

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—The House of Commons is responsible to the people of this country, and not to the Senate, for the action they may choose to take on any Bill. We freely exercise our judgment on any measures that come to us from the House of Commons, and I do not think it pertains to us to criticise the action of the House of Commons on any Bills submitted by this House to them for their consideration.

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS OF THE SENATE.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ADOPTED.

Hon. Mr. WATSON moved that the House concur in the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—What is the meaning of the first paragraph of this report:

1. Your committee recommend that all increases reported to the Senate, and the classification of the staffs, be regarded as increases under the Civil Service Act, and to date from and after September 1st, 1908.

I do not see the necessity for such a recommendation. The Bill that we passed yesterday settles the whole question.

Hon. Mr. POWER—It does not do any harm.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Yes, it does harm.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I think the object of it was to provide that the right of the officers of this House to a further increase of \$150 should not be prejudiced by the fact that they have not been given an increase under our classification.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I think it means quite the contrary, that we are acting against our employees in this way. It recommends that 'All increases reported to the Senate and the classification of the staffs be regarded as increases.'

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—Is it not so regarded by the Act?

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Then why make that recommendation?

Hon. Mr. WATSON—As the hon. gentleman is aware, we increased the salaries of two of our messengers from \$700 to \$800.

There was a doubt as to whether they were not placed in a worse position by our increasing their pay, because automatically they had an increase from September last, and by increasing the pay to \$800 of course it only dates from the time of the passing of that report. So the reason the committee put that in was that these two gentlemen should not be prejudiced on account of the apparent good-will of the committee in recommending an increase, because they would lose \$70 or \$80.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I am not against the increase, but it might work the other way, that persons entitled to increases under the law may be deprived of their rights. We passed a Bill yesterday giving to any person who has obtained an increase by the classification a right to the bonus of \$150. That is an increase enacted by the law, with or without recommendation; but we give our recommendation to that law by the report that was presented yesterday. That is good for those persons mentioned; but outside that there is an increase under the law of \$50 for those who have performed their duties subject to the approval of the clerk and of the Speaker. Do you think those will not be deprived if you count such increase as an increase under the classification? It will be an offset against the \$150.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—Does my hon. friend argue that the report of this committee will supersede a solemn Act of parliament?

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—No, I do not regard it as that, but if the wording of it is not intended to do that, as a matter of fact it does.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—It cannot; the Act is supreme.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—If it does not hurt anybody, I am willing to accept it.

The SPEAKER—The understanding is that these increases have reference to increases reported by the committee itself.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—Yes.

The motion was agreed to.