

Supply—Legislation

Mr. Speaker: I shall make inquiry to see whether there are any others and will inform the hon. member of the result of my inquiry.

Mr. Garland: Can he perhaps say at the same time whether any other installations are being contemplated at the present time?

Mr. Speaker: I have dealt with that matter in the previous answer.

Mr. McGee: There is one other matter I wish to mention concerning the arrangements in the building. It has come to my attention that there have been a considerable number of visitors, both from the United States and Canada, and it is my understanding that of late there has been a larger percentage of Canadians visiting the building, a fact which adds some force to my suggestion. Frequent comments have been made to me and they come indirectly from others to the effect that the hours when tours of the building are available to visitors of the building are rather restricted. I would suggest that Mr. Speaker give consideration to extending the facilities or extending the hours and, if necessary, to hiring college students or high school students to assist the staff who are already rather heavily burdened in this matter. I have one further suggestion concerning the arrangements in the house. It would seem to me that it might be desirable to have some pamphlet giving a brief description of the house and possibly some historical background available free to visitors of the house and not to have the procedure presently in effect, as I understand it, by which they must purchase this information. I would greatly appreciate it if these matters could be considered.

Mr. Speaker: I shall be glad to give consideration to these suggestions. In fact, I have already done so. The number of visitors to the parliament buildings is increasing each year. Last year the number was 50,000 more than the year before, to a total of 350,000. The Sergeant at Arms informs me that at the present time there are approximately 3,000 visitors a day to the parliament buildings. I think the hours are not out of line. I believe that an attempt was made to keep the buildings open in the evenings and it was found that there was really no call for it. It also complicates the other arrangements. We have an excellent guide service, I believe. Hon. members will have observed and heard the protective staff taking parties about the parliament buildings. I think they do a good and courteous job. If more are needed, of course they will be added. We are in a state where our visitors are increasing and we may

[Mr. Garland.]

be obliged to change the present system or alternatively to add to it. It may be that the number of visitors will interfere with parliament itself and some restriction may have to be put on if we become any more popular than we are at the moment.

Mr. Peters: Some mention was made a few minutes ago to *Hansard*. A United States visitor was over here a few weeks ago and he dropped in to see me. He commented on the fact that copies of our *Hansard* were not as difficult to obtain as were the records of the United States congress. He does considerable work in the legislative field there and was interested in this matter. He pointed out that the people who visit here—and there are thousands every day—are not readily exposed to the fact that they can buy *Hansard* if they wish to do so, and that it is a factual record of the house. I should like to make the suggestion that we put a rack in the lobby of the House of Commons where *Hansard* is displayed. If it were thought fit to give copies away, that would be fine but if it were not thought fit to do that, they might be available so that visitors could purchase them at the regular price. We could probably encourage a great deal more interest in the House of Commons and in the debates that take place here if the people were to know that this type of information was available at the very low price we charge for it.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I should say just one word on that matter and on the suggestion of the hon. member for York-Scarborough. We sell some souvenir booklets, as hon. members know, at the base of the elevator to the peace tower and that sale is handled by the protective staff. That is a matter which has recently come under my notice and I have been considering whether or not we have the best possible method of supplying the essential documents to tourists. It was suggested that we give a booklet. We have a booklet with which all hon. members are familiar. It is a little booklet published by the queen's printer. I think we pay ten cents for it. It is an illustrated booklet and it tells how parliament works. It is a very good short summary in a convenient size. If we gave this booklet to each of the tourists this year, for example, at ten cents apiece it would cost us \$30,000. I do not know whether parliament is prepared to go into that kind of expenditure. The books are available to those who want them at fifteen cents. I have been considering the possibility of a free distribution but I am not convinced that it would be the best use of the money. The tourists seem to get what they want and they are ready to pay for it. However, I am interested in what