

*House of Commons*

treaty making and United Nations procedure, and on the following day deal with labour law, collective bargaining, conciliation and arbitration.

Just as ministers, members of parliament and civil servants are obliged to concentrate their interests, it follows that members of the press gallery may have to do likewise. It is only in this way that the Canadian people will be able to get the specialized reporting they need to judge properly the work of parliament and government. It is recognized that the press gallery already has specialists and men from specialized journals, but the vast majority are individuals who are required to do the general reporting of all parliamentary business. It would seem that a parliamentary internship for students of journalism or apprentice journalists might help give this profession a more highly qualified group of reporters and critics.

● (6:40 p.m.)

The second aspect of this motion recommends that the parliamentary interns be assigned to members of parliament as assistants. This suggestion has been made for many years and each year it becomes more and more urgent. As I have already mentioned, government business is becoming more and more extensive and more and more complex. While an intelligent member of parliament may have been able to keep himself fully informed on all legislation 30 or 40 years ago, this is almost impossible today. In the ordinary course of his duties a member of parliament is required to sit in the house each afternoon, to sit in committees at least two mornings a week, to attend caucus at least one morning a week, to meet constituents and various lobby groups, to answer correspondence, to keep informed about the bills and resolutions which are presented to the house and, from time to time, to prepare speeches.

If a member attends all sittings of the house, all the meetings of committees of which he is a member and caucus meetings, it is easy to observe that he will not have much time to do all the other things mentioned. One of the most important and time consuming tasks is the reading and research required to prepare his speeches and his house and committee work. Even if the member of parliament has taken the course in rapid reading which is being given here he still could spend five hours a day reading and not even scratch the surface of many subjects.

I might say that the member would be able to do much more reading and research if he was provided with such standard business equipment as a dictating machine. If ever there was a job where dictating equipment was required, it is that of the member of parliament. While his secretary is in his office from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., he usually is required to be in the house or in committee during these hours and therefore is often not able to dictate. If he had dictating equipment he could dictate at all available hours of the day and night without concern for the presence of his secretary. It would also allow him to make better use of his time and to plan his day in a more orderly fashion.

However, in order to perform his work properly the member of parliament must be given research assistance. The manner suggested by this bill is a good one. In this way we help not only those studying government but also the entire functioning of parliament.

In the United States Congress each congressman is provided with two secretaries and a research assistant. I understand that the United States senator has even more assistance than the ordinary member of the House of Representatives.

I should say also that the work presently being done by the legislative reference service of the parliamentary library is a good start. Although it was begun only recently it does provide us with a good deal of help in research. I think, however, that the type of research suggested in this resolution is necessary and should supplement the reference service. Mr. Speaker, I think this is an excellent resolution and I give it my full support.

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens):** Mr. Speaker, as has been the case in respect of all the speeches that the mover of this resolution has made since he came to this house in 1957, this one is a product of careful thought, proper research and extremely good intentions. I am completely in support of the general purpose which he seeks to achieve by this resolution. I congratulate him on the purpose he has in mind and I think there is great need for it to be achieved. Both preceding speakers established that need.

One is never concerned when people denigrate the politician. They have been doing so ever since there has been the product of politics. But when the institution itself is publicly denigrated and seriously misrepresented we are concerned. I believe there is a great need for this sort of assistance, this sort of recognition of the complexity of the task