

**Mr. Broadbent:** If the hon. member in the back will kindly be quiet for a few moments, I will start again. In view of the fact that the government has taken certain initiatives in proposing salary increases for members of parliament which, to quote the government House leader, take into account future increases—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I do not wish to repeat this too often, but this concerns a matter which was introduced by way of legislation yesterday and the indication was given that it would be before the House at an early time. One of our items of business is the calling, today, of that very bill and it will be the subject matter of debate. The first question asked today by the hon. member dealt with the wages of the working poor which has nothing to do with the particular matter to which I have just referred. If the hon. member has a line of questioning pursuing his original subject he ought not to be interfered with. However, if he wishes to make representations about members' salaries he should do that during the debate.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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#### PUBLIC SERVICE

##### SUGGESTION GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS TO EMPLOYEES TAKE ACCOUNT OF FUTURE INCREASES IN COST OF LIVING

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** I will deal with that matter later this afternoon, then. I would like to ask the Prime Minister this: in the government's attitude toward incomes of those for whom it is directly responsible, for example, civil servants, will it, in its proposals to its employees, take into account future increases in the cost of living in terms of the wage proposals made to its own employees?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I would think these are matters for negotiation which the government will take into account when representations are made to it. I do not know of any circumstances in which employees have asked the government to give them an increase which would cover a period of eight years and which would not be adjusted between the beginning and the end of that period.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Is the Prime Minister informing the House that the government would provide such guarantees for future increases in the cost of living should such a hypothetical proposal be made?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, I think there is no great difference of principle between the position taken by the hon. member and that taken by the majority of hon. members in this House. As I surmise, he is in favour of a 30 per cent increase rather than a 50 per cent increase over eight years. I suggest to him it would have been more constructive and perhaps a little more courageous if he had taken that position at the negotiating stage, when members were—

#### Oral Questions

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:**—when members of all parties were discussing this matter. But he preferred to hold back so that he could criticize freely.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Mr. Broadbent:** The Prime Minister has just referred to something he described as a negotiating stage for a bill which the government has introduced. I say to the Prime Minister that at no time was this party approached by his office or officially by his party to take part in any negotiations. I say also that if such a behind-the-scenes approach had been made to try to get the kind of secret consensus that many politicians wanted, he would have received a firm rejection on behalf of this party.

**Mr. Trudeau:** On that point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wish to confirm what the hon. member has said. At no time was he or his party approached by my office. Indeed, at no time was anyone approached by my office. My office was not involved in this at all.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is another example of what happens if we move away from the general orbit of the question period and get into the orbit of debate. This bill will be before the House either this week or some time later—

**An hon. Member:** Next week.

**Mr. Speaker:**—and when that happens there will be a committee stage during which questions and answers can be exchanged across the floor in proper debating form. Surely, that is the way to handle this matter, not during the question period.

**Mr. Leggatt:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I am rising at the earliest opportunity to correct the misinformation which the Prime Minister has given the House. The person referred to was myself in relation to the indication that supposedly there were negotiations. My position on the bill, I might say, has not changed but the suggestion by any person in this House that there were negotiations with this party is entirely and completely incorrect. At no time did I negotiate on behalf of this party and at no time was I a member of a formal parliamentary committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I was listening carefully to all the questions and answers up to this point, and I am not aware of any such allegation having been made.