

*House of Commons*

which a serious member of parliament must undertake. Indeed, in line with the remarks of the hon. member who just sat down, how long would it take if one were to read all of *Hansard* after it is compiled, to say nothing of the statutes?

I went to great length to study the Canada Pension Plan, all three versions, but when one of my constituents asks a question I am never sure what the proper answer should be because I studied the preceding ones as well as the final one. The massive volumes of royal commission reports compound the complexity of what is before us. It is difficult to talk about all these matters because one is apt to give the impression, to use the expression of Hon. Howard Green, that one is whining about things. I think, however, that there is a legitimate case for the extension of our facilities. The research division in the library in my opinion is doing a fine job, but it is just a beginning.

It is so easy for us in Canada, with our curious superiority complex, to look upon the system south of us as being inferior, but I believe that if we look carefully at the average functioning Congressman and Senator we will see that in many ways he is able to function more effectively than we. I think the development of this sort of thing is part of the reason. I quite agree that we should give careful study to the internship program. I am delighted that my hon. friend has mentioned political scientists first because naturally these are the brainiest people of all. They have the proper training and are people who should be here.

Journalists certainly need this plan. Whether or not the house needs more lawyers is a question which there is not time to debate now, although I would like to take one side in that argument rather strongly. I suggest that perhaps the categories should be broadened to include many students, perhaps those in the humanities and social sciences and, indeed, perhaps those in the pure and applied science fields. Before we go as far as we must go, however, I think we will have to think of other changes here. We are going to need an increased physical plant on Parliament Hill. We are going to have to wake up to the fact that some time we had better look at the calendar a little more realistically and decide in deliberative assembly that we can pre-arrange the date of our convening and in a general way the date of our proroguing.

I believe that soon we must come to realize that a closer approximation to the academic

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

year would be a reasonable way for us to conduct our yearly schedule here. With that in mind the program suggested by the hon. member would fit in extremely well. I should like to see the interns doing the things the mover suggests, but I think the most suitable arrangement would be an approximation of the academic year. There are so many things that bright young people could do to benefit us individually, to benefit the institution as a whole and, I would hope, to benefit them.

● (6:50 p.m.)

As a former professor of political science I agree with the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) that exposure to the practical aspects of politics may have some enriching effect, certainly on the man behind the podium and I would think it would extend to those on the other side of it. Perhaps he and I, if we return to the halls of academy, will look back on our internship here as something useful at least to us and hopefully for those who may be in our intellectual charge, if I may put it that way. I would say that this is a most imaginative, useful and thoughtful suggestion and the kind of thing which our parliament and our country should consider carefully and favourably. The bread and water era of our country proving itself in an economic way has long since passed and I think we must now think of improving our basic institutions. This is a fine, practical and useful suggestion. I support it wholeheartedly and I will now make time available for others to speak and for all of us to vote.

**Mr. L. M. Brand (Saskatoon):** Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to take up very much time of the house but I should like to make a few remarks in support of the notice of motion presented by my colleague, the hon. member for Wellington South (Mr. Hales). In doing so may I say that its implementation will be beneficial indeed not only from the viewpoint of those who are going to participate in the program but also from the viewpoint of members of parliament, particularly those of us who are in our legislative infancy.

It is interesting, and allusion has been made to this by other speakers, to make comparisons of the research facilities available to members of parliament and those to which members of the Congress of the United States have access. Certainly the notice of motion before us would seem to parallel almost the congressional fellowship program