

all those who were in any way involved in the task. Speaking as one who has had something to do with statutes, I think it is excellent that we are finally getting these consolidated statutes. The task has taken some time. I am not blaming anybody for that, but in these times when the government is intervening more and more in the rights of individuals it has become essential for those in this House, members of the bar, judges and others to find out exactly what a statute does without having to search painstakingly through many statute books. I hope we can look forward to the next revision being completed in a shorter period of time, especially since contemporaneously we have a government that legislates by moving radically in all directions at the same time in trying to enact new statutes.

In addition to congratulating the minister and those who were involved in the task, may I say that this is one of the times when we should pay more attention to the message than to the medium. In other words, I think that the government and members of the House ought to be more concerned about what goes into statutes rather than with the way they are issued. I say that more in sorrow than in anger because these statutes probably contain the chronicle of the fall and decline of what was to be the just society, and I would hope that the government in the short period which lies ahead will do something to repair this omission.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, mankind has come a long way in the matter of law. Once upon a time a great man came down from the mountain with ten commandments. Today the Minister of Justice came down with 40 million characters.

**An hon. Member:** The hon. member is one of them.

**Mr. Baldwin:** There are 40 million characters in the cabinet.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** We welcome the completion of this important and monumental job. Your Honour found today to be unusual in that the Minister of Justice was seeking to table a magnetic tape. We have learned to deal with red tape around here; this is the first time that magnetic tape has been presented to us.

I should like to point out something else which is significant about today. The last time I asked the Minister of Justice about the Revised Statutes of 1970, I put the question in these terms: could the minister undertake that the Revised Statutes of 1970 would be tabled before the end of 1971. He said yes. This is a red-letter day. The government has kept its commitment.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** As the hon. member for Peace River pointed out, it is extremely important to have our federal legislation in this consolidated form so that we can find it, appreciate it, understand it and also amend it in its many weak spots. We welcome the completion of this job. We join with the Minister of Justice in paying tribute to the members of

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the Statute Revision Commission and to the others who have taken part in this piece of work.

As an old-time printer, I should like to underline the tribute that the Minister of Justice paid to another group of people. I noted his reference to the ancient ways of printing that involved much time spent in the setting of type or in setting it over again. I am glad to note that he paid tribute to the printing industry and to the Canadian Government Printing Bureau in particular for developing many of the innovative techniques which will help to make it possible for our laws to be dealt with in this way.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, we would like to thank the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) for having tabled today, as he had promised, a copy of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970.

Mr. Speaker, federal acts have thus been codified, which will make them more readily understood.

The point that I should like to raise does not occupy much place in the hon. minister's statement, but that revision has certainly required considerable work from the members of the Commission, since it has been published in both official languages, something we rejoice about. We wish to thank the hon. minister for this initiative, which is an extremely important point.

Mr. Speaker, we seize this opportunity to congratulate the members of the Commission who worked more or less actively at this enormous task and we wish to tell the minister that we hope to see the greatest possible distribution of the statutes to the people interested, at a reasonable price. For instance, I have in mind university students who cannot afford to buy the statutes. It would be a very good idea if the government agreed to a compensated discount policy on the revised statutes, in order to allow each law student to have them.

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[*English*]

### YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I seek the unanimous consent of the House under Standing Order 43 to move a motion. As students are now becoming available for employment and very few applicants for the Opportunities for Youth program have received any notification from the department concerned, or have even received notification of the receipt of the applications, as a number of municipalities have been fenced out of this program, as there has seemingly been no consultation with the post-secondary community across Canada in the preparation of criteria and objectives, as there is no indication that the program will be directed toward those married or underprivileged students who would most need the income in order to be able to return to school, as there have been numerous reports of absolute chaos and complete lack of organization in the secretariat proc-