

Salaries Act

There are also federal grants and allowances provided annually in the estimates under the vote for the Governor General and lieutenant governors. For 1974-75, non-accountable allowances varying from \$10,000 to \$18,000 are provided for hospitality and travelling expenses within the provincial capital. There is also a fund for travelling by lieutenant governors outside the provincial capitals.

The argument for uniformity does not apply to the same degree to grants and non-accountable allowances. The salaries should be uniform because the salaries are paid in respect of the position, its functions, and the dignity of the office. The grants and allowances can reflect the differing conditions to be found in the various provinces.

Various kinds of support is also provided to lieutenant governors by the provinces. Some provinces provide a residence for the lieutenant governor; others pay the cost of rented accommodation. Lieutenant governors' staffs are provided through the provincial budgets.

While it is not my intention to engage in a dissertation on the constitution, hon. members will be aware that, within the limitations of the constitutional framework, lieutenant governors perform the same functions at the provincial level as the Governor General does at the federal level. The lieutenant governor is the Queen's representative in the province and possesses the same power with regard to provincial legislation as does the Governor General with respect to federal legislation.

In the table of precedence, lieutenant governors of the provinces rank immediately after the federal cabinet. There may be some who in a contemporary political sense might not regard this as a recommendation, but it indicates the importance of the office in our system, an importance that continues undiminished and which, in fact, the government by this bill is supporting by providing more adequate remuneration and widening the area of choice for future appointees.

Hon. members will have noted that another bill, Bill C-23 on the Order Paper, proposes a plan for superannuation of lieutenant governors which is another move in the same direction, making it possible for those of moderate means to accept appointment as lieutenant governor.

● (2140)

It is my hope and that of the government that parliament will give prompt approval to this legislation.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, if I—

Mr. Stanfield: We are recognizing your seniority tonight.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): If I seem stunned and speechless for the moment, it is because I am aware of the rule which provides that the first member of the opposition replying to a minister moving a government order is not limited to 40 minutes. Since no member of the official opposition chose to take the floor, that gives me unlimited time.

[Mr. Sharp.]

Mr. Stanfield: We felt you needed it.

Mr. Muir: God forbid, Stanley.

Mr. Benjamin: You fellows can all go home.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I am waiting for an invitation to use unlimited time, which would give me 17 minutes tonight and then tomorrow morning, but the invitations do not seem to be as forthcoming as I thought, although there is one quiet voice from the other side.

There is no question but that we in this country like our system under which the head of the country and the head of the government in each province is a person above politics. We respect, not only because we are supposed to but from sincerity, the position of the Crown as represented by Her Majesty the Queen, and also the position of those who represent her as Governor General of Canada and as lieutenant governors of the provinces. We share in that respect, and we agree that the lieutenant governors as well as the Governor General should be provided with the means necessary to fulfill their functions with dignity and respect.

I think it can also be argued that the salaries these persons now receive—you will notice, Madam Speaker, that I did not say gentlemen because at least one of them is the distinguished lieutenant governor of Ontario—certainly do not seem excessive. The lieutenant governor of Quebec and the lieutenant governor of Ontario receive \$20,000 per year as salary. The lieutenant governors of seven other provinces receive \$18,000, and the lieutenant governor of the Province of Prince Edward Island receives \$16,000.

Even as one who has been taking a pretty firm stand against increases in this time when we are supposed to be exercising restraint, I certainly could not argue against a modest increase in these salaries. Even so, it does seem to me that those who occupy these important positions should be regarded as Canadians like the rest of us and should be invited to share in the effort to exercise some restraint. When an increase from \$20,000 to \$35,000 for the lieutenant governors of two provinces is proposed, that is an increase of 75 per cent. I made one mistake this afternoon, but I am not making any mistakes tonight.

Mr. Baldwin: You've still got 15 minutes, Stanley.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): When an increase for seven lieutenant governors from \$18,000 to \$35,000 is proposed, that is an increase of 94 per cent. Not bad! In the case of Prince Edward Island, that delightful place we would all like to go to, the increase is from \$16,000 to \$35,000, an increase of 118 per cent.

Mr. Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): That is where I would like to come from.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): My hon. friend, the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Clarke), says that is where he would like to come from. Not many have come from there, but those are the facts. These are the