

Supply—Legislation

understand the reluctance of the hon. member for Kootenay West in wanting to see these circulated because if there were enough copies circulated, and enough people read them, not only the Social Credit party would be eliminated but his group as well.

Mr. Herridge: I send *Hansard* out to anyone in my constituency who asks for one.

Mr. McGee: I hope the hon. member for Kootenay West had his tongue in his cheek when he made reference to the poor, starving socialists. Unfortunately, I do not happen to live in a country estate in the mountains, I live in a small house in suburbia. I cannot afford to pay out what would amount to more than \$2,000 over a normal session. I had requests from constituents immediately following election in June for something over 120, and they are still on the list. As I say, I am a poor starving capitalist who lives in suburbia, and I cannot afford that amount of money.

Mr. Fisher: I wanted to ask if Your Honour could define for us the rules in relation to what happens to the clerical staff at the end of the session. There was a certain amount of confusion after dissolution as to what our rights were with regard to the use of clerical help. There may be some question immediately after this session closes. I know some members want to leave immediately, but I wondered what the rights were of the members who desired to stay for a few days and possibly use a secretary to complete some work.

Mr. Speaker: In my brief experience, Mr. Chairman, with the administration of this essential service to the members, that is the secretarial service, the only principle I have followed was to try to give to the members all the service that they required within the capacity of the staff and the money. We have a vote which provides for some 38 permanent stenographers and 140 sessional stenographers. The immediate problem is service at the end of the session and I can say that, as at the end of past sessions, any member who wants secretarial service for a few days or a reasonable time after the end of the session to complete his arrangements, can be assured of having that service.

There is also a secretarial pool here during the recess, and members who come here during the recess can call on the stenographic services available. Although they may not be able to have their customary secretary, there will be a competent secretary from the pool available. There are some of these secretaries on a continuous basis who are assigned definitely to local members who can

carry on their constituency correspondence the year round because they live near Ottawa. Obviously, that is not possible for distant members.

Mr. Speakman: I should like to ask Mr. Speaker if he would look into the difference in salaries received by the House of Commons messengers as against salaries received by messengers in the other place whose duties are considerably less, whose time is required considerably less, but who I believe are getting considerably more.

Mr. Garland: I should like to pursue very briefly, Mr. Chairman, the matter with which we were dealing prior to lunch, that is the matter of the installation in the Prime Minister's office. As a result of that I am wondering whether we are correct in assuming that these wires can be tapped without Mr. Speaker's permission.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member is talking about the physical possibility, I would say that I do not inspect them and that I do not know whether they have been or are being tapped. I think the point was fairly well dealt with previously when it was discussed and I do not think I have anything to add.

Mr. Garland: I make no apology for raising the matter again because Mr. Speaker is the first commoner and there is no one else to whom we can turn for protection in a matter of this kind. When Mr. Speaker said that he was not consulted prior to the installation, I wonder whether he could say if he has been consulted since the installation. I have two or three points in mind. The first is this. Can he say precisely to what use this service is being put at the present time?

Mr. Speaker: I can say that I have had no requests from any members of the house for the extension of the loud speaker service beyond the chamber.

Mr. Garland: Perhaps Mr. Speaker misunderstood my question. The question I asked was this. Can he say precisely to what use this service is being put at the present time?

Mr. Speaker: No. It is not within my knowledge. Before the adjournment I expressed my view that this amplification system, which was authorized initially by the house, is a matter for the direction and control of the house. As Speaker, of course, I am only the servant of the house and I do as I am authorized and directed to do by the house.

Mr. Garland: What assurance have members of the house that other installations of a similar nature are not in effect even at this precise moment?