

the installation of loud speakers on each desk, because that would be about the worst thing that could happen in the House of Commons. In deciding on that, I trust His Honour will not overlook the fact that somehow or another there should be better acoustics. The press cannot hear what is going on. It may be a good thing for us perhaps that they do not always hear everything, but in any event the press particularly have a responsibility that is second to none in the country, because what they hear here they tell to millions of Canadians; therefore it is important that they hear what is going on in the house. Some acoustic change should be made, but we should not have more noise in the house which would come from loud speakers; we should have less noise, but that noise should be heard.

These two suggestions might properly be considered by His Honour. I think we are badly in need of reform in that direction.

Item agreed to.

The Senate—

746. To provide, notwithstanding anything contained in the Senate and House of Commons Act, for the payment to each member of the Senate who attended the first part of the present session which commenced on March 14, 1946, and ended on April 17, 1946, of an amount representing the actual transportation and living expenses of such member while on the journey between Ottawa and his place of residence, after the Easter adjournment of parliament on April 17, 1946, and on the return journey from his place of residence to Ottawa at the end of the recess which commenced on that date, or, in case any such member did not return to his place of residence during said recess, an amount equivalent to what would have been his travelling expenses if he had returned to his place of residence during the said recess, \$5,000.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The language in which this item is expressed does not convey what was intended by treasury board when the estimate was prepared. This language was copied from a former statute. What was intended by treasury board was that the travelling expenses of members who returned to their constituencies during the Easter vacation would be reimbursed to them, or that if they did not return at that time, but did return on some other occasion, the expense of one trip would be reimbursed to them. The language as it stands at present appears to go beyond that.

I move:

That the explanation of item 746 in the estimates be amended by deleting all the words after the words "on that date" and substituting therefor the following, "at any other one time during the present session."

Amendment agreed to.

Item as amended agreed to.

House of Commons—

750. To provide, notwithstanding anything contained in the Senate and House of Commons Act, for the payment to each member of the House of Commons who attended the first part of the present session which commenced on March 14, 1946, and ended on April 17, 1946, of an amount representing the actual transportation and living expenses of such member while on the journey between Ottawa and his place of residence after the Easter adjournment of parliament on April 17, 1946, and on the return journey from his place of residence to Ottawa at the end of the recess which commenced on that date, or did not return to his place of residence during the said recess, an amount equivalent to what would have been his travelling expenses if he had returned to his place of residence during the said recess, \$12,000.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The same amendment is required in this item. I move:

That the explanation of item 750 in the estimates be amended by deleting all the words after the words "on that date" and substituting therefor the following, "at any other one time during the present session."

Amendment agreed to.

Item as amended agreed to.

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

934. Office of the special commissioner for defence projects in northwest Canada—further amount required, \$1,673.

Mr. GRAYDON: Has this special commissioner anything to do with the arctic situation?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: During the war there were United States forces located in Canada, carrying out some work in northwestern Canada. It was found necessary to ask them to comply with Canadian regulations. A special commissioner was appointed so that applications could be made to him instead of to Ottawa, for the purpose of saving time. He is still in control of joint operations in that part of Canada.

Item agreed to.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

803. Departmental administration—further amount required, \$15,000.

Mr. GRAYDON: Are the stamps to which I referred earlier to be sold, or will they be withdrawn? I wish I had studied them more closely before the matter was drawn to the attention of the minister on the earlier occasion because, not only is the plough a left-handed plough, but I find that the man driving the horse has undertaken to walk over the ploughed ground instead of over the sod.