

*Exchequer Court Act*

Assistance Act do not have the benefits provided under the Civil Service Act, would the minister consider bringing this important group of federal employees under this act?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I suggest to the hon. member that this is a matter of general policy and that his question might very well be placed on the order paper.

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****MEASUREMENTS OF PREMISES OF SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. In the recent execution by the R.C.M.P. of the warrant to search the offices and headquarters of the Seafarers International Union for records and documents, why was it that the R.C.M.P. found it necessary to take internal measurements of the buildings and offices by means of a tape measure?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I do not think this question is in order.

**FINANCE****PROVISION FOR PAYMENT TO PROVINCES OF CERTAIN CORPORATION INCOME TAX**

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance)** moved the third reading of Bill No. C-211, to authorize the Minister of Finance to transfer to the provinces the proportions of the income tax payable by certain public utility companies.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

**Mr. Knowles:** On division.

Motion agreed to, on division, and bill read the third time and passed.

**EXCHEQUER COURT ACT****AMENDMENT TO ELIMINATE TAXATION STAMPS**

**Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice)** moved the second reading of Bill No. C-201, to amend the Exchequer Court Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Batten in the chair.

On clause 1—*Fees payable.*

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps an explanation might be given of the bill; the explanatory notes are not very complete.

[Mr. Southam.]

**Mr. Cardin:** Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this bill is purely administrative although it does require an amendment to the Exchequer Court Act.

Perhaps by way of explanation I might remind hon. members that while the judges of the Exchequer Court sit from time to time to hear cases in each of the provinces, the office of the registrar of the court has always been located in Ottawa and, until recently, all actions in the court were required to be commenced in his office and all documents relating to such actions were required to be filed in Ottawa.

For the convenience of litigants, a few months ago I approved the establishing of offices of deputy registrars of the court in the cities of Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver. In the city of Montreal a full time deputy registrar was appointed, but in the cities of Toronto and Vancouver it was considered desirable to appoint officials of the provincial courts as deputy registrars.

In the course of arranging for these appointments we received strong representations objecting to the requirement that Exchequer Court fees be accounted for by the sale and purchase of Exchequer Court law stamps. In addition there was an obvious requirement that some compensation be made to the provinces on account of the additional office costs that will have to be borne by them as a result of integrating this special Exchequer Court service with their own provincial court service.

Furthermore, the registrar of the court and his officials believe that a somewhat more modern and more convenient method than the sale and purchase of law stamps should be found as a means of accounting for Exchequer Court fees. I understand that the acquisition of stamping machines is under consideration, since this system has proved satisfactory in British Columbia, Quebec and in many areas of Ontario. So the whole bill relates to section 80.

Consequently, if the arrangements I have outlined are to be carried out on a satisfactory basis, and if some new method of accounting for Exchequer Court fees is to be found, section 80 will have to be amended. By the amendment to this section contained in this bill, the use of law stamps as a method of paying fees will be discontinued. All fees payable to the registrar of the court will continue to be paid into the consolidated revenue fund, but fees payable to any officer of a provincial court, acting as a deputy