

Are we to argue that there is to be no coordination of all information services in the Government of Canada under the jurisdiction of each department? Of course. In the structure of government like the one we have in Canada, and as big as ours, the time has long come when this recommendation of the Finance Committee of the Senate should be heeded, that one of the functions of Information Canada should be to provide for the kind of coordination which Senator O'Leary said he would like to see established.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: I say that coordination does not exist.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Recommendation 3(a) proposes that Information Canada should keep its own initiatives to a minimum. This is one of the very few cases where the committee's recommendations appeared to be vague. For example, what minimum? Surely it is agreed that the agency performs a valuable service in filling information gaps where no specific portfolio is responsible for the information in question, or where the program and service packaging of information is of distinct convenience to the public. For instance, Citizens' Services booklets—are they not of value? The Organization of the Government of Canada—will anyone deny that that is a valuable document? Federal Government Publications Selected for High School Libraries—is that not a good document to have been produced—

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: No.

Hon. Mr. Martin: —by Information Canada? Senator O'Leary says no. I would be interested in knowing how many have actually read that document, because it has won the approval of so many provincial departments of education all over Canada.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: We had that before.

Hon. Mr. Martin: The word "minimum" will be interpreted to mean, and I quote from the report:

... that which is necessary to provide what is legitimately needed and where Information Canada is the logical initiator.

Also, I believe that recommendation 3(e) is questionable. It states that:

While it may be desirable to tailor information to the individual, regional and special group needs, the cost of doing this can be disproportionate to the benefit.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Did you object to this recommendation in committee?

Hon. Mr. Martin: I was not in the committee.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: But you are a member of that committee.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Yes, of course, I am a member of the committee.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: I thought you were criticizing the fact that Senator O'Leary—

Hon. Mr. Martin: I was not criticizing Senator O'Leary for not being a member of the committee. I was simply complaining that I could not understand how a man of his quality and experience could not have been put on that committee by those responsible for the allocation of posi-

tions. I have not the responsibility for putting Senator O'Leary on committees. Certainly, if I had, he would have been on that committee.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Those who are members of the committee have less right to criticize.

Hon. Mr. Denis: Is it not true that the leader suggests the names of members of the committee?

Hon. Mr. Flynn: Certainly. You should not speak truisms of that kind. You and your leader have been around long enough to know that that is the usual practice.

Hon. Mr. Martin: With the Leader of the Opposition's great knowledge of the rules of Parliament, I do not know of anyone who violates our rules of debate more frequently and sometimes, I think, with less effect.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: Would the Leader of the Government permit me a question?

Hon. Mr. Martin: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: Recommendation 6—the Leader of the Government has not yet come to it, apparently—says:

The Mobile Information Officer program appears to the committee to have developed into a social welfare service.

What is meant by that?

Hon. Mr. Martin: I will come to that in a moment.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: You will follow your notes.

Hon. Mr. Martin: That is exactly what I am doing. At least I have notes. If my friend had notes we would hear him more often in constructive and productive debates of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: Who prepared them?

Hon. Mr. Martin: They are obviously prepared by the department concerned in these matters. I am not the minister in charge of information.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: You never have any notes of your own.

Hon. Mr. Croll: I thought Senator O'Leary told us that there would not be an election. Why are you starting into one so quickly?

Hon. Mr. Martin: A \$2 million national advertising program may be highly visible, but that does not mean it is effective. That is in one of the provisions of the report. There are many examples of this. How can one communicate with all members of the public with the different occupations, education, language, culture and needs, if only traditional means are used? Consideration must be given to meeting information needs as they exist on a local basis, especially in areas where people are rather isolated from responsible information services or the mass media.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary: Those are pure generalities.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Of course they are generalities. No one is a greater master of that than the Leader of the Opposition, but it does not mean that because they are generalities they are not applicable. In the same category, recommendation 6—

Hon. Mr. Flynn: He is coming to the attack.