

and so on. This will be the essence of our thrust in that area.

Mr. Fairweather: I did not hear that.

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member did not hear the word "thrust"? Perhaps if he returned to his seat I could direct my remarks more to him.

[*Translation*]

The third category I announced is in the area of political rights and in the area of parliamentary proceedings. There again, opposition members will be tempted to say that there has been a swift turning round, that all of a sudden the government will be concerned with parliamentary issues.

Mr. Speaker, let me simply outline the government's achievements during the last four and a half years. This government has attached a great deal of importance to the members' work, and in several ways, namely by increasing the working facilities, the available space, the number of secretaries, machines, telephones, and in giving hon. members the necessary access to documents to enable them to perform their work efficiently. The government also set up the Beaupré Commission which, as is known, recommended an increase in the salaries and allowances of members of Parliament. The government unhesitatingly had these increases adopted. It also substantially improved the Pension Plan. It also introduced, I believe, a fairly new piece of legislation in Parliament whereby members, first those belonging to the opposition and later on government members were granted the funds required for research bureaux, precisely so that they may do their work and have access to the information required for criticism of government policies and in-depth studies of government proposals.

The Throne Speech indicates that our interest in parliamentary proceedings will lead to several new legislative measures. The Throne Speech mentions the field of conflict of interests.

The government intends to establish regulations for three possible categories of conflicts of interest. I would readily say, Mr. Speaker, that there has not been too much cause for alarm in this field at the federal level because, very fortunately, there are very few cases of conflict of interest. Nevertheless, considering the proper administration of Parliament and for more insurance for electors in this field, we intend to introduce regulations on this subject. We shall do so in the case of members, senators, ministers and bureaucrats as well.

In the case of election expenses, we shall reintroduce the legislation proposed during the last session, but incorporating several amendments which have been suggested by the committee and the public. There will be amendments which in particular will provide that the origin of financial contributions to political parties be better known.

We have also proposed that the meetings of the House and of the parliamentary committees be transmitted by radio and television. This is a measure that was discussed during the last session by a parliamentary committee. To my mind, opinions were divided on the matter at the time and the government is prepared to introduce this measure

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and hopes to gain the co-operation of the opposition parties.

I wish to discuss another matter, Mr. Speaker, the question of information media. I do not know what will be our conduct toward the advance briefings to members of the press gallery. The issue was raised as a question of privilege last Friday by the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Reilly). He was complaining about a custom which dates back to a number of years—and let me say that he himself was aware of it when he was a member of the press gallery and certainly took advantage of it. He complained that we used to give advance briefings to the members of the press gallery.

[*English*]

Mr. Reilly: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Reilly) state his question of privilege?

Mr. Reilly: The question of privilege is, (a) I did not take advantage of pre-releases or documents of this kind when I was a journalist and, (b) the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) knows very well it has never been the practice to release documents of this nature four hours in advance of the time that hon. members were to hear their contents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I heard the exchange. I heard the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Ottawa West the other day, and I now rule that the remarks of the right hon. Prime Minister do not give him a question of privilege at this time.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, as I said on Friday, I seek nothing but guidance from the House today. The government thought it was doing the right thing when it allowed the members of the press gallery to do their job as they did in the past. The government has often been accused of secrecy. In this case we tried to follow a practice dating back at least 20 years I am told and it seems that the members opposite and particularly the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) are not happy about it.

I repeat that if the House wants this practice to be stopped in the future, I will be the very first to request the members of the cabinet to comply, but I would like this to be made quite clear. I have had this checked with members of the press gallery and also with people who were with the office of the right hon. member for Prince Albert and as far as I have been able to gather from witnesses still alive this has been common practice over the last 20 years. Therefore we have only followed a most common procedure. It is not quite clear to me yet what the member is upset about. If he would speak clearly and have the House set a guideline for the government, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I would be the first to abide by it. But I am inclined to believe that the hon. member merely wanted to call the attention of the House on himself. The kindest thing I can say about him is that he played a sick joke.

In another field, Mr. Speaker, namely that of the Queen's visits, I would like to state, as did the Leader of the Official Opposition, that I was happy to hear that in