

July, 1969, he attended the Area Conference in Newfoundland and introduced two workshop discussions, one on parliamentary privilege, and the other on Parliament's relations with the press.

The latest major contribution was to the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Parliaments held here on September 8-12 of 1969. This is, of course, more properly a subject of our next report, but the Chief of the Branch was Secretary to this Conference and another Research Officer, Miss Carroll, served with the Secretariat. In the course of the preparations Mr. Laundry visited London in December of 1968.

### 3. ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

#### A. *Automation*

All three meetings of the Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament since our last report considered at some length using automation to serve Parliament. The meeting of November 19, 1968, approved the Parliamentary Librarian's recommendation for "a preliminary survey to determine what system, if any, should be installed to improve the abstracting, storing, and retrieval of information, and to provide a rough estimate of the costs of any programme recommended." Further information was requested, however. This was provided at the next meeting, February 26, 1969, when it was decided to ask the then Bureau of Management Consultants of the Public Service Commission to undertake a "preliminary automation survey of certain functions of the Library of Parliament, and the indexing services available on Parliament Hill."

At the third and last meeting June 18, 1969, the Joint Committee, all members of which had received a copy in advance, considered the disappointing report of the newly-christened Bureau of Management Consulting Services, Department of Supply & Services. Its main recommendation was to follow a wait and see policy, but the matter will be considered again at the next meeting.

In the meantime, for your consideration, a quote from our brief to the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy (p. 5578, No. 42, Proceedings, April 30, 1969):

"Additionally, if this Library is to serve Parliament in the most effective way, it is necessary that a small corps of experts on automation be added to improve library performance, maintain contact with other automated sources of information, and to advise both Houses in this area. Computer expertise is needed on Parliament Hill, and the logical place for it is in the only central, jointly controlled agency, the Library."

#### 3. B. *Associate Parliamentary Librarian*

Appointment of the Associate Parliamentary Librarian, M. Guy Sylvestre, to be National Librarian of Canada on June 1, 1968, though flattering to us, has left a critical gap in our administration that has not yet been filled. It is hoped that his successor will soon be named to help us plan for and quickly utilize the most effective automation Parliament can afford. In the meantime,