

Supply—Legislation

with the arrangements by which that is done. The free copies are not charged specifically but are charged generally against the printing vote which is one of the items in the legislation estimates. The queen's printer is paid for the printing of *Hansard* and these copies are simply taken out of the supply that is printed.

Mr. Pickersgill: I should like to support what has been said by the hon. member for York-Scarborough. I cannot claim that there are 16 newspapers published in my constituency because actually there is not one, and perhaps it is almost unique in Canada in that respect. But I think those of us representing constituencies where there are very few or no newspapers available have an even greater need of *Hansard* to inform our constituents of what is going on than those who have the good fortune to have newspapers circulating in their constituencies. I find that I have to spend a good deal out of my own pocket to provide for what I believe are the legitimate desires of representative citizens of the constituency who want to be informed about public affairs.

Perhaps I should not trespass upon Your Honour's time by bringing this up at this moment, but I do feel that perhaps the commissioners of internal economy might give consideration to making a recommendation to the house which could increase this allowance somewhat.

Mr. Herridge: I was rather surprised to hear the hon. member for York-Scarborough mention the sending of free copies of *Hansard* to 16 newspapers. I have a number of newspapers in my constituency of the same free enterprise type, but they are willing to stand on their own feet and pay for their *Hansards*. In addition to that, I was very surprised to hear this representative of the capitalist class asking for an increase in federal expenditure for providing his constituents more free *Hansards*. I am a poor little socialist living in the backwoods, and I send out a lot of *Hansards* to my constituents, but I am quite willing to pay the shot because I believe in that type of free enterprise.

I rise particularly to express the appreciation of this group for the services, courtesy and work of the staff of the House of Commons, particularly in view of the long hours they have had to put in in recent weeks. I am referring to the protective staff, the messengers, some of whom have to travel many miles on rather ancient legs; the page boys and the other members of the staff, including the nurse, whom I attended upon for the first time yesterday and who was able to bring me back into action this morning, for which

[Mr. Speaker.]

I am very grateful. I should like to mention also the *Hansard* reporters and the ladies to whom I refer as the *Hansard* angels, who have to take dictation from these reporters. I do hope, Mr. Chairman, while there is some excuse for the unusual length of this session, that in future this house will be able to arrange its work to the better advantage of the members and to the better advantage of the staff, so that neither the staff nor the members are denied the opportunity of spending some of their time during the general holiday season with their children, their grandchildren or in some cases their great grandchildren.

Before concluding, I want to make a special plea for what I understand are officially known as the cleaning ladies. I arrive at this house usually between 7.30 and 7.45 in the morning. I am constantly meeting delegations with various complaints. I understand that in recent years, under a previous Speaker, certain changes in the rules were made with respect to their hours. I am told that many of these ladies are married and they have to get here very early in the morning. One lady told me she got up at 4.30 to get here in time to undertake her work. I understand that the ruling now provides that they must stay here until 8.30. I find on arrival that the great majority have already completed their work, and in many cases they have to sit around for an hour or more until close to 8.30 when they can go down and punch the clock to go home.

Now, I feel this is entirely unnecessary. I have observed it for a good many months, and I think it is completely unnecessary that these people, who can complete their work within a certain time, should not be allowed to go when their work has been completed instead of being required to stay around for an hour or so until 8.30.

Mr. Hardie: Hear, hear.

Mr. Herridge: Other members say "hear, hear", so I am sure they have had the same experience. I raise this question because these people have not much opportunity to speak for themselves. I do feel that consideration should be given to the matter so that when their work is completed they would be allowed to leave or at least allowed to leave at a reasonable time and not required to simply stay around for an hour or more in order to comply with this regulation. They have to go home and do their housework, attend to their children and so on.

Mr. Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway): Before we leave this item, I should like to add my support to the views expressed by the hon. member for York-Scarborough on the matter of distribution of free *Hansards*. I can quite