

3. H. Communications

Because Parliamentarians are such busy people it is especially difficult to effectively inform them of what we can and cannot do. Printed messages outlining assistance have been only partly effective though we write individually to all members of the House of Commons on initial election and all Senators on appointment, enclosing copies of our bilingual booklet *This is Your Library/Voici votre bibliothèque*, and other potentially useful material.

In the fall of 1968, however, we finally gained admission to caucus meetings of all parties, delivered our message, and in most cases had time to answer questions, sometimes in detail. This was a major breakthrough in effective communication, and we thank party leaders and their assistants for giving us the opportunity to explain, under party auspices, our services to all Members.

We also thank Senator H. de M. Molson, Chairman, Senate Special Committee on Rules of the Senate, for his suggestion, followed in January, 1969, that we write a special brief letter to all Senators and Members regarding our Reference and Research Services and the distinction between the two.

In June, 1969, we sent a questionnaire to all Senators and Members of Parliament with the request that they "Help us to improve our library service ...by returning this questionnaire." Improved after consultation with two helpful professional public relations men, Mr. Grant Deachman, M.P., and M. J. A. Mongrain, M.P., to whom we now publicly express our thanks, this questionnaire was designed to inform Parliamentarians as well as provide us with additional "feed-back". So far, only 115 have been returned, but as the findings will not be reported until next year, all Parliamentarians who have not returned them are still urged to do so. To those who have returned the forms we extend our thanks.

4. INFORMATION CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

A. *Parliament's Centennial Project*

The first volume of this expensive, but worthwhile project (the compilation, editing, and publication of a Hansard for the years 1867-1874 during which time there was no official record of debates) was published in the summer of 1968, and covered the 1st Session of the 1st Parliament, 1867-1868. As there were separate volumes for the Debates of the Senate and for the Debates of the House of Commons, and as each was published in French and in English, four volumes were printed. This has obviously been a major undertaking, and we draw the attention of all Parliamentarians to the preface for details. We were fortunate in obtaining Professor Peter Waite, then Head of the Department of History, Dalhousie University, as editor, but a very great deal of the work was done here primarily under the direction of the Assistant Librarian.

Work continues on volume two, the debates for 1869, and it is hoped that when they are ready for printing the Senate and the House of Commons will