

The CHAIRMAN: My own personal conviction is this, that the delegates and alternates to the United Nations should be allowed a reasonable per diem allowance. I believe that would be the best way to deal with that situation.

Mr. BENEDICKSON: Can we make a recommendation?

The CHAIRMAN: No.

Mr. COLDWELL: One difficulty in that is that parliamentarians can only receive their out of pocket expenses otherwise they come within the statute, and I think that is the reason why the government asks the representatives who go there, alternates and advisers and so on, to keep an account of their expenses, meals and everything else, not to exceed \$7 a day.

Mr. STICK: You are representing Canada there. You are meeting people from other countries. You are invited out by them and you have to return the compliment.

Mr. COLDWELL: You do not do it on that.

Mr. JUTRAS: I do not think the per diem would be contrary to statute because that is a per diem expense allowance.

Mr. COLDWELL: You do not think so? I am not sure on that.

Mr. MURRAY: Mr. Chairman, do you not think that Canada's position now with regard to the United Nations is that we may save it from collapsing?

The CHAIRMAN: May save what?

Mr. MURRAY: May make or break it today, with respect to public opinion, in connection with the United Nations. It will depend on the enthusiasm of the Canadian people to give leadership to the United States and other nations.

The CHAIRMAN: I can say from my own experience that we met a lot of Canadian people and we were wonderfully well received there. The Canadian people are highly interested in the activities of the United Nations, there is no doubt about that.

Mr. STICK: Mr. Chairman, the prestige of Canada is at stake in this way. When you are dealing in an organization like the United Nations and are niggardly I think such conduct is too small for a country like this, and I think something should be done about it.

Mr. COLDWELL: When you are there as a parliamentary adviser you have not the responsibilities that the delegates and alternates have, and I am quite sure from my own experience as a delegate at two former conferences that judging from the manner in which the members are reimbursed for their out of pocket expenses they must pay a considerable amount out of their own pocket if they do any entertaining of the people they meet in the lounge and other places. They must be considerably out of pocket. There is no question of that. I know that the last time I was there as an adviser I had not the same responsibility as the delegates and I was not quite as pressed, but I am quite sure that people who are sitting around this table must have been considerably out of pocket apart altogether from the loss of their professional fees while they were there.

Mr. BENEDICKSON: Mr. Chairman, the present parliamentary assistant to the minister served as delegate at the last general assembly and attended at personal cost and sacrifice. I am sure he will convey our views on this matter to the minister.

Mr. STICK: Cannot we make a recommendation?

The CHAIRMAN: I would not be in favour of making a recommendation of this kind but I believe that the statements made this evening and the experiences that the parliamentary assistant had himself last fall will receive consideration by the department.

Mr. STICK: All right, I am satisfied.