

*Members' Salaries*

us in reaching a decision as to what to place before the House, although, as the House will see, we have not accepted them in full. I thank the members of the ad hoc committee for their advice and I should like to make it clear, in light of the interjections we had earlier in today's session, that the ad hoc group of members which made the recommendations did not purport to speak on behalf of the parties to which the members of the group belonged: they spoke only as individual members reflecting the views of private members.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sharp:** That is as it should be and as the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) wanted it; that is why he did not in any way intervene at any time nor suggest that there had been any party commitment on any side of this particular bill. This is a matter affecting members of parliament as a whole regardless of the party to which they adhere. The members of the government and their supporters do not have a special interest in this bill. It is my hope and expectation that the bill now before us will be considered in the same spirit, as an issue for parliament and not for party.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Madam Speaker, would the hon. minister permit a question?

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Will the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) permit a question?

**Mr. Sharp:** Certainly.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** When the minister refers to an ad hoc committee, may I ask whether any member of this party was a member of that committee or attended any meeting of such an ad hoc committee?

**Mr. Sharp:** Madam Speaker, since I was not, of course, involved—we took no initiative as a government in this matter—I was informed it was a group of members who represented all points of view in the House and that they spoke for a very large majority of all members.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) by this indirect answer to the question is conveying the impression that there was an ad hoc committee and that members of all parties were on that committee. My information is that no member of this party was a member of that ad hoc committee. My information is that there was a meeting of that ad hoc committee but that no member of this party was at the meeting.

**An hon. Member:** Absolutely right.

**Mr. Sharp:** Madam Speaker, on this particular occasion we have in the House members who were helping the government by giving advice: they can speak on their own behalf. This is not a question of privilege. I am not alleging this; I have simply had advice—

**An hon. Member:** You are spreading it.

[Mr. Sharp.]

**Mr. Sharp:** I was advised that there were members of all parties present. If that is not so, I can at least say, because I know it from personal knowledge, that a very large proportion of the members of the House agree with the recommendations made to me on behalf—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacGuigan:** Madam Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Order, please. The hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. MacGuigan) on the question of privilege.

**Mr. MacGuigan:** Madam Speaker, I regret very much having to interrupt the House leader, but I feel that since the NDP member has raised this as a question of privilege it ought to be answered on the same question of privilege. There was no committee as such, but there was ad hoc consultation among backbench members of all parties. NDP members participated in the backbench consultation.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacGuigan:** Almost all the negotiations, Madam Speaker, were conducted on a bilateral basis, occasionally with three parties present. The NDP members were consulted on that basis and we were assured at that time that there was very considerable support in that party for the initiative which we were taking. It is true that there was one meeting held more formally by some members who were involved in the consultation, and at that meeting no member of the NDP was present; but that was only one of the forms of consultation. In general, I would say that members of the NDP were as fully consulted as members of all other parties.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Order, please. The President of the Privy Council.

**Mr. Sharp:** Madam Speaker, hon. members will recall that in February, 1970, the government of that day asked for independent recommendations from a commission headed by the late T. N. Beaupre and including Mr. Arthur Maloney, a former member of parliament from the Progressive Conservative Party, and Mr. Marc Lapointe who had been active on behalf of organized labour in industrial relations.

The commission was asked to recommend the level of remuneration for members of parliament, the Speakers, ministers, the leader of the opposition and other members who perform additional duties, such as parliamentary secretaries. It reported in November, 1970, more than four years ago. The government of that day decided to go only part way in implementing the Beaupre commission recommendations. For example, it raised indemnities from \$12,000 to \$18,000 and not to \$25,000 as recommended by the commission. It did not accept any of the recommendations for increases in salaries of ministers, the Speakers, parliamentary secretaries or any of the other office-holders in parliament. And it did not accept the recommenda-