

Supply—Privy Council

of the national gallery board, of the federal district commission, and that might not mean there would be no member or official who would receive any remuneration whatever.

If the chairman of the Canada council were a gentleman who had to receive the kind of remuneration that the president of a university receives, I think that might be entirely acceptable. It would not mean that it was for the remuneration he was doing the work. The remuneration would be merely living expenses to allow him to carry on and devote his time to that kind of work. This would not be something comparable to industrial or commercial activities, no more than the work of the very many men and women who are devoting their lives to universities is comparable to industrial or commercial activities. They do, however, have to receive enough to maintain themselves in a proper state. The principal compensation they receive is the satisfaction they get out of the accomplishments they achieve.

Mr. Green: This vote is for the privy council office. Apparently the head of that office is known as the clerk of the privy council. Just what are the functions of that official?

Mr. St. Laurent: I think, Mr. Chairman, they were rather carefully and completely set out in an answer I gave to a question by an hon. member on December 17, 1952. This answer is found on pages 821 and 822 of *Hansard* for that date.

Mr. Green: Could the Prime Minister summarize it?

Mr. St. Laurent: The duties were defined in the order in council appointing the clerk of the privy council secretary of the cabinet on March 25, 1940, P.C. 1121/40. He is the head both of the privy council office and of the Prime Minister's office, and has the rank of deputy minister. The two offices were combined, and there is now only one register and one filing system. All the employees of the two offices are under the direction of the clerk of the privy council. I have the full list of the officers and staff here as of April 1, 1953. I find there are 85 employees as of that date.

Mr. Green: I ask that question because, as the Prime Minister says, the clerk of the privy council is responsible for a staff of 85; it is shown in the estimates at page 379 as 87. Apparently he acts as secretary of the cabinet, in addition to being in charge of the privy council office. Quite frankly, there was considerable criticism of the Prime Minister's action in taking the present clerk of the privy council with him on a tour of the west last fall which was, in part at least, a political tour.

I believe it is fair comment to raise the question as to the propriety of the Prime Minister taking the clerk of the privy council with him on a political tour. I understand it has not been the practice to do so. This official is supposed to be in the same category as the deputy minister of a department. In fact he draws a larger salary than some of the deputies. I notice that he gets \$15,000 a year. I suggest to the Prime Minister that it is not the right thing to do to take the clerk of the privy council along on political tours across the country. We are to have an election in a short time. If the clerk of the privy council could go on a tour last fall, I suppose there is no reason why he could not go on a tour this summer or this fall during the election campaign. That sort of thing, I think, would undermine the whole office. In fact I think what was done last fall has already undermined it to a degree. Personally I am sorry that the Prime Minister saw fit to take that action.

Mr. St. Laurent: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry my hon. friend is under the impression which no doubt he is under, otherwise he would not have spoken as he did just now. I did not take the clerk of the privy council on a political tour. I had been invited to attend the opening of the permanent buildings of the law faculty of the University of British Columbia and at the same time attend the meeting of the Canadian Bar Association in Vancouver. I decided that I would make certain stops on the way out. It was not a political tour—because there was no thought then given to any immediate prospect of a political campaign. I had been invited, ever since I became Prime Minister, to visit the Midland district which many people regard as being of some considerable historical importance in the early history of Canada, and I spent a couple of days there.

I had arranged for Mr. Pickersgill to meet me in Calgary where he was going to see his mother. It was arranged that the trips would coincide, that he would meet me in Calgary and would go on with me from Calgary to Vancouver. I went by train to Calgary and then flew from Calgary, going to Trail. A couple of weeks before that I had been up to the lake St. John district and had been greatly impressed; and, from my inspection of what was going on in that district, I think I learned something useful to me in my office as Prime Minister.

I had heard a great deal about the developments that were taking place at Trail, and I wanted to visit the plant of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada there. I had been quite impressed—some 25 years ago, I suppose, or more—by the fact that there had been an international dispute