

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why was that not done in the Finance Department?

Mr. GRAHAM. I cannot say. I make a distinction between a speech delivered in this House and the lugging in of outside matters. There is no doubt it was done by some members of my staff. What portion if any, was done inside the ordinary working hours or outside the ordinary working hours I do not know.

Mr. LENNOX. Does the minister know that any portion of it was done after office hours?

Mr. GRAHAM. I think I would be safe in saying yes.

Mr. LENNOX. Does the minister know that a portion of it was done during the ordinary office hours?

Mr. GRAHAM. I cannot say.

Mr. LENNOX. Was any private compensation given to these people so employed or did they do it as incidental to their service?

Mr. GRAHAM. I paid them no compensation.

Mr. LENNOX. Are you aware that anybody else did?

Mr. GRAHAM. No.

Mr. LENNOX. Even if it were done after office hours and private compensation paid it is a most reprehensible practice. We have good reason to believe it was done by these employees as part of their public service and was paid for by the country. I hope the minister will look into it carefully and give us exact information and if he does not it will be necessary to have a rigid investigation made by some means. No more dangerous practice could prevail than that this country should be flooded with the speeches of one side at the public expense while the speeches of the other side are not circulated. I am of opinion that not one half enough speeches go out into the country and I am also of opinion that we do not print nearly enough 'Hansards.' It is for the benefit of the people that they should know what takes place on Parliament Hill, and I would be very glad if the 'Hansard' were sent to the people generally. But to discriminate is absolutely wrong and I am sorry that the Minister of Railways, if he found the practice prevailing in his department did not stop it immediately.

Mr. FOSTER. It always has been a practice to send out the budget speech delivered in this House. It has been the practice to print an extra number of the speeches of the Minister of Finance which are distributed by the minister himself as he thought best and by the labour of the

Finance Department. I think that is a very good practice. There has been more than once a suggestion which never was adopted, however, that along with the budget speech there should be circulated at the expense of the country the speech of the principal critic of the opposition so that both sides of the financial position might be placed before the people. But when you circulate the speeches of individual ministers at the public expense, without anything being said in the House as to such a speech being an important exposition of public policy, you get on very dangerous ground. It is an indefensible practice that public employees should be engaged circulating speeches for campaign purposes. It is also suspicious that the Minister of Railways should think of distributing this speech so many months after it was delivered and when a hot campaign was going on in North York. A man on this side of the House has just as good a right to have his speech placed before the people at the public expense as has a man on the other side, and with the exception of the budget speech and unless there is an understanding to that effect, such conduct results in treating the people's representatives unfairly.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Do I understand the Minister of Railways to say that an ordinary member of parliament should get an official of the government to circulate his speeches for him?

Mr. GRAHAM. I did not say it that way. I drew a distinction between speeches delivered in this House and the bringing in of outside matters. I think it only fair to make a distinction between campaign literature and the speech of the Minister of Finance. Perhaps my ideas are not right on the matter, but I always understood it to be the practice to treat speeches delivered in this House as in a different category from the ordinary campaign literature. It is arguable whether an employee, during office hours at least, should do that; but I think a distinction should be drawn between speeches delivered in this House and campaign literature.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. The minister is well aware that not only speeches but campaign literature were sent into both North York and South Huron and all over this country. If that is the case, it is a serious question. If the people of the country are to pay for the cost of one party sending out campaign literature, surely the other party should have the same privilege.

Mr. GRAHAM. I do not think that is ever done. It is outside of my knowledge.

Mr. BARR. Considering the number of employees there are down below, I think that the members should have more const-