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The Clerk of the Senate
Ottawa

5th February, 1934.

The Honourable W.H. Sharpe, Senator,
Chairman of the Committee,
Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts,
The Senate.

Dear Senator Sharpe:

In response to your request for a full and complete statement with respect to the staff of the Senate, I submit the following:-

Law Clerk.

This position has been vacant since 1930. In 1933 the Government deleted from the Estimates the salary vote for this position. The Senate being thus deprived of the services of a Law Clerk it has been necessary on several occasions to engage counsel to redraft and revise Government Bills before the Senate. During the past session the Senate paid \$2250. for legal services of this kind. There should be an officer on the staff of the Senate with the necessary legal qualifications who could render services of this kind.

My view is that there should be one Law Branch for Parliament with one Chief Parliamentary Counsel and two or more assistants, one specially qualified in drafting. This Branch should be at the call of either House, and under the control of a Joint Committee with equal representation from the two Houses. I am aware that members of Parliament do not look upon such a plan with favour.

Stationery Clerk.

This position became vacant in November 1933. The Government have deleted from the Estimates the salary vote

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