

*Members' Salaries*

4. That the Canadian Police Association and other police associations oppose the commutation of the death penalty, particularly where clemency has not been recommended;

5. That a recent study in the United States has proven that capital punishment is a deterrent;

6. That this matter is a grave and urgent matter because the Governor in Council must make a decision on at least one case tomorrow, and others soon.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. In accordance with Standing Order 26 the hon. member has given the Chair notice of his intention to seek, under the emergency provisions of that order, to set aside a specific time for debate beyond the regular hours of the sitting of the House of Commons.

I have said before, on virtually the same subject on other occasions, that the emergency provisions pursuant to Standing Order 26 ought to be distinguished, or their use ought to be distinguished from those items which, in a regular legislative program of the House of Commons and regular legislative consideration, can come before the House by way of amendments to existing statutes, or in any case will come before it in other ways.

The importance of capital punishment and the timeliness of the topic is not denied. The fact of the matter is, however, that under almost no circumstances can a review of that law be regarded as an emergency provision rather than a continuing legislative concern of this House. In my opinion, therefore, it does not constitute a proper subject for debate under Standing Order 26.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT, THE SALARIES ACT AND THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES ACT

#### AMENDMENTS RESPECTING SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council)** moved that Bill C-44, to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act, the Salaries Act and the Parliamentary Secretaries Act, be read the third time and do pass.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I had expected that the minister would have endeavoured to explain some of the circumlocutions in connection with this matter that he indulged in on the other occasions that he spoke. That is not to be, however.

[Mr. Jones.]

All the explanations given by him so far have about them an uncertainty that is difficult to comprehend.

I must tell you at once, sir, how I have missed the House. There is something about the drama of the House of Commons that has always had a magnetic influence upon me regardless of whether this institution touches the heights or sometimes the nadir of debate.

I have read *Hansard* day by day, and I find after my absence that we are back to about the same place we were when I left which indicates that, despite the changes in the rules, expectation is a long way from achievement. I intend to give my views. I am not carried away by sentimental considerations. I have an affection for this institution that does not dim with the years. I happen to be the only Canadian alive who is a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, earlier called the Imperial Privy Council and today the Privy Council of the United Kingdom. Mr. Pearson, who passed away, left me as the sole Canadian survivor of an institution that has meant so much through the years to the unity of the commonwealth.

As one who has received an expression of views in respect of this bill I am not going to go into detail, but these views go right down to the schools of the nation which are asking themselves where this parliament is going. I received in the mail yesterday, as did many other members, a message from the Grade 13 students of Nepean High School on a matter which deeply concerns them. They said the real issue is what is happening to Canada. The letter reads in part:

There is a frantic race for enormous increases in salaries and wages which, as the Governor of the Bank of Canada has pointed out, will give only momentary advantage until the resulting increases in costs push prices still higher and the end result is worse than the original condition—

No labour union will stop, even our teachers will not, and now it appears that parliament will not.

The letter goes on to discuss the general situation of the inflationary trend. It reads:

At the present rate the Canadian dollar will be totally wiped out in less than ten years. Is it the intention of the present generation to hand on to us, the rising generation, worthless savings, a wrecked economy and a complete barrier to our making our own start?

In addition to that there have been advertisements. I am going to read them all. There is one which one thinks the minister would answer. It appeared in Saturday's *Globe and Mail* and is entitled "Ouch." It sets out in detail what will happen in respect of pensions. It speaks of retirement with security for life, at 40. It shows that at the end of year ten after this plan is to come into effect, excluding the amount on which income tax is not payable, a member's salary will be \$53,675.95.