

Privilege

letters, householders, et cetera, must be available to all members of the House, not just to a minister of the Crown.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I just want to join in for a very brief moment to inform the House that on Friday last, I had asked my staff to submit my householder to the print shop in the Confederation Building. We were advised at that time that it was not possible for me to have it printed on recycled or non-bleached paper. We reconfirmed that at 12.55 today in a call to the print shop in the Confederation Building.

Hon. Paul Dick (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I think it should be pointed out that over the last period of time, a number of members of Parliament have made inquiries as to whether or not they could have their printing done on recycled paper. A pilot project was undertaken. I used my own print plant to try that. We had to make sure that we could get the proper level of de-inked paper.

I am very pleased that we were able to find a source in East Angus in the province of Quebec. Cascade Paper Company has now provided that. We anticipate that this ability will be open to all members of Parliament who would like to use this. I am looking forward to that and I congratulate the other members of Parliament who made this application to use recycled paper. I know that many will want to use this in the future.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. minister has missed the point completely. The point is surely that if a householder printed by the House of Commons says in it that something is a policy that has been adopted by the House of Commons, namely that the document itself can be printed on recycled paper for anyone who wants it, which is not true, is, I would respectfully submit, contemptuous of the Board of Internal Economy of which you, Sir, are a member. On behalf of all of us, you are the chairman and the custodian of our rights in that regard.

If the Minister wants to say that his own department made a special try-out in order to see whether or not his householder can be printed on recycled paper, that is fine. He has the right to say that. He is the Minister of Supply and Services. Of course, we could demand at that point to receive equal treatment. Because he is the

Minister of Supply and Services does not, however, give him the right to pretend that something is a policy when it is not. In that regard, I believe that the document printed under the name of the Minister of Supply and Services, printed under the auspices of this Parliament, was done in a manner which is inappropriate.

I would ask that you, Sir, and the Board of Internal Economy examine this and report to the House as to whether or not the minister has abused his privileges in making that kind of a claim and to ensure that if such a policy is going to be the policy, then all members be notified of it and, of course, more fundamentally, that it be true.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, we do not want to argue with the minister's intention to conduct a pilot study to encourage all members of Parliament to use unbleached letterhead or recycled paper. The point that my hon. friend from Skeena made was that this was a householder, a member's householder. In the letter to his constituents, the minister points out that this is in fact a pilot study and that he plans to encourage all members of Parliament to do the same as him. We cannot do the same.

As you have heard, members of Parliament who have wanted to do this cannot do this. Presumably the Minister of Supply and Services is in a position to enact a policy to enable us to do this. To suggest that this is something that any member of Parliament could have done had he or she wished is mis-stating the fact. The important thing is that this is a householder and if the householder is going to be made available on recycled paper, surely it is in the interests of all of us who will want to do that to have our next householder published using such paper.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to recycle an old argument. In this particular case, the reason I would like to speak to the issue of the householder is that I think we should give credit where credit is due. Undoubtedly, the Minister of Supply and Services wants to latch on to what is a very good idea. I think he should have at least acknowledged the fact that the reason for this was that the Speaker of the House of Commons, in a non-partisan fashion last spring, upon consultation with the Environment Committee, moved to make the House of Commons an environmentally friendly place.