

Mr. LENNARD: I want to ask several questions which the rules prevented me from putting on the order paper several months ago. Who is the purchasing agent for the parliamentary restaurant? When was he appointed? Why was he appointed? Is it a full-time or part-time position, and what salary does he receive?

Mr. SPEAKER: The purchasing agent for the restaurant is a gentleman named Martial Rheume. He has been appointed permanently, and I think his salary is around \$2,000 a year. I am told he is making a very fine job of it.

Mr. BOUCHER: I do not wish to let this opportunity pass without referring to the fact that last year in this house we discussed the difference in the pay received by the protective staff of the House of Commons and the protective staff of the Senate, and I do not believe proper action was taken. I would refer that matter to Mr. Speaker also, bearing in mind that the protective staff on this side of the building, although doing more work than those on the other side, receive less pay; and I do not believe the ratio between them is at all fair.

Mr. SPEAKER: During the recess I shall be able to take time to look after my administration. I will look into that matter and do for the protective staff, as for others, whatever may be possible.

Item agreed to.

122. To provide hereby, notwithstanding anything contained in the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act or the provisions of the Senate and House of Commons Act respecting the independence of parliament, for payment out of the consolidated revenue fund to each member of the House of Commons appointed by the governor in council to be a parliamentary assistant (which appointment shall not render such member ineligible or disqualify him as a member of the House of Commons) to assist a minister of the crown in such manner and to such extent as the minister may determine and to represent his department in the House of Commons in the absence of the minister therefrom, a salary of four thousand dollars per annum and pro rata for any period less than a year, \$40,000.

Mr. MacNICOL: In previous sessions a number of hon. members, including myself, have complained about the fact that the auditor general did not provide the house with full details. I have no complaint this session. I wish to compliment the auditor general on the statement he has given us this year. I am one of those who have studied it very carefully; and next year if it is even more complete it will be all to the good.

Item agreed to.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

Library of Parliament—

124. General administration, \$81,888.

Mr. HAZEN: I would ask if we could not have better lighting in the library. The light is very poor, and I do not see why it should be difficult to have it improved. It is impossible to read there in the evening with any degree of comfort, so that I would ask Your Honour to be so good as to look into this matter. I would suggest also that the whole library system be modernized. There should be an information desk where a member could ask for what he wanted and be directed to where he could find it. I believe the method of conducting the business of the library should be brought up to date.

Mr. SPEAKER: Some days ago I had an interview with the librarians and acquainted them with the complaints of some hon. members. I have asked them to prepare a report for next session. We have a committee on the library; as soon as that committee meets we will study the report, and I hope every hon. member will be satisfied.

Mr. HAZEN: While I am speaking about lighting, might I direct attention also to the lighting in the railway committee room. When we have to meet there at night it is most difficult to read anything.

Item agreed to.

GENERAL

General—

484. Printing of parliament, including salaries of staff of the joint distribution office, further amount required, \$510.

Mr. MacNICOL: Is this the last item?

Mr. MACKENZIE: This is all.

The CHAIRMAN: Since this is the last sitting of the committee of supply I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all hon. members for the respect they have invariably shown to the Chair.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Before the resolutions are reported, may I on behalf of the government, and having had some little responsibility for directing the proceedings of the house, thank the leaders and members of all parties and groups in the house for their excellent and kindly cooperation.

Mr. MacNICOL: Before we conclude, Mr. Chairman, may I thank your assistant the deputy chairman, the hon. member for Huron-Perth (Mr. Golding), for the courtesy he has extended to all members of the committee.