

bers attention to the fact that he will have the opportunity of making representations when the bill is brought before the house, as the minister stated a moment ago. I would therefore ask the hon. member to limit himself to the general principles contained in the resolution. If he wants to deal with specific cases, he should wait until the bill has been referred to the committee of the whole.

Mr. HAMEL: Mr. Speaker, my only intention is to deal with the principle of the resolution. I am opposed to increasing the salary of members of the civil service commission and, as I must base my judgment on facts, I may say that it has been derelict in its duties, and I shall prove it. I do not want to be disagreeable and I would gladly await another occasion; however Your Honour knows very well that in these dying days of the session, when we are sitting eight hours every day and expecting to sit ten and even twelve hours daily, I can hardly take the risk of the matter coming up while I am away. But, my main reason for continuing my remarks is that I believe them to be in order. If I am ruled out of order, I shall evidently be relieved of all responsibility in the matter.

I want to show, Mr. Speaker, that the civil service commission has failed, because it has not been able to give the Canadian population representation in the civil service—which at the present time constitutes a fourth power—based on that fundamental democratic and British principle of representation according to population, and has violated since its inception another great principle on which our charter is based: no taxation without representation.

Now, since Your Honour prefers it that way, I shall keep my statistics and give them later. However, I will mention a few figures. There are, at present, 112,658 employees in the civil service. According to a statement published in the *Journal*, only ten per cent of that number is made up of French Canadians. That is to say, French Canadians should hold 22,000 more positions than they do at present. What does it represent in actual dollars? It means that between 35 and 40 million dollars, which should be paid French Canadians every year, go elsewhere. The situation is particularly noteworthy in the higher grades. I am asking hon. members to my right, my compatriots and all other representatives in this house what they would say if at a certain time French-speaking members were excluded from the cabinet? If it is considered that it is fair that French-speaking citizens be represented in the cabinet, if it is fitting that

French-speaking citizens be represented in this house on the basis of population, that French-speaking citizens be represented in the judiciary according to population—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I am very sorry, but I cannot allow the hon. member to continue his speech which is completely out of order.

May I remind him once more that he will be given an opportunity for making certain representations when the bill comes before the house. But his remarks are absolutely irrelevant to the resolution now before us.

(Text):

Mr. A. J. BROOKS (Royal): Mr. Speaker, this resolution is to provide, among other things, a statutory basis within the Civil Service Act for veterans' preference in appointments to the civil service. We all realize that one of the most important benefits that can be granted to a returned soldier is a preference in appointment to the civil service. I think all returned soldier bodies have recognized that since the last war, and the returned soldier has become very jealous of this preference.

I want to ask the minister a question with reference to the recommendation that was made by the veterans affairs committee last year and which will be found in No. 51 of the minutes of proceedings and evidence. It reads:

That the present civil service preference for disabled veterans who served overseas be extended to cover all employment, both temporary and permanent, by the House of Commons and by dominion government agencies, inclusive of crown companies.

We have discussed in this house on many occasions the question whether the veterans' civil service preference should be extended to crown companies. I think that the returned soldiers today feel that these crown companies are the thin end of the wedge which is getting rid of the returned soldier preference, and considerable bitterness and resentment is felt by returned soldiers on this account. There may be some justification for setting up these crown companies. I am sure there is in some cases; in others we feel that possibly there is not, but whether there is justification for them or not, these crown companies employ civil servants and it is felt by the returned men that these civil servants should be recruited from the ranks of the returned men as far as possible. Yesterday when the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) was speaking on the Canadian Commercial Corporation it was brought out that this particular crown company employed 184 men, of whom only 56 were veterans. It would seem to me that if