

*Reprints of Members' Speeches*

Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) to the most humble backbencher—if there is one more humble than the other—will be assured that in all matters pertaining to the house and to the regulations made for our conduct in the house and in relation to matters connected with the house, shall have the same privileges as any other.

I would ask some member of the government to indicate, if he knows, how far the king's printer has been allowing or conniving in contravention of the regulations made here some three years ago in regard to the reprints of members' speeches.

**Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough West):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who has just taken his seat has said that speeches by different ministers of the crown have been—

**Mr. MacInnis:** I mentioned only one.

**Mr. Fraser:** Just one, yes—reprinted and distributed. I have here statements and speeches from the information division of the Department of External Affairs. The publication I have before me is dated April 29, 1950; how many more there are, I do not know. This one is six pages in length, and purports to contain a speech delivered before the Reform Club of Montreal.

My view is that if speeches of the different ministers given before political clubs throughout the country are going to be mimeographed or printed and sent out, other people should have the same privilege. However, my personal view is that the taxpayers' money was not taken from them for that purpose, and I strongly object to speeches of ministers being printed in full, or almost in full, and then being sent out in that way.

Here is another issue containing a speech delivered by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) in Hamilton.

**Mr. Casselman:** Before the by-election.

**Mr. Fraser:** Yes, April 24, before the by-election. This speech, eight pages in length, was delivered before the Hamilton chamber of commerce. Here is another one eight pages long delivered on March 27 in Toronto by the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Casselman:** Another by-election.

**Mr. Fraser:** Yes, another by-election.

**Mr. James:** Did you read it?

**Mr. Fraser:** Yes, I read it.

**Mr. James:** Did you learn anything.

**Mr. Fraser:** Even if we did learn something from it, I do not think that is the kind of political stuff that should be handed out. It is paid for by the taxpayers, despite the fact that taxes are sky-high at the present time. No wonder we cannot get them down.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

**Mr. James:** And the opposition is asking that more be spent.

**Mr. Fraser:** The opposition has never at any time asked that any more be spent on publicity of this kind. We have never suggested wasting the taxpayers' money. We have always tried to see that the taxpayer was given a fair deal—and he certainly is not getting a fair deal with the government in office at the present time.

The last weekly review issued by the Department of External Affairs quotes a speech by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), and also some smaller items concerning the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Then on the very back sheet in a small square we find this: "Mr. Drew's motion defeated." It praises all the others, and then in one small item it tries to belittle somebody else.

All this is uncalled for. I do not think these publications are necessary, even if they are sent out to embassies in other parts of the world. I do not think that is what the taxpayer wants. It is not helping the country in any way, and all it is doing is to build up a big Liberal political machine at the expense of the taxpayer. I certainly object, and I know many taxpayers across this country who object with me. I have on file many letters dealing with the subject.

Not only these, but many other items and speeches by ministers of the crown are printed at the expense of the taxpayers, or sent out in mimeographed form. It is high time things of that kind were stopped.

SUBSIDIES—COST OF LIVING—DISCOURAGEMENT  
OF PRODUCTION

**Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Lethbridge):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice the grievance that His Majesty's government is neglecting to employ adequately the device of subsidies in Canada's economy. There are four major evils the effects of which are placing an onerous weight upon the people in the federal riding of Lethbridge and the other people of Alberta.

In the first place we have the evil of the excessively high cost of living. I do not know when something is going to be done to stop this upward trend in the cost of living. It is beginning to be a very serious matter, and people are wondering how they are going to live. Then we have strikes which bring prices up still more. Great numbers of people are completely helpless in the grip of this situation. The wise use of subsidies in 1946 would have prevented that sort of thing. If there is going to be any remedy provided today it must take the form of some measure of subsidy.