

Chief Cataloguing Librarian, and their staffs, for the magnificent efforts they have made to assist all Parliamentarians, academics, and departmental officers, despite the overcrowded conditions in which they work. At this time, when both more questions, and more of a complex nature, are being asked, and more publications, and of a more difficult nature, are being published, we are fortunate indeed to have such a devoted and efficient staff trained and experienced to deal with these complexities. Miss Pamela Hardisty, the Assistant Librarian, who is now directly responsible for all these services, has also earned the appreciation of all Parliamentarians for assuming additional responsibilities in the absence of an Associate Parliamentary Librarian.

2. RESEARCH BRANCH Staff of 18

A. Individual & General Service

During the fiscal year 1968/69 182 projects were completed, sixteen fewer than in 1967/68. The nature of papers requested is becoming more sophisticated, however, and requires both more extensive and intensive work on the part of our Research Officers. For this the Library needs more staff, and even more highly qualified staff, merely to maintain satisfactory service. The present staff is very good, but it is working at capacity. It is exceedingly difficult to produce good work on short notice, and sometimes projects must be refused. It is clear, of course, that if the necessary additional staff is provided, convenient office space will be needed. In hiring more staff close attention will be paid to bilingualism, but it must be reported that, after rising to a high of 15% in 1967/68, the percentage of French requests dropped to 12.5% of the total in 1968/69, and is continuing to fall.

Apart from the papers prepared for Parliamentary Associations, 26 in 1968/69, two fewer than in 1967/68, the following comparisons may be of interest. Senate use has doubled; from 10 papers in 1967/68 to 20 in 1968/69. In Parliament as a whole, opposition use has been increasing faster than "government" use. In 1967/68 Liberals had 120 papers prepared, the entire opposition 40, or 25% of the total. In 1968/69 the Liberals had 73 papers prepared, all opposition parties 68, or 41% of the total of this type of paper. These figures exclude work done for Parliamentary Associations, and other neutrals, of course.

2. B. Parliamentary Committees

Extensive use of our Research Branch by Parliamentary Committees clearly demonstrates the need for expansion to serve Committees as well as individual Parliamentarians. Work for Committees is vital, of course, but it is particularly time-consuming as our Research Officers frequently must attend committee meetings in addition to preparing papers.

The Chief of the Research Branch has continued to assist the House of Commons Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization. He attended meetings regularly and prepared papers for this Committee before which the Parliamentary Librarian appeared as a witness on March 25, 1969.