

The government will not propose at this time changes in the salaries of office holders in Parliament as recommended by the Beaupre committee.

The government will introduce in this session as well amendments to the Judges Act which will increase judicial salaries significantly in an attempt both to recognize more adequately the heavy responsibilities of these persons, and to facilitate the appointment to the bench of younger candidates who may have family responsibilities.

Legislation will also be introduced to provide for an increase in the salary of the Auditor General by equating the salary of the holder of this important public office to that of the Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The government intends to introduce as well legislation to amend the Prime Minister's Residence Act to bring within it provisions for a residence for the Leader of the Opposition and for a residence for the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: This measure recommends the conversion of that act into an Official Residences Act, placing the three residences on a rent-free basis consistent with the recommendations of the Beaupré Committee. In the case of the Prime Minister's residence the new provisions would come into force after the next general election, while provisions for the residences of the Speaker of the House and the Leader of the Opposition would be effective as of January 1, 1970.

I wish now, Mr. Speaker, to turn briefly to the question of salaries for senior members of the Public Service. The government has received and approved in principle the second report of the Advisory Group on Executive Compensation in the Public Service, chaired by Mr. J. V. Clyne.

In the report, the advisory group has once more stressed the importance of performance evaluation in the application and continuing administration of individual rates of pay for executives in the Public Service. It examined the existing executive salary structure in relation to the trends and levels in executive salaries in the private and public sectors as well as to the results of collective bargaining in the Public Service, and concluded that if the Public Service is to attract and retain the services of the best available personnel for executive positions, executive salaries must remain reasonably competitive with those in the private sector.

Although the advisory group recommended that the salary ranges for executives and deputy ministers be adjusted, it did so subject to the following reservation which the government strongly endorses:

We wish to stress once again that we are not recommending salary increases for senior executives, but rather that we are providing a salary framework that should permit the government to obtain and retain the best available people for the most important positions in the Public Service.

The government has decided not to approve at this time the recommendation which would have had the

effect of extending the maxima of the ranges by 20 per cent in exceptional circumstances.

The advisory group recommends that the managerial group excluded from collective bargaining should be more clearly identified and enlarged, and the government is prepared to have this matter studied further in conjunction with the review of legislation affecting collective bargaining. The government has also approved the four principles which would govern the determination of pay and conditions of work for the management group, whatever its size or composition.

The report deals with the proposals for early retirement which are reflected in the government organization bill which received first reading on December 9, 1970. The administrative recommendations relating to early retirement have been referred to the Treasury Board for action, as have the recommendations relating to non-salary compensation.

Salary revisions for both judges and senior public servants will be phased in over a two-year period, deferring full implementation until January 1, 1972, but moving half-way with effect from January 1, 1971.

[Translation]

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and that, I am sure, of all hon. members to Mr. Beaupré and the members of his committee, Mr. Arthur Maloney and Monsieur Marc Lapointe, for the time which they have devoted to these important matters and for their excellent report. We also thank Mr. Clyne and the members of his advisory group, Drs. J. J. Deutsch and Roger Gaudry, Mr. Allen Lambert and Monsieur Marcel Vincent.

In conclusion, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I wish to table the second report of the Advisory Group on Executive Compensation, as well as a document containing details of the proposed increases in judicial salaries.

[English]

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, the statement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) forecasts legislation of a type that is, I believe, of basic importance to the Canadian nation. Therefore I wish to express appreciation of the fact that a copy of the statement was made available in advance.

The statement deals with the most important institutions of our democratic system of government, including the position of Parliament itself with relation to the remuneration of the membership of the Senate and House of Commons. The provision of residences for two of the most important officers of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and the holder of the position of Speaker, is long overdue. The salary of the Auditor General, one of the most important servants of Parliament, is also of great importance, as are the salaries of judges. Finally, the salary ranges of senior public servants in the executive class range and the salary ranges of deputy ministers are of importance.

Referring to the last matter, I note that the government is closely following the recommendations of the advisory group on salary ranges for executives and