

I have no desire that at this time in the country's history additional salaries should be granted to ministers. On the other hand, I can speak, perhaps, with a little more freedom than my colleagues, and I am not concerned whether or not this vote is allowed, so far as I am personally concerned. But I do say this, that while cars were allowed to ministers for a long time, a practice grew up the example of which was bad, and we determined to discontinue it. But it is unfair to ask men to leave their homes and their professions, in many instances their future, and come to the city of Ottawa and live here, maintaining that position which they are bound to maintain by virtue of their office, and then find themselves, at the end of a term of office, hopelessly bankrupt. That has happened in this city. It has happened during the last few years that one of the leading ministers of the crown found himself in that position, and when he departed this life his estate indicated that that was so.

Men in politics should not be compelled to rely upon the benefaction of friends or otherwise, so far as the duty they owe the state is concerned; and when men serve Canada for the miserable pittance they get, as compared with what they would receive if they were practising their professions—they would get twice as much—to say that they should come here and find themselves, after a term of office, with their little savings gone, with their families on the threshold of life, without much opportunity to get an education because of the cost, and then to expect them to maintain the dignity of their office, entertaining, dispensing hospitality, treating visitors as they should treat them, moving to and fro, from one place to another, maintaining cars, I do not believe that anybody would suggest that this is at all reasonable. Least of all do the Canadian people expect it, and it cannot be done on the salary that is provided.

I did consult with the leader of the opposition with respect to the matter, and I am sorry he is not here at the moment. A sum was arrived at after consultation with automobile men and garages, and there is not a member of this house who does not appreciate just what is involved. I can only say that this item does not represent the cost of gasoline and service which I pay, without any question of loss or depreciation to the car; and I do not want my colleagues, nor does anyone in this house want them, to be placed in a different position because of the accident of our circumstances. Moreover, in the end it is a saving. I ask the committee to realize that this sum of money is

here for a specific purpose and is used for that purpose. So far as I know, it is not adequate for the purpose, but it saves the country \$40,000 or \$50,000 a year or perhaps a good deal more than that in the end. At least it will save \$5,000 a month.

None of my colleagues will engage in this discussion and I want to be fair to them. I think most of us know that there is not a single occasion on which a charity list or some other subscription list is opened when every minister is not asked to subscribe. And if we are to have that probity in public life which has been spoken of in the house so frequently we must at least put men in positions that will be self-sustaining, positions in which they can support themselves and their families and maintain that dignity which by virtue of the offices they hold they are bound to maintain, not because they want to but because they have to. It is not a matter of choice but of necessity. I ask the committee to pass this item as offering to the country an indication of the fact that the people do not expect their servants to serve them without being at least placed in a position that will not leave them the poorer for the services they render. The labourer is worthy of his hire, whatever may be his position. In every walk of life I know of men receive compensations in keeping with the services they give. If anyone has any doubt about that, let him look at the lawyers' bills which we pass in the estimates, or at those bills entailed in connection with the recent committee. I speak strongly about this, although I have no personal interest in it; but I believe it is the fair thing to do, by men who serve the state on either side of the house, giving of their best to the country. And it is better than the indiscriminate use of automobiles in the manner that grew up out of the war. This is in the interests of the country. It represents a saving to the people and is a fair recognition of the fact that you do not expect people who serve you to be poorer in consequence of that service.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Salaries—further amount required pending the final adjustment of staffs by the department and the Civil Service Commission, owing to the transfer of natural resources, such sum to cover allowances to those retired and salaries of those retained, \$100,000.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to delay the committee at this late stage, but I am very sorry to see that the administration has not seen fit to include in