

Supply—Legislation

laughter, his hear hear's, his chuckles, loud cheers and all that. If we are going to read speeches, let us at least be frank with one another and with the people.

When I came to Ottawa I know I had a vision of a great many people back home who would be interested in what I said. I soon discovered that was not true, and I learned my lesson well. The net result has been that I have never sent out copies of any speech I ever made to anyone in the whole Dominion of Canada. I could have paid the \$15 per thousand, or I could have paid the extra \$1 to have my photograph on the copies, but that would ruin any speech so I did not touch it at all. I say that this is the place where we may express our views, and it will lose its value if there be any doubt about the views we express being our own views. When we are allowed to read speeches in this chamber, no one can be certain we are expressing our own views. I think it infinitely better to adopt the Washington rule of filing the speeches. Members can buy their copies afterwards, and have their photograph on them to send home. They are marked then that they were filed. I used to picture myself addressing a crowded house and crowded galleries, but never had I had more than fifty per cent above a quorum at any time that I have said anything. I am not suggesting that the Speaker has not been fair. I know he relaxes the rules and properly so, for maiden speeches. No one can argue against that. In the new session, whenever it comes, let us express our views with the greatest latitude, but let us not lead people into thinking we are expressing our views when we are simply reading from a magazine.

We are not allowed to read newspapers. I have seen better speeches in many newspapers than I have ever made, and better than I have heard in this House of Commons. I do not think we should steal the thunder of these newspapermen. Now they are called columnists, and they all have bylines. They all get credit in the newspaper for their material, and they should get credit if I, for example, use their material in a speech.

In conclusion I should like to say that our present Speaker, in fairness, in good judgment, in good humour, is the best person I can think of for the position. I am sure that the whole House of Commons will wish him well in this trip he is taking abroad, I hope at the expense of the British government. He is such a modest fellow he may say: "I have \$18 left in my house allowance, so I shall chip in with that". I hope he never does that.

Mr. Fair: Mr. Chairman, as one of the members in a distant corner of the house, I

can endorse the very kind words expressed by the member for Calgary West with regard to our Speaker. We have no complaint as to his fairness. I believe he treats all sections of the house with equality, so that he can rest assured that we in this corner can endorse the remarks made by the member for Calgary West.

There is one small matter I should like to mention at this time. Those of us who come to the buildings fairly early in the morning meet a number of charwomen leaving the building. I understand that the most of them are widows who find it necessary to work. I have heard that some fairly well-to-do married women, whose husbands have good jobs, are also employed. The general consensus is that these positions are supposed to be reserved for women who are in need. I understand they draw about \$30 a month. They arrive here at six o'clock in the morning, in good weather and bad, and clean our offices. Many of these women have been here for twenty or twenty-five years, but before they are of pensionable age many of them are unable to continue this work. Then they do not know where they are going to get the money to replace what they have lost. I understand that no pension of any kind is provided for them. I am wondering whether something could not be done. Many mornings I meet these women, and I feel that some of them should not be here. They should be at home enjoying a long holiday in the evening of life. Perhaps while everyone is in a good humour something might be done to help these women.

Mr. Speaker: I believe I should say a few words, first in reply to the hon. member for Battle River with respect to the wages paid charwomen. They receive \$2 per day, and I believe they work for a few hours in the morning. If that amount is not considered sufficient, the matter can be reviewed, and I can assure him it will be reviewed.

I should also like at this time to thank both the member for Battle River and the member for Calgary West for the complimentary remarks which they have made about me, particularly the remarks made by the member for Calgary West. His remarks were, of course, greatly exaggerated, and as he said I was somewhat embarrassed. I want to assure the house that I appreciate the splendid co-operation which I have received from all members on both sides of the house during the time you have honoured me with this very important position. It has been a pleasure for me to act in this very high office,