

Supply—Privy Council

him again. Therefore during the election campaign, even though his services undoubtedly would be useful, we can assume he will be left in Ottawa to look after his proper position as clerk of the privy council. And I have no doubt he will do a splendid job, if he is not asked to mix politics with it during the hectic days of an election.

Mr. St. Laurent: Had the hon. member looked at the estimates for last year he would have seen that this position was described in exactly the same language—deputy head, clerk of the privy council and secretary to the cabinet—when the office was occupied by Mr. Norman Robertson, who is now our high commissioner in London.

Mr. Rowe: Would the Prime Minister tell us who is special assistant to the Prime Minister? The item is still in the estimates, but no salary is indicated. Is there a special assistant, or has the Prime Minister only one private secretary? I believe the ex-prime minister had about a dozen secretaries. Does the Prime Minister now get along with one?

Mr. St. Laurent: The hon. member's beliefs show that he has extraordinary faith when he says he believes that the former prime minister had at least a dozen secretaries.

Mr. Rowe: That does not answer the question.

Mr. Fulton: I do not want to get into an argument as to details. However, if the Prime Minister will look at the item he will observe that in the fourth item of the details of the estimates at page 379 there is a position described as "assistant deputy head, assistant clerk of the privy council." And in the column on the left side it appears that, whereas there was one of these officials in the year 1952-53 there is no one in that office in 1953-54. Then if the Prime Minister will look at the columns to the right of the page he will see that the salary for 1952-53 was \$7,320, and that for 1953-54 the salary is \$9,000. If there is no one holding that position in this current fiscal year, then I am interested to know who has earned the \$9,000 salary being provided: or, alternatively, if the \$9,000 salary is being provided for that position, why is there no figure in the first column on the left side of the page?

Mr. St. Laurent: Well, of course, I did not print the book of estimates.

Mr. Fulton: I did not think that the Prime Minister had.

Mr. St. Laurent: The salary at \$9,000 is for one assistant deputy head, assistant clerk of the privy council. The gentleman who draws that salary is Mr. A. M. Hill, who has been in charge of records of the privy council ever

since I have been a privy councillor, as far back as I can remember.

Mr. Fulton: Then there is a person holding that position and who will continue to hold it this year? Therefore I presume there should be a figure "1" in the first column on the left side?

Mr. St. Laurent: There is a figure "1" there. There are two assistant secretaries.

Mr. Fulton: That is the next item.

Mr. St. Laurent: There is a figure "1" in the left column of my printed copy.

Mr. Fulton: I have just obtained another copy to make sure that mine is not a misprint. Perhaps this is not a very important item, but I just want to make certain that there is in fact a person holding the position for which a salary is being provided. In my copy, and in the one I have just borrowed, there is no figure "1" in the column on the left side headed "1953-54." There is a figure "1" in the column headed "1952-53", which was last year.

Mr. St. Laurent: They add up to 87. There is a figure "1" in my copy and that is required to make the total of 87. If there is no figure "1" in the hon. gentleman's copy and he will add them up, he will find they come to only 86.

Mr. Rowe: Who is the registrar of the privy council? That is a new item this year. There is a reduction of \$12,000 for the special assistant to the Prime Minister, but there is this new position of registrar of the cabinet with a salary of \$7,000. There are also two new assistant secretaries to the cabinet.

Mr. St. Laurent: The registrar of the cabinet is Mr. W. E. D. Halliday.

Mr. Rowe: What are his functions?

Mr. St. Laurent: I cannot tell the hon. gentleman exactly what are his functions, but the hon. gentleman knows that a couple of years ago I undertook to table monthly, while parliament was in session, a summary of orders in council. There is a register of orders in council kept and a summary is tabled every month. I do not know just what Mr. Halliday's functions were before he became registrar. These changes are made by the civil service commission as part of the reclassification.

Mr. Adamson: It has always puzzled me as to just how many people are privy to the deliberations of the privy council.

Mr. St. Laurent: I do not think there are ever more than two. There is usually the clerk of the privy council and one of his