

can all see them and read them. It is not open to 245 members of this house to send down to the proper office to get the return.

Mr. ABBOTT: If my memory serves me correctly, the complete return was published in both the morning and evening editions of the press.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is not good enough; that is not official.

Mr. ABBOTT: You do not read the press.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): We do read the press, but that is not official.

Mr. MacNICOL: That is not an answer anyway.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I think we ought to have it on *Hansard*. That is why I am interested in those making \$5,000 and over. How many are there from \$3,000 to \$5,000?

Mr. GRAYDON: This return referred to by the hon. member for York-Sunbury calls for a list of salaries from \$3,000 to \$5,000 paid by the wartime prices and trade board. Some debate occurred yesterday or the day before in connection with this matter. Has the minister the information called for by the question which was passed as an order for return?

Mr. ABBOTT: If my hon. friend does not mind, perhaps I can answer this, because I am familiar with the facts. I was not here on Monday when the question came up. When it first appeared on the order paper I took the matter up with the wartime prices and trade board. The question covered more than the names of the persons receiving \$3,000 and up, it asked for allowances and travelling expenses. The first difficulty was in connection with travelling expenses. The board does not keep the travelling expenses separate for each individual employee. For instance, if an investigator goes to Renfrew and spends \$3.25, he puts in a voucher and it is charged to the regular travelling expense account. It will mean a tremendous amount of work to segregate these travelling expenses and allocate them to each individual employee. Speaking from memory, I believe there are several hundred employees.

Mr. GRAYDON: Surely this does not mean that the board has no record of the individual travelling expenses of its employees?

Mr. ABBOTT: Oh, yes; that is the practice in every large organization. You do not open a special account for each employee to show what his travelling expenses are. You have the general account in which you charge travelling expenses, and you indicate to whom the travelling expenses are paid. That is the

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

practice which is followed in the wartime prices and trade board, and the information is there showing the amount of expenses paid each individual employee. But it will mean going through the general account and segregating the amounts paid to each individual. As I say, in the group \$3,000 to \$5,000 there are several hundred employees.

Mr. MacNICOL: That travel around?

Mr. ABBOTT: I am just speaking from memory. Perhaps I had better get the accurate figure. It is at least 200.

Mr. MacNICOL: That travel around here and there?

Mr. ABBOTT: I do not know that. There are several hundred employees in the category \$3,000 to \$5,000. Some may have to travel and some not. That varies according to their duty. That is the second point.

The third point in connection with that particular question was that the information with respect to \$5,000 and up had been given in the return I mentioned a short time ago. Accordingly I went to the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker), who had asked the question, and pointed out to him the amount of work which would be involved in giving the individual travelling expenses of all these employees. I also pointed out that the information had already been given in the return with respect to those with salaries of \$5,000 and up, and I indicated that among the two or three hundred in between \$3,000 and \$5,000 there were a number of inequalities; that is to say, one man might be getting \$100 or \$200 more than another man doing perhaps the same sort of work. The reason for that was that the staff was got together in a relatively short time; a good many of these employees were lent to the board by private firms; and in these instances they would be paid their salaries by the private employers, and the private employers reimbursed by the board. I pointed out to the hon. member for Lake Centre that the board felt that the publication of this complete list with names would create a difficult internal situation amongst these employees—

Mr. MacNICOL: So it would.

Mr. ABBOTT: —and that the board would be faced with a number of demands, not for decreases but for increases. I put that up to him. I said, "If you insist on this information being filed and the full list given, of course you will get it, but I am pointing out to you the reasons. Let me know what you think." I think I suggested to him that I would give