

Printers promotion sales department is \$15 to all other Canadians.

Naturally, in view of the fact that the New Democratic Party is opposed to any form of discrimination on the basis of race, creed, sex or legitimate vocation, my democratic hackles were immediately raised by this gross discrimination against the ordinary people.

This discrimination also has been noted by the press. For instance, Mr. Maurice Western, who writes philosophically about the achievements and failures of mankind, nations and governments, recently wrote a column on the Auditor General's report and particularly noted the losses to the taxpayer from the sale of the Canada Law Report to the legal profession, although this loss previously had been brought to the attention of the government by the Auditor General.

In support of my argument, I should like briefly to quote from the Auditor General's Report, which is well worth anyone's serious study. This is from paragraph 117 at page 71:

Losses resulting from the sale of the "Canada Law Reports": The Canada Law Reports are periodicals covering proceedings of the Supreme Court and the Exchequer Court. They are prepared for the benefit of the legal profession and distributed by the Queen's Printer in two volumes per issue (one for each court's proceedings) with ten issues per year.

In accordance with agreements between the Crown, represented by the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada, and various law societies in Canada, copies are provided free of charge to officers and libraries of the societies and to judges and court officers, while members of the societies are supplied with copies at an annual rate of \$5 per member which is payable by the societies. This subscription rate of \$5 is based on a 1962-63 direct printing cost of \$4.43 per subscription. It should be noted that this cost does not include any costs of compilation, publisher's overhead, postage or the value of services provided without charge by other departments.

The charge for a subscription sold through the Queen's Printer's Sales Promotion Division is \$15.

For the year 1965 some 10,100 copies of each issue of the Reports were printed, of which some 460 copies were distributed free to government departments and others entitled to receive government publications free of charge, some 630 copies were distributed free to law societies, judges, etc., approximately 8,670 were sold at \$5 per subscription and 360 at \$15 per subscription. The paid subscriptions produced an estimated revenue of \$48,750. The direct printing costs, which amounted to \$99,017, equivalent to \$9.80 per subscription, were charged to the appropriation (Vote 5) of the Department of Public Printing and Stationery.

● (10:30 p.m.)

On May 31, 1966, the Department of Public Printing and Stationery advised the Registrar of the Supreme Court that the printing costs had almost doubled since the subscription rate of \$5 was set in 1963. He recommended that the price

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to the law societies be set at not less than \$10 per annual subscription commencing January, 1967.

The agreements referred to above are on a continuing basis but provide that "either party may terminate this agreement at any time, to be effective at the end of the then current year, by mailing postpaid notice of such termination to the other party not later than the first day of October in that year".

As no such notifications were mailed prior to October 1, 1966, by the Registrar of the Supreme Court, losses to the crown from these sales will continue throughout the calendar year 1967.

After reading that report of the Auditor General and finding that this gross discrimination was being practised by the Queen's Printer in the sale of these documents, I was moved to ask the Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury) the following question today: "Can the minister inform the house why the Canada Law Reports are sold to members of the legal profession, who have one of the highest incomes per capita in Canada, at an annual rate of \$5, while the general public are required to pay \$15 for the same report?"

I trust that the parliamentary secretary will be able to give me some satisfactory reply to this protest, which I think is fully justified and would be supported by the great majority of the Canadian people.

Mr. B. S. Mackasey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the main purpose I stayed behind to answer the question was to take advantage of this opportunity to pay tribute to the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) because so seldom have I an opportunity to congratulate him on his wisdom, integrity and concern for the average Canadian. As I say, it was for that reason I stayed behind this evening to answer the question.

Obviously the Auditor General has once again proven to the Canadian public, by bringing this matter to our attention, the justification of his existence and his vigilance. It seems obvious to me that when the annual rate of \$5 was established for members of the legal profession it had some direct relationship to the cost of printing. But the fact is that the cost of printing today would justify a fee of \$10. I shall certainly add my views to those of the hon. member and through the medium of my caucus in this house suggest that steps be immediately taken to remedy this situation.

I am as puzzled as the hon. member to know why the general public should be required to pay \$15. I think the least we should do in establishing the price of \$10 is see that