

Mr. Thomas E. (Tom) Monette, certainly one of the best liked, and most courteously efficient staff members ever to serve in this Library, retired as Senior Library Consultant this year, and all who knew him still regret his going. He was a truly outstanding staff member, and the attendance of both the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons at his retirement party in October testifies to the regard in which he was held by those he served.

*RESEARCH BRANCH:* Mr. Philip Laundry, Chief.

Office space, the most pressing problem for this branch, was finally provided by the Department of Public Works in the Rideau Club Annex in September, 1967, but is temporary only, allows inadequate room for expansion, and is by no means first rate in either location or facilities. Nevertheless, it is an immense and much appreciated improvement over the cramped quarters previously occupied within the Library itself.

As the director's office remains in the Library, and is always occupied by one of his staff when he is absent, close touch is retained between the branch and the "consumer", but ideally, all Research Officers should be on Parliament Hill.

One Research Officer left, but two experienced new Officers, Mr. Anthony J. Wright, from the Parliamentary Press Gallery, and Miss Margaret A. Carroll, from the Department of National Defence, were added.

200 papers were completed in 1967, 133 for government Members or Liberal appointed Senators, 42 for opposition Members or Conservative appointed Senators, and the remaining 25 for parliamentary committees, delegations, and associations. Contrary to general expectation, opposition use of this service declined last year and remains a matter of some concern.

It is interesting to note, however, that "inquiries have become more sophisticated", and "studies in relative depth" are replacing "the superficial". If more staff were available, we could do more to encourage use.

In addition to his regular duties, Mr. Laundry served as Secretary to the House of Commons Special Committee on Procedure, and from March 27 to April 9, 1967, served as Secretary to the Canadian Delegation at the Spring Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Majorca.

*CATALOGUING AND ORDER BRANCH:* Miss Florence Moore, Chief.

The 18,377 volumes catalogued and classified in 1967 represents an increase of 3,750 over 1966, 6,534 more than in 1965. Variations like this are usually explained by shorter periods of recess, though staff changes and new methods frequently lead to improvement.

*HOUSE OF COMMONS READING ROOM:* M. Jean Houle, Chief.

The three bilingual staff members here maintain 829 newspapers (160 daily, 669 weekly), 235 periodicals, and 4,000 novels. As this Reading Room is freely open to Senators, it is perhaps time that the role of the Senate Reading Room be again re-examined by the proper authorities.

*BINDERY:* Mr. Robert L. Brydon, Chief.

The loss of our Chief Binder, Mr. Conrad Sabourin, to the C.B.C. where he is now Record Library Supervisor of the music record collection of CBO, CBOFM, and CBOF, was an unexpected blow, and we all regretted his departure