

PREPARATION OF SPEECHES BY PUBLIC SERVANTS FOR
MEMBERS OF CABINET

Question No. 341—**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

How many public servants participate regularly in the preparation of speeches of (a) the Prime Minister (b) the Leader of the Government in the Senate (c) the Secretary of State for External Affairs (d) the President of the Privy Council (e) the President of the Treasury Board (f) the Minister of Transport (g) the Minister of Finance (h) the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (i) the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (j) the Minister of Labour (k) the Minister of Communications (l) the Minister of the Environment and Minister of Fisheries (m) the Minister of Public Works (n) the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (o) the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (p) the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (q) the Minister of National Defence (r) the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada (s) the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (t) the Minister of National Revenue (u) the Minister of Supply and Services (v) the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (w) the Minister of State (x) the Minister of Agriculture (y) the Solicitor General of Canada (z) the Secretary of State of Canada (aa) the Postmaster General (bb) the Minister of Veterans Affairs (cc) the Minister of National Health and Welfare (dd) the Minister of State for Science and Technology?

Return tabled.

● (0000)

NUMBER OF BANKRUPTCIES REGISTERED IN 1970

Question No. 595—**Mr. Fortin:**

1. How many bankruptcies were registered in each province, each year since 1970?
2. What steps has the government taken to prevent fraudulent bankruptcies?

Return tabled.

● (1410)

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call notices of motions for the production of papers Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6.

COPY OF APPLICATION OF "NEW CANADA—TORONTO"
RELATING TO MULTICULTURALISM GRANT

Motion No. 3—**Mr. Hellyer:**

That an Order of the House do issue for production of copies of the application of "New Canada—Toronto" in respect of the \$18,000 grant announced by the Minister of State for Multiculturalism on October 3, 1973 and all correspondence to and from the government in respect thereof.

Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Minister of State): Mr. Speaker, these papers contain or refer to information provided in confidence to the department. Under the circumstances the hon. member may wish to withdraw his motion.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege affecting my rights and the rights of all members of the House of Commons. The government of Canada, in refusing to make available the papers asked for

Motions for Papers

in this notice of motion for the production of papers, is not complying with its own guidelines as laid down on March 15 of last year at page 2288 of *Hansard*.

More specifically, the papers and documents asked for do not represent legal opinions or advice provided for the use of the government. The motion does not ask for papers, the release of which would be detrimental to the security of the state. It does not ask for papers dealing with international relations, the release of which might be detrimental to the future conduct of Canada's foreign relations. It does not ask for papers that are private, confidential or not of public or official character. It does not ask for internal departmental memoranda. In substance, the papers asked for are not included in any of the categories which the government indicated to the House were amongst those that were considered privileged.

Furthermore, when these motions were under consideration at the last session of parliament the Minister of State in charge of multiculturalism (Mr. Haidasz) told me that a Mr. Michael McCabe had made the decision that these papers were privileged. An official from the office of the Secretary of State subsequently confirmed this information and added that the decision had been referred to Mr. Bernard Ostry who had concurred in the decision. It is obvious that the two ministers, the Minister of State in charge of multiculturalism and the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner) are not concerned about the rights of parliament and in fact have been mere rubber-stamps for Messrs. McCabe and Ostry.

I have taken the trouble to look up the precedents going back 25 years and I would like to cite several in an attempt to establish a prima facie case of privilege. If Your Honour so rules, I would then be prepared to move a substantive motion based on the question of privilege.

The precedents go back to some examples in the twenty-first parliament. They are as follows: no objection was raised by the government to producing a copy of all correspondence passing between a Mr. Marion and the Department of Telegraph and Telephone Lines in Saskatchewan. Another Saskatchewan item met with no objection: correspondence in connection with a payment to a named individual under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act.

A typical example of the attitude of the government of the day can be found in the answer of the parliamentary assistant upon objecting to a motion for papers because it involved interdepartmental papers:

MR. CÔTÉ (VERDUN-LA SALLE): The construction we have to place on this motion clearly indicates that it has to do with strictly interdepartmental matters. Upon that ground it would be impossible for us to agree to the passing of the motion as it stands. If the hon. member has something else in mind, or if he would be satisfied with the tabling of communications to or from any external source, we would agree to the amending of the motion, and the passing of it as amended.

This emphasizes the willingness of the government to produce documentation channelled to or from sources outside the government.

On March 12, 1952, when some correspondence between the federal government and provincial governments and a farmers' union was requested, Prime Minister St. Laurent agreed to the motion with the usual reservation that the consent of the other governments involved was necessary,