

in that he, along with the government whip, enjoys some special advantages.

• (4:30 p.m.)

Mr. Bell: Explain.

Mr. McCleave: Monetary advantages. I think those advantages should be given to others. The House leaders for the official opposition, for the New Democratic Party and for the Cr ditistes perform special functions in this House, and I think they should be given special rewards. Otherwise, when they come up against that formidable fellow, the President of the Privy Council, they will find that he outpecks them by \$10,000 a year. In the scheme of things money means something in the operation of Parliament and the status of people. So Sir, I submit that we need to take a fresh look at this. Assuming that the motion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is Parliament and the status of people. So, Sir, I submit that the Prime Minister will not run hog wild with this power and that he will use it with discretion.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I just asked for a vote against the clause.

Mr. McCleave: I beg your pardon. I am advised that it is simply a matter of voting against the clause. I assume that the hon. member's suggestion will be defeated. I hope that the Prime Minister will exercise discretion and not go right to the limit in appointing the numbers that he is entitled to appoint. I hope, when the next reorganization bill comes around, and they seem to come around about every two years and more often than Halley's comet, that the government will consider some of the appointments in the areas I have suggested.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Chairman, may I make a few comments and give a little advice. I know advice is something the government does not like getting and does not take. I see ministers sitting on the government side of the House to whom I have given advice. If they had taken it, the advice would have had beneficial effects for both the ministry and the country. My first piece of advice is this. In bringing about these interesting rearrangements and proposals which the President of the Treasury Board has in mind, I point out that the government has a limited amount of time in which to engage in that experiment. They should make the most of that time. An interesting event will probably take place next year which will terminate the capacity of the government for making appointments of any kind.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: That is wishful thinking and not a prophesy.

Mr. Baldwin: I suggest to the President of the Treasury Board that he appoint as many members as possible to those positions. We recognize that most backbenchers on the government side of the House have not been useful to Parliament as backbenchers. It may be that the extra knowledge they will gain from being parliamentary

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secretaries or ministers of state will permit them, when they come to this side of the House, to play a much more effective and efficient part than they play at present.

My second piece of advice is this: The government should try to appoint to those positions backbenchers who are independent minded. I know it is exceedingly difficult for the government to find backbenchers who are truly independent.

An hon. Member: There are a few.

Mr. Baldwin: There are a few who voiced their views at one time but, like good little Liberal lambs, they went bleating back to the fold. They have not been independent for very long. It is essential for backbenchers to be independent. If there is anything this government needs, it is a fair amount of independence on the part of its backbenchers as well as in the executive. It needs independence among cabinet ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

I see ministers sitting opposite me who have expressed individual and distinct opinions. They did not do that because they were independent minded but because they did not know what the others in the cabinet were doing. They were confused, as the Leader of the Opposition has suggested. So, I suggest to the President of the Treasury Board, to the President of the Privy Council and to the Prime Minister, that they should search diligently and see if they cannot find members among the backbenchers on the government side who are independent and who will retain that independence. I am sure that that would make for better government. There is lots of room for improvement. I offer this advice and criticism in the hope that it will be accepted.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might ask a question and do a little reminiscing. I wonder if the minister could verify this story. When the present government leader in the Senate was a parliamentary secretary, he put out so many statements and did so much work that he completely overshadowed his minister and embarrassed the government of the day. When they discovered that it would be difficult to remove him, they decided that the best thing to do was to appoint him to the cabinet.

The Deputy Chairman: Is the committee ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Clause 25 agreed to: Yeas, 35; nays, 21.

On clause 28

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Chairman, before clause 28 carries may I ask the President of the Treasury Board why, in the construction of this bill, one amendment to the Salaries Act is that which is before us in clause 28, whereas there is another amendment to the Salaries Act in Schedule B, page 18 of the bill. Why could not all amendments to the Salaries Act have been put in one place?