

controlled by the Internal Economy Commissioners. The minutes of the Joint Committee on the Library for June 13, 1954, have the following entry:

"Reading Room of the House of Commons.

The Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons reported that the Internal Economy Committee of the House of Commons has recommended, at its last meeting, that the Reading Room of the House of Commons be placed under this Committee and, if this Committee agreed, that it be placed under the authority "of the Joint Librarians". This recommendation was adopted by the Joint Committee on the Library. Another entry notes that similar action was recommended with respect to the Reading Room of the Senate and that the Joint Committee had agreed to accept the responsibility of the Reading Room of the Senate subject to the approval of the Internal Economy Committee of the Senate. It appears that the Senate did not accept the offer of the Joint Library Committee. The motion made by the Joint Committee to the House of Commons and adopted by the Commons on the 23rd of June, 1954, is recorded in the House Journals as follows:

"That the Reading Room of the House of Commons be placed under the authority of the Joint Librarians".

An amendment to the Library of Parliament Act, in 1955, ch. 35, became effective on the retirement of one of the Joint Librarians and provided that the Parliamentary Librarian, the Associate Parliamentary Librarian, and the rest of the staff should perform those duties defined by regulations agreed upon by the two Speakers and concurred in by the Joint Committee.

The annual votes for the Commons' Reading Room have been since included in those of the Library. The transfer was awkwardly done from a legal standpoint and raises questions as to the financial and other management and control of the Commons' Reading Room, the ownership of its contents, and the responsibility of the Senate Speaker, if any.

The Joint Parliamentary Restaurant (which includes the Cafeteria) is another parliamentary emanation which raises questions of the *lex parliamentii* arising out of the financial relationship between the two Houses, on the one hand, and the Treasury Board, on the other, as well as a question of statutory interpretation of the powers of control given by Parliament to the Commissioners of Internal Economy of the House, and the inherent powers of control residing in the two Speakers and the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The

following is extracted from the 1958 "Audit Office Guide", issued by the Auditor General, at p. 95:

Parliamentary Restaurant Accounts

The Restaurant is a joint activity of the Senate and House of Commons. While it is assisted out of votes, the account is not regarded as one within the ambit of the Public Accounts of Canada. The history of the audit arrangement is a somewhat interesting one: Up to 1932 it was not regarded as an account in which the Auditor General had any interest. However, in that year the Auditor General decided that the provisions of the newly enacted Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, 1931, imposed an obligation on him to examine the accounts of the restaurant. Accordingly, he wrote the Speaker of the House of Commons asking for a statement of receipts and disbursements. On 12 May, 1933 the request was considered by the joint parliamentary committee on the restaurant and it was decided:

That the Auditor General's application to audit the committee's books cannot be entertained because such of the committee's expenditures as are charged against moneys received in payment of meals and not against public moneys are now audited by the firm of Milne, Steele and Company, who give entire satisfaction.

The Auditor General referred the matter to Treasury Board and in August 1933 it was indicated to the Speaker of the House of Commons that the board's view was that an annual examination should be made by the Auditor General. No records being made available to him for audit, on 22 November 1934 the Minister of Finance wrote the Speaker urging that this be done. The letter was considered by the joint committee but no action taken and the position remained unchanged until 15 May 1936 when a meeting of the joint parliamentary committee on the restaurant dealt with the matter in the following way:

The chairman pointed out that at a recent meeting of the commissioners of internal economy the desirability of its being in a position to carry out close supervision of all House of Commons expenditures was discussed. Arising from this was a request from the commissioners that regular reports on the restaurant appropriation vote be submitted for their consideration from time to time. After some discussion, upon motion of Mr. MacInnis seconded by Mr. Landeryou it was unanimously resolved:

(a) That, inasmuch as the sum of \$15,000 is included in the House of Commons Estimates for the expenses of the parliamentary