

Procedures were devised that still prevail today, giving researchers access to our records well within the 30-year closed period that prevailed at the time. All went ahead quite smoothly and the kingdom did not fall. I believe those procedures have been brought to your attention. Several scholars here tonight have made good use of this departmental service for their lectures and books.

Another way of making our records available to researchers was to hire them! Ed agreed that it would be a good idea to interview ministers, senior officers or others coming home from unusual assignments abroad so as to have their opinions, their roles, on record for future research. Thus our oral history program came into being. It went ahead great guns, while the money lasted, and it ventured well beyond interviews with cabinet ministers and departmental officers. Contracts were signed with several academics, who were of course given access to our records for the purposes of their interviews. But oral history, as you know, is a costly operation, involving the expenses of interviewers and interviewees, equipment and so on. In times of budgetary restraint, it is vulnerable. However, it was and still is a useful research tool.

As regards the publication of our records, when I arrived on the scene work was progressing on the well-known series of *Documents on Canadian External Relations*. It was established under the direction of the late George Glazebrook, as you heard from Mr. Kelly yesterday.

Three volumes had appeared. The fourth, fifth, and sixth bringing the record down to 1939 would be ready for publication shortly. It became necessary to find editors for the next few volumes, because another one of Mr. Ritchie's instructions was to keep the series moving ahead as fast as possible.

I was extraordinarily lucky in finding outstanding editors. They are all here tonight: David Murray of the University of Guelph, John Hilliker of Lakehead University, who now heads the department's Historical Section, Don Page, currently academic vice-president at Trinity Western University in British Columbia and Don Barry of the University of Calgary. It is nice to note that we are still on talking terms.

The *Documents* series was being produced under guidelines set by Prof. Glazebrook, notably that only final government decisions should be presented. Mr. Ritchie agreed that it would be much more interesting, and also more useful, if the factors and forces which had influenced those decisions and contributed to the results, if the reasons behind the decisions, could also be included.