- 2. Obviously, it is essential that Parliamentarians have up-to-date, relevant information, whenever needed.
- 3. The Library of Parliament is the only operating agency specifically established to provide information of all kinds, and at all times, to all Federal Parliamentarians.
- 4. The Parliamentary Librarian is responsible to the Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament assisted by the Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament.
- 5. The Library of Parliament's three branches, Reference, Research, and Cataloguing, are primarily organized to collect in anticipation of need, organize and store, retrieve, rework (if necessary), and disseminate, the information requested by Parliamentarians.
- 6. Roughly one-third of the Library's nearly 300,000 volumes are government documents. The remainder are largely in the field of the social sciences and related areas—economics, history, law, political economy, and sociology. A rapidly decreasing proportion of the collection is literature, religion, and unwanted books received on copyright deposit.
- 7. As the National Library has increasingly assumed our older storage function (in addition to its more vital and important roles) the Library of Parliament has been able to improve its services to Parliamentarians. A clipping service was established in 1963, the Research Branch, and Committee indexing in 1965.
- 8. Fortunately, the Library of Parliament can depend on the National Science Library and other specialized libraries for information of a highly technical and purely scientific nature, and there is no need for large-scale duplication.
- 9. Nevertheless, the Library of Parliament remains free to build its collection to suit the needs of Parliament, and this independence is necessary to its proper function.
- 10. Because of the quality and accessibility of its collection, the Library of Parliament feels obligated to serve "strangers", when service to Parliamentarians does not prohibit this, and is rewarded in turn by the co-operative assistance of others.
- 11. The chief future requirement of the Library of Parliament is more space to accommodate even better and more numerous Research Officers, Librarians, and their assistants.
- 12. Science and automation presently affect the Library indirectly, but in the near future should offer considerable possibilities for improved service. We have requested an outside survey of automation potential to assist us in planning for the future.
- 13. The ready availability of material likely to be required is a matter of good judgment, intuition, space, and money. The ability to evaluate the usefulness of material to Parliamentarians, or re-work it into useful form, is a matter of training, experience and judgment, and should be well-rewarded.
- 14. Beyond Parliament, as the Library of Parliament does not work in isolation, the roles of the National Library and the National Science Library