

that material and research is vested in the committee. The taxpayer has paid for it. It is the property of the committee. The use of any of the material in any form, directly or indirectly, without express permission of the committee would be a grave misuse of privileged and confidential documents. The draft reports of committees and the documentation have long been regarded as highly privileged and indeed sacrosanct prior to their release to the Senate itself. I can only say to honourable senators that I regret what has happened, but it is one of the risks of putting together an ad hoc staff on very short notice.

Utopian reports are nice to read, but they are usually sent to a subterranean vault, indexed, microfilmed and filed, unheeded and unneeded. The report which must be submitted by the Special Senate Committee on Poverty cannot be destined for that Valhalla. The committee will buckle down even harder to complete its report. Unfortunately, because some momentum has been lost, there will be an inevitable delay. I am hopeful that the momentum will be quickly regained. I can assure the Senate that the delay will be minimal.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, I am not rising to discuss the contents of the report which will eventually be made. I wish to associate myself with some of the principles submitted by Senator Croll. The report of a select committee of the Senate is the report of that committee and not of those whose services are hired to assist it. This is a very important question and in due course should be referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders to determine whether it is necessary to be more precise in the wording of contracts used in the hiring of staff for Senate committees. We must be specific with respect to the responsibilities of the committee and of its staff. In the event that those who have resigned are in breach of the rules of the Senate or of Parliament, this matter should be investigated.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Paul Martin tabled:

Copies of text, dated April 7, 1971, of the Joint Canada-U.S.A. reference to the International Joint Commission respecting the Skagit River.

Report relating to the administration of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971, pursuant to section 41(2) of the said Act, chapter 111, R.S.C., 1952.

Copies of twenty-one contracts between the Government of Canada and municipalities in Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba for the use or employment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, pursuant to section 20(3) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, chapter 54, Statutes of Canada, 1959. (English text).

Copies of letters, dated March 16, and April 2, 1971, exchanged between the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada and Professor J. B. Rudnycky, Commissioner, with respect to supplemental recommendations to the Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. (English text).

Capital Budget of the Farm Credit Corporation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1972, pursuant to section 80(2) of the Financial Administration Act, chapter 116, R.S.C., 1952 (English and French texts), together with copy of Order in Council P.C. 1971-527, dated March 18, 1971, approving same. (English text).

Report on the operation of the Regional Development Incentives Act and on "Special Area" incentives for the month of March 1971, pursuant to section 16 of the said Act, chapter 56, Statutes of Canada, 1968-69.

Copies of Report of the Atlantic Development Council submitted to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion under date of January 22, 1971, entitled "A Strategy for the Economic Development of the Atlantic Region, 1971-1981."

Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970, Volumes 1 to 7 inclusive, and First Supplement, together with copy of document outlining the history and background of the Statute Revision Commission and copy of a letter transmitting the said Statutes to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada.

REVISED STATUTES OF CANADA, 1970

Hon. Mr. Martin: Honourable senators, the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970, which I have tabled this evening, constitutes the fifth revision in our history and the fourth to be carried out in this century. Our federal statutes were last revised in 1952. Since that time we have added twenty volumes of statutes to the six that constituted the revision completed in 1952.

Yesterday my colleague the Minister of Justice tabled these eight volumes in the other place, representing current federal statutes enacted by Parliament up to October 7, 1970. Two additional volumes will bring the set up to date and complete it.

This event concludes the labours of over one hundred individuals working at the direction of the Statute Revision Commission. The revision will not come into force until after proclamation by order in council.

The physical preparation of this revision has involved interesting data processing and photo composition techniques, enabling the work to be organized much more efficiently and easily reproduced in both languages. This use of computers has provided us with a unique information retrieval system, and will facilitate the preparation of subsequent statutory revisions via the use of machine-readable magnetic tape.

Distribution will commence in May. When that has been completed, proclamation will take place. The completed bilingual text of ten volumes represents an important milestone in Canadian statutory history. It gives me much satisfaction, on behalf of the Government, to congratulate the members of the Statute Revision Commission on the successful conclusion of their monumental undertaking.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, I am very happy that at last we have these Revised Statutes of Canada. It is about time that we do not have to go through twenty volumes to find out the present law.