

the compensation of people in the Senate and those in the House of Commons who do the same work?

Hon. Mr. Haig: They are paid exactly the same.

Hon. Mr. Croll: It has been said there is a difference between the two salaries. It seems to me these two staffs should be paid the same amount, but it is said they are not.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: There is a difference between the amount paid to members of the House of Commons and that paid to honourable senators.

Hon. Mr. Croll: That is hardly comparable. These people do exactly the same work, some at this end of the building, and others at the opposite end. The question is, why do they not receive the same compensation?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Honourable senators, may I say that since the last session of Parliament the Civil Service Commission and the Treasury Board have made an intensive study and review of the various rates of compensation throughout the public service, with the result that most members of that service are now receiving higher rates of pay. Among the few who perhaps have not yet benefited are our own temporary and sessional employees. As many of you undoubtedly know, they do not come under the Civil Service Act; consequently, any change in their remuneration must be authorized by the Senate. For that purpose your committee examined salary improvements of other similar services and, based upon wage scales now in effect in the other branch of Parliament, have submitted for your consideration revised rates for our temporary and sessional employees consistent with the revisions made by the other house. That is all I know about it.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: I thank my honourable friend from Toronto-Spadina (Hon. Mr. Croll) for having supported my request. I am sorry that a discrimination exists. It is no encouragement for these men on the Senate side to do more work than those on the Commons side. I believe the Civil Service Commission is not doing everything it could; and the proof of it is that the commission has placed before us for our approval a scale of pay in which there is discrimination between the staffs of the two houses. I hope my honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) will see that justice is done for the Senate staff.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Honourable senators I believe most of us concur in the sentiment

expressed by the honourable senator from De la Durantaye (Hon. Mr. Pouliot). However, it is my understanding that, with the adjustments that are made in this report, the char staff in the Senate will be paid on the same basis as the char staff in the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: They will not.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: That is the information which was given to those senators who attended the meeting of the Internal Economy Committee the other day, and that is what we understood to be the case.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, I purposely made some inquiries about this alleged discrimination between the two staffs. The matter came before me officially today and I had to take some action. Before doing so I decided that it was better for me first to learn the facts. As a result, I now know that the salary rates here are exactly the same as they are in the other house. I trust our officials to give us the correct information, and I am told positively that the rates of pay are exactly the same.

The question was raised in committee that perhaps some employees in the House of Commons had to work harder than comparable employees on the Senate side. The official present said that that was not his problem, that it was up to us to deal with it—and he indicated the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) and myself. I am reliably informed, and I am satisfied, that the rates of pay are the same on both sides.

Hon. Mr. Croll: Honourable senators, the senator who raised this question (Hon. Mr. Pouliot) is, as we all know, a very painstaking gentleman, and I am sure he was careful in this instance. May I suggest that this report be allowed to stand until my honourable friend can determine exactly whether there is any difference between the two rates of pay? I am sure this house would not want to have a distinction made between two staffs who are doing the same work, one at this end of the building and the other at the opposite end. May I suggest that the matter be allowed to stand until tomorrow?

Hon. Mr. Haig: We have to trust somebody.

Hon. Mr. Croll: Honourable senators, I move adjournment of the debate.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Croll, the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.