

Mr. PEARKES: I am told there are plenty of candidates but I am not one. In the House of Commons there are some 245 members. Then in the provincial legislatures there are the following memberships:

Alberta	60
Manitoba	55
British Columbia	48
New Brunswick	48
Nova Scotia	30
Ontario	90
Prince Edward Island	30
Quebec	91
Saskatchewan	55

According to the rough calculation I have made, that gives a total of 507 members in the nine provincial legislatures. I would hesitate to make even a rough guess as to the number of people exercising government in the various municipalities stretching across the country, but it must run into thousands. Is it any wonder that the man in the street suggests that perhaps we are overgoverned? What will his reaction be when he sees that the government is suggesting that there be ten members added to this house? I am afraid that he will start to figure up the costs, and his very first reaction will be: "I, the man in the street, raised their salaries by \$2,000 last session, and now they want to do less work by having ten more men to help them out."

It will mean that these ten additional members will receive the indemnity that we here receive, and the first rough calculation would show that this means another \$60,000 added to the taxpayer's burden. But it does not end there, because we are fortunate enough to get free railway transportation, and if we come from any great distance the taxpayer is kind enough to give us our travelling expenses. We also get free mail and a lot of free literature. If we are to add another ten members to this house, there will be an increase in the amount of that literature, which will mean that there will have to be an increment in every single department in order to provide those extra ten members with this information which is given out so freely by every department of the government. There will have to be ten extra stenographers. There will have to be extra waitresses in the cafeteria or in the parliamentary restaurant, as the case may be.

I have to share an office with another hon. member, who irritates me intensely at times because he has a loud voice and invariably speaks over the telephone, while I hardly use the telephone at all, and I shudder to think of having another member also put into my office. There are already not enough offices to go around. I thoroughly believe that if

you are going to give ten more members to this house, we the Progressive Conservatives will get at least one of those ten—I hope so—but I dread to think of having another member put into my office because there just will not be room for three. So that I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether the next step will not be to suggest enlarging this building if we have ten more members and you have to find ten more offices or even five more offices to accommodate them. Will it not be necessary to build an additional floor or, as my hon. friend besides me suggests, a lean-to on this building?

An hon. MEMBER: Put the Tories in the cellar.

Mr. PEARKES: So while I said at the beginning that I felt quite reasonably certain that I might fall a victim to the bowie knife, I have run that risk with my eyes open because I believe that there are a great many humble men throughout this country who really will wonder whether they are justified in paying out more money in order to be governed. I leave it there, and I ask the government to give consideration to that foolish point of view perhaps, because the man in the street is not a philosopher; he is not a lawyer; he is a practical man who has to pay out the extra money if he is to be blessed or cursed, as the case may be, by an additional ten members.

Mr. E. D. FULTON (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, while the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Pearkes) was speaking, and as the clock pursued its inevitable course toward eleven o'clock I wondered whether it would reach it before the time arrived when I would have to rise in my place in the house, and I could not avoid being impressed with the thought aroused by the trend of his argument that ten more members would probably mean ten more speeches, or, as my hon. friend the member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) suggests, perhaps a hundred more, depending upon how many times they spoke. I see the Minister of National Defence has caught the point.

It seems to me that one obvious feature has so far emerged from the debate. The question has come to the fore on what grounds the various parties in the house base their stand for or against the resolution. Since it is almost eleven o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie the house adjourned at 10.50 p.m.