

That is, I felt that the official appointed ought to receive a fair salary for his work.

I have not investigated this matter at all. I was not informed of the proposed action of the Debates Committee. Perhaps, for the reasons I have given, and in view of the state of mind of the Senate, it would be preferable to adopt the suggestion that the Debates Committee examine into these facts.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER: May I be allowed, as mover, to state that the idea of the Committee was that whoever might be recommended by his Honour the Speaker and the Clerk would be appointed only for next Session, not during the recess. Secondly, as the amount of money asked for was less than that which is expended now—as there was to be an actual reduction of expenses—the Committee thought that there was no occasion to refer the matter to his Honour the Speaker, to the Clerk, or to my honourable friend here (Hon. Mr. Daniel), Chairman of Finance. None of us had any idea that honourable members of this House, and especially those whom I have mentioned, would have any objection to a reduction of the amount expended by the Senate for the purposes of translation. I must say here that none of the members of the Committee had the remotest intention of hurting the susceptibilities of anyone. If we had thought for a moment that the objection would be raised that the Debates Committee did not bow to some other Committee—or if we had thought that we were at the tail end of something else—well, we might have gone and consulted these gentlemen. But we had no idea that one Committee of the Senate was subservient to another Committee. If it is the case, honourable gentlemen, that we are the servants of other Committees, I will, before the termination of the Session, present my resignation as Chairman of the Committee.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I made my reservation on that point.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER: I remember. I understand you did.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: I have the English version of the Debates of last year, and it comprises 423 pages.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That is for last year. I discussed with the Clerk of the Senate the two Sessions—the Session of last year and the present one.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: I think the report of the Audit sub-committee, included in the report of the Internal Economy Committee,

gives the number of pages, not for last year, but for the year before last. The report from which my honourable friend read referred to the year before last.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: With the leave of the House, I may give my honourable friends this information. At the League of Nations there are six Committees. One of them, the fifth committee, very often makes recommendations entailing an expenditure of money; and perhaps there are other committees that do so. When such a situation arises, the recommendation must go to the Finance Committee for approval.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER: But such is not the present case.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: When the question was mooted I felt that perhaps our situation was not similar to that prevailing at the League of Nations; but at the League we have found it a most valuable safeguard to obtain the opinion of the Finance Committee with regard to any charge upon the general budget.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable gentlemen, possibly I should make a few remarks upon this report of the Committee on Debates and Reporting. I may say that it came as a great surprise to me, as Speaker of the Senate, that this report was brought in. It seems to me that the Speaker and the Clerk are held responsible by the members for the work of the Senate. This report was the very first that I had heard, and I think I am safe in saying it was the first the Clerk had heard, that any exception had been taken to the manner in which the work was being done. The Speaker and the Clerk, I think, are anxious that the business of the Senate should be carried on efficiently and in a manner to suit the convenience of honourable members of the Senate. At the same time, they take into account the question of expense and are desirous of keeping the finances of the Senate in proper shape and preventing any money from being wasted. We found some time ago that the question of translating the unrevised Hansard was a very expensive matter and that the translation was hardly ever referred to or used. Therefore the French edition was not continued.

Now, the effect of this report would be that an effort would be made to resume the work of having the unrevised Hansard translated into French. It is not so much a question of the cost of translation as of the cost of printing—the amount we should have to pay to the Printing Bureau.

As has been pointed out by the honourable gentleman from St. John (Hon. Mr. Daniel),