

Mr. Speaker Glen continued, "statements from ministers have been read in this Chamber, and the custom and practice of the House has been to permit the reading of such communications where government policy is involved. I think the general sense of the House will be that all such statements should be read, in order that governmental statements may be meticulously and correctly given to the House".

In another statement, which appears in Vol. 1, September 20, pages 730-31, 1942, on the rule regarding the reading of speeches, Mr. Speaker Glen said: "On a former occasion I agreed, and the House consented, that when important statements involving government policy are made by ministers on behalf of the government, such statements could be read rather than expressed extemporaneously. This practice is, I understand, being followed in the British House of Commons, and"—this is something new—"it has been extended here to include statements made by the Official Leader of the Opposition, whose status is regulated by Section 42 of the Senate and House of Commons Act, Chapter 147".

Section 42 of the Senate and House of Commons Act, Chapter 147 refers to the annual allowance to be paid to the member occupying the recognized position of Leader of the Opposition in this House; and I fail to see the connection between the reason for creating an exemption in favour of the Leader of the Opposition in this instance, and Section 42 of the Senate and House of Commons Act referred to by Mr. Speaker Glen. There are, and I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will agree with me, other more valid reasons. However, when in 1944, (*Debates*, Vol. 5, July 3, pages 4446-4447) on a point of order raised by an honourable Member, Mr. Speaker Glen recited the rule against the reading of speeches and exempted from it again ministers "because" he said, "it is understood that they are stating policy", an honourable Member, the late Mr. McGeer, speaking to the point of order said: "But when any one of the ministers is privileged to rise in his place and read something that is written for him that is a different matter altogether. The ministers of the government ought to know enough about the subjects they discuss to be able to speak on them. It seems to me that it is a violation of all the rules of parliamentary procedure to permit seniors to read and to deny the same privilege to juniors. I do not think any one should read his speech and I think that ought to include ministers as well as private members".

Early in the first post-war session, namely, on September 11, 1945, as reported in the *Debates* of that year at page 66, Mr. Speaker Fauteux delivered a statement on the reading of speeches, a statement which is a repetition, word for word, of Mr. Speaker Glen's statement of June 14, 1940, except for the addendum on exemptions for ministers which was omitted. Mr. Speaker Fauteux's statement did not contain the exemption for cabinet ministers mentioned in Mr. Glen's pronouncements of June 14, 1940 and September 20, 1942, and did not contain the exemption for the Leader of the Opposition mentioned for the first time in Mr. Glen's pronouncement of September 20, 1942, which goes to prove the point that I stressed earlier, namely, that latitude was given to cabinet ministers and the Leader of the Opposition to read their statements only during the war Parliament of 1939 to 1945, and even then this latitude was conceded apparently reluctantly by the House. Mr. Speaker Fauteux made another statement with respect to the reading of speeches on May 29, 1947, (*Debates*, Vol. 4, 1947, pages 3567-3568) in which again there were no exemptions provided for statements delivered by cabinet ministers or the Leader of the Opposition.

But Mr. Speaker Macdonald revived the exemptions in favour of ministers and the Leader of the Opposition in two statements, one that he delivered on February 20, 1951 (see *Debates*, Vol. 1, 1951, pages 496-497), and the other