal grounds of an indirect comment

In almost all countries except Japan, an unofficial comment (jeering, booing, catcalling, heckling, hooting, interruption, etc.) is described in the minutes alike an official comment as much as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Handling</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An unofficial remark isn’t described in shorthand report as much as possible.</td>
<td>It is included not only comment which the chairman permit to speak but also an unofficial comment.</td>
<td>An unofficial remark is described in the minutes as much as possible. It is described likewise official comment.</td>
<td>It is often that an unofficial remark is treated alike an official comment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Proceedings” means not all comments but only an official comment (The concepts of “proceedings” is smaller than Europe)</td>
<td>It is a part of contents or context of proceedings, because it has something to do with the procedural, and help to describe the situation of the deliberation.</td>
<td>A cry which answered an official comment on the floor is included in the proceedings.</td>
<td>Even for just unofficial remark, a speaker responds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Handling and thinking of an unofficial comment

3-2 VIDEOS

In many countries, video of the proceedings are streamed live and archived at own web site.

However, in Japan, it is removed after one from the end of the session because many Japanese Members are unwilling to keep opening in the web site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Germany</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The House of Representatives and the House of Councillors</td>
<td>The Library of Congress</td>
<td>The German Bundestag, The Media Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search and watch videos through the web site of the each House.</td>
<td>Contact the Motion Picture and Television Reference Desk at Tel, Fax, or mail. No restrictions.</td>
<td>Search, watch and download through the web site of the German Bundestag. No restrictions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 session and a year (It is provided in units of a session and removed one year after from the end of the session).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preservation

Japan doesn’t have parliamentary archives. The video-records is preserved in each House (After it is removed from the web site, it isn’t open to the general public).

USA

The National Archives has the originals tapes and the preservation copies..

France

The Parliamentary Archives holds the original records.

Table 3: Access to video-on-demand for the general user

4 CONCLUSIONS

4-1 CONCLUSIONS

- The minutes have played an important part in the functions of a right to know and surveillance to parliament.
- But the minutes can’t describe an indirect and unofficial comment in detail. It is the limitations of minutes in a society in which the information level has been highly developed just like today.
- Many countries as it is, paper medium is a formal record, on the other hand video is not considered an official record. In spite of this, video of the proceedings are not only streamed live but also archived at own web site and provided for the general user in many countries.
- In Japan, these video records are removed from web site after about several years. Most Member of Parliament in Japan has objected to the public video for a long time. Because videos have been published indefinitively, the difference between speech content in the proceedings is outstanding. So many Japanese Members are unwilling to keep opening in the web site for a long time.

4-2 FUTURE ISSUES

- Add countries surveyed to understand the conditions or the circumstances of preservation and use.
- Research relationships between political systems and existence of parliamentary archives.
- Consider the meaning or potential about video of the proceedings as an archival material and the role of parliamentary archives.

5 REFERENCE

Library of congress, “Congressional Floor Proceedings”
http://www.loc.gov/avcspreservation/collections/congress.html

German Bundestag, Mediathèque, “Welcome to Parliament’s Video and Audio”
http://www.bundestag.de/tv

House of Parliament, “Welcome to Parliament’s Video and Audio”
http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Home.aspx

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A lot of and valuable information was provided via e-mail by archivists or staff in numerous countries. I am deeply grateful to all of them.

7 CONTACT

Ayako OHKURA 大蔵 细子
Doctoral Program student
Graduate School of Library, Information and Media Studies
University of Tsukuba
ohkura@silts.tsukuba.ac.jp