

service by inquiring into this matter and, after giving the public an opportunity to express its opinion, making a report. In fact, I would suggest that some time in the future the Senate itself could make such an inquiry. This scheme would not apply to everyone, but I have in mind two or three men who hold positions of great responsibility that it would affect. This is not a political matter, but one involving a principle. I think consideration should be shown to the future of those people who have served their country faithfully and well, and who have reached a time when they can no longer carry on their duties. As I have said, I feel no personal embarrassment because, by no stretch of the imagination could the proposal apply to me.

Honourable senators, for the reasons I have outlined I would ask you to consider, between now and the next session, whether or not it would be worth while to seek public opinion on this matter.

Hon. W. RUPERT DAVIES: Honourable senators, I should like to say a few words about this bill. I did not know that the leader of the government was going to touch on the matter of pensions for cabinet ministers.

I think the salaries of the lieutenant-governors of the provinces of Canada are altogether too small. I was surprised to learn how small they are, and that they have not been changed in forty years. I do not think any of us would care to be earning today the same wages we earned forty years ago. We have raised the salaries of judges and others.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: And our own.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: Yes, but we do not seem to have done anything about lieutenant-governors. I was further surprised to hear that the Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island, who is to get the magnificent increase of \$1,000 per year, has to pay his own expenses.

I notice that the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario receives a salary of \$10,000. I do not know whether out of that he has to pay his expenses or not. I understand that he gets a small allowance. However, in a big province like Ontario, only a rich man can afford to be a lieutenant-governor these days. This province has been fortunate in having as lieutenant-governors, wealthy men who have done magnificent jobs. I particularly call to mind Lt.-Col Harry Cockshutt, who was Lieutenant-Governor many years ago. He travelled all over the province, visiting civic officials and prominent people in the cities, towns, and villages. Also, at his own expense, he entertained county councillors and others from all

parts of the province at a series of luncheons held in Government House in Toronto.

We are fortunate today in having a wealthy man as our Lieutenant-Governor. I understand that he too is doing a splendid job. Nearly every day I read in the newspaper that he and his wife are either entertaining or attending some kind of function. They are both busy people. I am a Liberal, but I do not always agree with some things that Liberal governments do. I strongly disapproved of the action of the Liberal government which came into power in Ontario in 1934, in abandoning Government House in Toronto and closing Ontario House in London, England. I had hoped that when the Conservative party came back into power it would re-open Government House. I had heard from a reliable source that this would happen, but as yet it has not occurred. I hope this matter will be reconsidered and that something will be done about it in the future.

I do not see any reason why any lieutenant-governor should have to purchase a big home—as the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario has had to do—in order to entertain the people of his province. I know there was a feeling that Government House in Toronto was just a gathering place for the society people of that city. It was nothing of the kind. But even if it was, what of it? I see nothing wrong with having such social gatherings in our capital cities. We have them here at Ottawa. Every one of us has been invited to a grand affair at Rideau Hall on the first of July next, and I am sure that it will be a very fine occasion. Such events are good for the social life of our country.

I come back to the question of lieutenant-governors' salaries. I know that when dealing with a bill it is not within our power to make an amendment that would cause an increase in expenditure, so I shall merely express my idea in the form of a suggestion. It is that next session the leader of the government try to have another amendment to the Salaries Act brought in, to raise the salaries of the lieutenant-governors of Ontario and Quebec to \$15,000 each, and of the lieutenant-governors of the other provinces to \$12,000 each. That would increase the total expenditure on this account from \$82,000 to \$114,000, which is not a large item. I doubt very much that even those salaries would pay the incumbents' expenses. My old friend the late Tom Miller, during the short time that he was spared to occupy the high position of Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, lived in a hotel; I take it for granted that no Government House was provided for him. Quebec, which is wiser in this matter than we are in