

month, and there is a sum of \$600 set aside for the purpose. He will draw \$50 a month only during the parliamentary session. Mr. Hinds has been secretary to other leaders of the Senate. I understand he did a great deal of work for Mr. Meighen while he led the House, and I have no doubt Mr. Meighen chose him because of his ability and experience. I do not think my friend from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock) need give the matter a great deal of consideration. If at a later date we think it wise to appoint a secretary we can do so. I take full responsibility for making the recommendation to the committee. I am informed the committee accepted it.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: Honourable members, there is one point I think we should take notice of, in connection with this matter which has been raised by the honourable senator from Parkdale. If the Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts can pass motions of the kind referred to without reporting to the Senate, we should know whence it gets its authority. It is a standing committee of this House, and in my view its members have a right to deal only with matters referred to the committee in the order of reference.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: They are afraid to report for fear the facts will come out.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: A motion of that committee is of no force or effect until the report is adopted by this House.

I just rose to point out that if our standing committees are to function in that way, without reporting to the House, their duties are very different from what I have always understood them to be.

Hon. Mr. WHITE: Honourable senators, as chairman of the committee referred to, I may say that I inquired of the Clerk of the Senate this morning whether it was necessary for the committee to submit a report on this matter, and I was informed that it was not. Therefore no report has been presented by me.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: And yet you will recall that a few days ago we had to deal with the situation of the late Senator Dandurand's secretary.

Hon. Mr. LITTLE: An entirely different matter.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: Surely the action of a committee is of no effect until it is ratified by this House. Are we to understand that a committee can take action, and that there is no obligation to report to this House?

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: That is what we are told.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: There is some misunderstanding. The man was appointed by the leader of the House. The Auditor General raised some question as to whether he could pay the money or not, and said to the senator from London (Hon. Mr. Little), "I want a resolution passed by the Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts." The senator then presented a motion, which was carried unanimously, and I took it for granted that the matter ended there. The committee was not usurping the authority of the House at all; it was simply complying with the request of the Auditor General. I think the honourable leader himself probably had a right to make the appointment, but apparently the Auditor General thought this resolution should be passed. The honourable senator from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock) was on the committee and did not even say the proverbial "Boo". I can assure the House that the members of the committee were not trying at all to avoid coming to the House, but were simply trying to make it clear to the Auditor General that they, as a committee, were accepting and confirming what the leader had done.

Hon. B. F. SMITH: You are establishing a most dangerous precedent.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Let me answer the honourable senator right now. The whole question of the rights and powers of the Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts is now before that committee. It has had before it a legal opinion by the late W. F. O'Connor, K.C., and the opinion of the present Parliamentary Counsel. At the next meeting it is to decide upon the policy to be adopted; then it will bring a report to this House. That will be the proper time to raise questions as to what the committee may or may not do. Whether it has been right or wrong, I do not know. We shall thrash that out later. The fact is that the committee sometimes has to deal with small items affecting temporary help and that kind of thing, and apparently in previous years it has not been thought necessary to make a detailed report of these matters to this House. That is how it comes that the Auditor General wanted to get the confirmation of the committee. I can assure the honourable gentleman from Queen's (Hon. Mr. Sinclair), and the honourable members from Victoria-Carleton (Hon. Mr. Smith) and Moncton (Hon. Mr. Robinson)—these Maritimers seem to want to know an awful