

Supply—Legislation

say is that almost the whole of his speech, besides referring to the mystic personality, was a green herring pulled across 14 vacant seats.

Amendment negatived: Yeas, 20; nays, 71.

The Deputy Chairman: I declare the amendment lost.

Item agreed to.

190. To provide for an allowance to the Deputy Chairman of Committees, \$2,000.

Mr. Regier: Mr. Chairman, on this vote I would at least like to recommend to the government, or to the Speaker particularly, that this vote be taken into further consideration. As a matter of fact, I see no justification for the fact that parliamentary assistants should be allowed \$4,000 a year and the Deputy Chairman of committees, who has in fact a year-round job if he wants to be well-informed, and especially in his initial year it must be a terrific mental load to inform oneself of all the rules of years gone by, should not get the same amount. I fail to see why the Deputy Chairman of committees should not be granted at least as much as a parliamentary assistant.

Item agreed to.

Library of parliament—

191. General administration, \$354,205.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate the Speaker, in the sense that he is the spokesman for the library of parliament, on the recently issued pamphlet dealing with the use of the library and the various facilities that are available to members. I hope he will convey the appreciation of the house to the librarian and his staff for the preparation of this document and the general service they have rendered. I should like to ask the Speaker whether he can give us any information with regard to the head of the library and his retirement. I understand that he is beyond the actual retirement age and I was wondering whether the Speaker could tell us if he is going to continue to the end of the year or longer, whether any consideration has been given to another appointment and what the general situation is.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry I cannot say more than that I believe Mr. Hardy expects an early retirement. I cannot say the exact date. I have not personally had any cause yet to consider the question of a successor but I believe that it will have to be dealt with very shortly.

Mr. Pickersgill: If the hon. member will permit me, may I suggest that he direct his

question to the leader of the house because the office of parliamentary librarian is a crown appointment.

Mr. Fisher: I am quite aware of that and I want to go into that now. We would appreciate it if the Speaker would bring to the attention of the house leader that several years ago the hon. member for Bonavista-Twilligate in his ministerial capacity shepherded a bill through the house in relation to the library of parliament that struck a few sparks from the Conservative ranks. They objected quite strenuously to the bill and its general ramifications with respect to the library of parliament.

I might point out that Dr. Blair, who is gone from the house, the hon. member for York-Humber, the present Minister of Transport and a number of other leading lights of the Conservative party at that time objected quite strenuously to what was involved in the legislation and made some strong suggestions with respect to it. I should like to remind the house leader and the Speaker that since this retirement is pending now would be the time for the government to take action with regard to the matter. If they dislike the legislation as much now as they did when it was passed by the house this would be the time for amendments to be made and it might be reasonable to postpone the appointment of a new librarian until the government has taken the whole question into consideration. I can assure the government that from the point of view of the group in this part of the house we would be very strongly in favour of amendments to the act in line with the general position taken by this party in the debate several years ago.

Item agreed to.

Pensions and other Benefits—

192. Pension to the unmarried sister of the late Colonel Harry Baker, M.P., \$700.

Mr. Regier: Could the Speaker give us the history of this vote?

Mr. Speaker: I can say very little more than what appears in the vote. The hon. member is speaking of the pension to the widow of the late Colonel Harry Baker, M.P. He was a member of the House of Commons and was killed on active service in the first war.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): He lost his life.

Mr. Speaker: He was killed on active service in the first war.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think it is the unmarried sister, not the widow.

Mr. Speaker: Provision was first made for this pension in the supplementary estimates of 1918-19 and I assumed it was the widow.