

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it agreed by hon. members that we do not see the clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Knowles: But that we see it at seven o'clock?

Item agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: The estimates of the Department of Justice are concluded. Next we shall take legislation.

LEGISLATION

The Senate—

Vote 7e.—To deem, for the purpose of enabling the Governor in Council to grant an annuity under section 16 of an act to make provision for the retirement of members of the Senate, that Senator J. W. Comeau was, at the time of his death, a person who had been granted an annuity under section 15 of the said Act, \$1.

Mr. Herridge: This is a very interesting item, Mr. Chairman. It reads:

—for the purpose of enabling the Governor in Council to grant an annuity under section 16 of an act to make provision for the retirement of members of the Senate, that Senator J. W. Comeau was, at the time of his death, a person who had been granted an annuity under section 15 of the said act.

Could the minister explain that?

Mr. Benson: I shall be very pleased to explain it. Senator Comeau some two or three weeks before his death wrote a letter to the Clerk of the Senate saying that he was resigning. Unfortunately he was then informed that he could not resign by sending a letter to the Clerk of the Senate. The day before his death, when this information got back to him, he wrote a letter to the Governor General resigning as a senator. This could not be accepted by the time he died the next day. As his widow would have been deprived of the pension which is granted to retiring senators' wives, this item is to correct the very unfortunate situation which happened. The resignation was in the mail and had not been acted upon because he died the very day it arrived.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the item carry?

Item agreed to.

House of Commons—

20e. General administration, \$220,000.

Mr. Herridge: I have one comment. For certain aesthetic reasons, I am informed, the protective staff in the basement will not let

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anyone through the doors. What I really wish to say, Mr. Chairman, is that there is very little ventilation down there and it is a stuffy place. I understand that in the first instance six or seven years ago members of the protective staff were put there on a temporary basis. I ask the minister if he would not draw this to the attention of those concerned to see if the protective staff cannot be located in a more desirable place.

Mr. Benson: I should be very pleased to bring this to the attention of the minister.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the item carry?

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: When the minister deals with the matter just raised by the previous speaker, could he not inquire about a very small thing related to the messengers of the House of Commons who are located on the first floor also? The messengers do not even have a telephone to call home or outside the House of Commons and they cannot get telephone calls either. If someone falls sick at home, either their wives or a young child, it is impossible to reach the messenger concerned in the House of Commons. Could not the minister see to it that a telephone is installed in the messengers' office for their use?

• (6:10 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Benson: It is amazing what one has to do to get estimates through the house. However, I will undertake to look into this situation.

Item agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: We shall now proceed to the estimates of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

Mining and Metallurgical Investigations and Research—

35e. Administration, operation and maintenance—to increase to \$70,000 the grants in aid of mining and mineral processing research in Canadian universities, \$1.

Mr. Howard: Could the minister explain this vote to me? I notice the amount is \$1. There were grants in aid of mining and mineral processing research in the amount of \$20,000 and there are funds available in the main estimates for 1965-66 to the extent of \$19,999. These people engaged in research do not need just an extra dollar, do they?