

*Privilege*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I can only reiterate that to the extent that the administration is at fault we will try to correct the situation in the future. We realize that at the start of a session some difficulty is always caused when there are 100 or more bills which have to be printed and distributed. I may say that as soon as bills receive first reading in the House they will be distributed to hon. members. So perhaps we can prevent in the future a repetition of the situation with which we are faced this morning.

## PRIVILEGE

MR. LAMBERT (EDMONTON WEST)—ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRIEFING MEMBERS ON WHITE PAPER ON TAXATION

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal privilege which also affects a number of my colleagues on this side of the House. I have not raised the matter with the Minister of Finance before because it did not come to my attention until very recently. I am referring to the arrangements for this afternoon with regard to the presentation and study of the white paper on taxation, according to which hon. members who wish to have a look at the document before it is tabled by the minister will be confined in a room. Unfortunately, this has certain connotations for those members of the House who are former members of the Privy Council and are still under their oath. They are entitled to the information but they are still bound by their oath and should not be bound by additional restraint. Therefore alternative arrangements should be made for those members of the House who are Privy Councillors so they will not be so restricted. They are bound as members of the Privy Council to their oath of secrecy, just as the minister is, and I am sure they are fully cognizant of their responsibilities.

I raise this point not in criticism but to draw it to the attention of the House and also to preserve the privilege of Privy Councillors.

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to say that, at some urging from the opposition for the first time in history with respect to tax matters hon. members will be able to see the document involved before it is actually presented to the House.

With respect to the distribution of the document to Privy Councillors, I wish to point out to my hon. friend that with one or two

[Mr. Woolliams.]

exceptions I have not even distributed the document to the present members of the cabinet.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is no excuse.

**Mr. Baldwin:** You have some leaky colleagues over there, anyway.

[Translation]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

## FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

First report of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, in French and in English—Mr. Clermont (Gatineau).

[English]

[Editor's Note: Text of foregoing report appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF MR. AND MRS. HENRI LABOUISSÉ

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to call the attention of the House to the presence in your gallery of Mr. and Mrs. Henri Labouisse. Mr. Labouisse is the Executive Director of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. Mr. Labouisse will be remembered by many as a distinguished member of the United States diplomatic service. Perhaps I might also remind the house that Mrs. Labouisse is the former Eve Curie whose mother was famous for her contributions to humanity so well remembered in the famous biography.

## GRAIN

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASSISTANCE TO WESTERN FARMERS WITH UNTHRESHED CROPS

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, as hon. members are aware, unfavourable weather conditions in western Canada have resulted in a complete stoppage of harvest operations in the Peace River district of both Alberta and British Columbia, in areas of central Alberta, northern Saskatchewan and to a limited extent in parts of Manitoba.

In the Peace River district very few farmers have harvested more than 20 per cent of their crops.