

its publications by conventional methods has recently switched to Alphatext. Board officials told me that because of several factors -- lower printing costs, the smaller size of paper needed to contain the same material, and lower mailing charges -- they project savings of \$115,200 in producing 48 100-page documents over the next eight months.

(5) The Printing Products Branch of DSS, which as I noted checked my findings, offers a service under which it will carry out detailed printing costs surveys for other government departments at \$200 a day. While they considered the cost estimates I had come up with accurate in the main, they suggested that Alphatext costs may be higher than necessary and that there are alternative methods of producing the record which might be cheaper. These alternative methods, I gather come within the sphere of automated printing but are less sophisticated than the Alphatext system, which in terms far too technical to explain here, offers a range of services in a handy "package deal."

The Printing Products Branch experts made it clear that they would (like greatly) to have a look at how we in External produce all our publications and advise us on what changes we might profitably make. However they would be willing to examine the one project in which we are particularly