

Supply—Governor General's Office

anxious to have to bring before parliament any recommendations for the change in the allowances that were made just after there had been a change in the incumbent of that high office. The officials went into the figures very carefully with the comptroller. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre feels that there could be economies made, and that was looked into. It was found that in the actual expenditures, there did not seem to be any item that could be dispensed with without changing the scale on which the responsibilities of representing the sovereign were discharged in Canada.

This being the situation, it was felt that this recommendation should be made. The hon. member says there is a difference between the expenses there and the expenses of the house provided for the Prime Minister. Well, there is a very substantial difference in the size of the two establishments and the number of personnel required for their proper upkeep. All of that does have to be taken into account.

Mr. Low: And the office work is done at Rideau Hall.

Mr. St. Laurent: This amount does not only provide living accommodation for government house, it also provides for the whole administrative branch of the Governor General's office. In addition to the amounts that are required for the upkeep of 24 Sussex street, there are offices supplied to me here in the central block, there are offices supplied in the east block and there is personnel supplied to assist me in the discharge of my duties. All similar personnel is included in the details that are given on page 214 of the estimates for the Governor General's office.

The hon. member for Royal is quite right. This is an extremely modest sum when compared with the substantial sums that have to be provided out of the budget of the United Kingdom for the maintenance of the office of our beloved Queen of all the countries of the commonwealth. He is quite right. There is no contribution made by the Canadian public for the maintenance of the dignity of the monarchy as it exists for the benefit of all the countries of the commonwealth.

In each of the countries of the commonwealth there is a representative of the sovereign. But from what we know of the establishment out at Rideau Hall I do not think any of us feels that for the Canadian nation it is an extravagant establishment. I do not think that the travelling done by His Excellency in visiting the various parts of Canada is not worth, for the maintenance of our institutions, the amounts that are expended to have us all, from one ocean to the other,

realize that although we have our provincial legislatures we have a central authority, a central parliament that is the parliament of all of us and at the head of which is the personal representative of the sovereign of all the commonwealth countries.

Mr. Tustin: The Prime Minister in his remarks mentioned the fact that the salary of the secretary to the governor general was in two parts. I notice that in the estimates the statutory amount of \$2,400 is set out.

Mr. St. Laurent: Yes.

Mr. Tustin: Then we are asked to vote \$7,600 to make his total salary \$10,000.

Mr. St. Laurent: Yes.

Mr. Tustin: I wonder why it is done in that way?

Mr. St. Laurent: It is done in that way because at the time the office was established at confederation the salary of the secretary of the Governor General was fixed at \$2,400, and that statute has never been changed. But it was found, over the years, that it had to be supplemented. Perhaps it would have been wiser to amend the statute itself; but instead the practice that has been followed ever since the first increase was made in the \$2,400 is that of having it made through the estimates.

Mr. Hodgson: I should like to ask a simple question of the Minister of Finance. Am I to understand that the representative at government house is to get an increase in salary of \$50,000 a year, additional to the \$50,000 for expenses?

Mr. Abbott: There is no change in the salary.

Mr. St. Laurent: No, there is no change in the salary. The salary is the salary that is fixed, I think, in the British North America Act itself. The allowance was \$50,000 and it is now being made \$100,000. But that is the expense allowance. I can assure the hon. gentleman that not only the expense allowance but also the salary is spent in the maintenance of the office.

Mr. Hodgson: The reason I asked that question is this. At the time we were getting a Canadian representative, it was quite common talk that this procedure was going to save the Canadian nation a great deal of money; that is, in having a Canadian representative.

Mr. St. Laurent: I never heard that suggestion.

Mr. Hodgson: Now it is costing \$50,000 more per year.