

3. That the said Committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records, and to employ such clerical aid as may be necessary to carry on properly the inquiry to be made.

He said: Honourable gentlemen will remember that, in the last hours of the last Session, in the discussion which took place in this Chamber on the Supply Bill, reference was made to the probable overmanning of the Government departments. I stated that I had uttered certain opinions which, if they had not been uttered by others, had probably been held by them. I said I thought it was our duty to investigate this matter, and I gave notice then that I would move for the appointment of a committee of inquiry at the next Session. Since that time I have notified every Deputy Minister that such an inquiry would be held, or at least that I intended to propose to the Senate that it should be held, and that they would be asked to present statements showing the number of officers and employees in their departments for a certain number of years past, and, if there were increases in the numbers, to explain them and justify them.

I have received answers from most of the Deputy Ministers informing me that they had prepared or were preparing statements in answer to the inquiries that might be made by the Senate.

Since that notification was given the announcement has been made to the public that the Audit Commission which was created by the Act of Parliament last year would be asked to examine into the working of the Civil Service generally with a view of reducing the staff and consequently reducing the expenditure. This announcement might be considered a justification for sitting back and awaiting the work of that Commission, but after mature consideration I have decided to ask the Senate to proceed to the inquiry.

If the Committee is appointed I do not know to what extent it will carry its research. My present impression is that it might be limited to the question of the overmanning of the departments. I think that itself will be a sufficient task to begin with. I am afraid that if we attempted to go into the question of salaries we might get beyond our depth for the moment. However, that is for the Senate or for the Committee to decide. It seems to me that the question of pay involves the classification of the work done by every individual and the question of what would be fair remuneration for that individual to receive. I have no objection to fair salaries being paid to the men who are doing our work throughout the land—I mean salaries which

would compare favourably with those paid for similar work outside the Service.

My first concern is whether we have thousands of men on our pay-list who ought to be dispensed with. I know that the announcement of this inquiry and the statement that the number of officials will be reduced has created a certain uneasiness throughout the Service. It will be for the Audit Commission to report on the method of reducing the staff. There is an announcement that a Superannuation Bill is to be presented. This Committee of the Senate and the Audit Commission may find that some of the older members of the Service could be superannuated, and they may find also that many of the junior officers and employees could be dispensed with and would be able to find other employment.

I have prepared, in conjunction with my honourable friend who sits opposite (Hon. Sir James Lougheed), a list of proposed members of the Committee. I had at first included my own name in the number, but I have since struck it off, for two reasons. Members of this Chamber well know the work which devolves upon the representative of the Government in this House—the heavy task which he is obliged to perform in studying Bills for presentation to this House, most of which come in the last two months of the Session. I feel that I shall perhaps be unequal to the task of following closely the work of this Committee and doing it justice. Then, too, it is perhaps better that the recommendations made by the Committee to the Cabinet, of which I am a member, should not be addressed to a body one of whom is a member of the Committee. The Committee may feel freer in its action if it has not at its elbow as a member of the Committee a member of the Government. The names of the members that I would propose to form the Committee are as follow: Hon. Messrs. Béique, Belcourt, Bennett, Black, Bradbury, Calder, Hardy, McCoig, Pardee, Robertson, Ross (Moosejaw), Ross (Middleton), Turgeon, Watson and White (Inkerman).

I may just add that the Senate Committee will have an opportunity not only of examining and cross-examining the Deputy Ministers, but of obtaining information from other sources if they judge proper, and it is my belief that the information gathered by the Committee may be of considerable help to the Audit Commission which will have its work to do later on.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable gentlemen, I should like to refer to just one point that the Leader of the Government has