

believe the public has a right to know who is being employed by the government of Canada for the people of Canada and for what purpose.

• (1700)

A good deal has been written and said about the increase in the number of civil servants, particularly the increase in staff in the offices of the Prime Minister and the Privy Council. In a study done by the research branch of the Library of Parliament, they summarized what is actually happening in both the office of the Prime Minister and the office of the Privy Council. They state:

As of October 1, 1971 there were 238 full-time employees in the Privy Council Office, which includes those on the Federal Provincial Secretariat and the Science Secretariat. Of this number, 157 are administrative and support staff. The total salary cost of the office, in terms of gross salary rates, is \$2,452,660.

This is a very substantial increase compared to the size of this staff under other Prime Ministers. With regard to the Prime Minister's office, they state:

There are presently about 90 full-time staff members in this office including 39 stenographers and 21 clerical employees and messengers. The total salary cost of the Prime Minister's Office, in terms of gross annual salary rates, is \$915,684.

This is not the time to be critical, and even if it were the time, I would not be critical of the very substantial increases which have taken place in the offices of the Prime Minister and the Privy Council. Government business has increased very substantially in recent years as the government has taken on increasing functions such as universal hospitalization, medical plans, increased pensions, services and the Canada Assistance Act, to name just a few. Obviously it requires more people to administer these programs.

I agree that the Prime Minister's office, which is the central and focal point of cabinet decision making, needs a staff to do the job. I do not object to that. I would support the expenditure of the money for this type of program. However, I am concerned about a very rapid escalation in any type of assistance given to the Prime Minister's office, the Privy Council office and various government departments about which we know a great deal less.

I refer to contracting by the Prime Minister's office, government departments, boards and commissions like the CBC or the CRTC, the St. Lawrence Seaway or any one of the hundreds of government agencies that contract specific projects and services. I am not critical of this practice. I am sure that problems frequently arise that need to be studied and the Prime Minister's office, a government department, a board or commission does not have the expert technical advisers which they need. It may be that they are needed only for a particular task or study. After that is over, that person is not required as a permanent civil servant.

I am aware of the fact that if a problem arises which needs study and if a government department, board, agency or the Prime Minister's office requires quick action, following the normal course of hiring through the civil service, which requires publication of a bulletin, the acceptance and study of applications to find the person that qualifies, can take months. Although I have not had much experience with this, I suppose it could take a year

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or more. I accept the fact that on occasion it is necessary to hire particular people on contract. The point I am trying to make, and which I have spelled out in my bill, is my belief that Members of Parliament, the press, radio, television and the general public are entitled to know who is being hired, for what purpose and their remuneration.

Let me give a couple of illustrations of the kind of information which I think is necessary. On October 8, 1970 I asked a series of questions about the Prime Minister's office and the Privy Council office. My questions were as follows:

1. Since July 1, 1968, what outside consultants, individuals or companies, have undertaken studies or provided assistance, etc., for (a) the Prime Minister's Office (b) the Privy Council Office?

2. For both the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office, what were the terms of reference for each consultant or individual providing assistance?

3. For both the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office, what was the remuneration received by each consultant?

Eventually, I got a partial list of the people and organizations involved. I was not satisfied because I knew of several people who were working and had not been listed. I communicated with the Prime Minister's office and was given the information. In one case, I was told that the person involved was listed in the Public Accounts as having been hired as a consultant through the Department of Justice. That does not bother me very much except that it makes it very difficult to get information which we ought to have. We should know precisely who the people are and for what purpose they have been hired.

In the answer which I got from the Prime Minister's office, which I appreciated, I was referred to a question placed on the order paper on the same day, October 8, 1970, by my colleague, the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg). Although that question was of a similar nature, it asked for somewhat different information. The question reads as follows:

1. For the fiscal year 1969-70, what are the estimated expenditures for outside consultant studies for each federal government department, board, Crown corporation or agency?

2. For the fiscal year 1969-70 (a) what outside consultant studies have been undertaken or are presently in progress sponsored by each federal government department or agency (b) what is the cost for each outside consultant study (c) were contracts for these studies awarded by competitive tendering and, if not, for what reason?

The first answer which my colleague received referred only to the Prime Minister's office and the Privy Council office. It reads:

The total expenditure for professional and special services by the Privy Council Office during the fiscal year 1969-70 was \$801,739. This amount includes the hiring of consultants and special staff for the Prime Minister's Office, Privy Council Office and task forces as outlined in Section 18 of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1970.

• (1710)

I do not know whether that \$800,000 expended through the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office was near the average for each of the government departments, or whether it was more, or less, than they spent. I do not think that is important. Nor, as I said earlier, am I questioning the expenditure of this money. What I am saying is that we are spending, in the course of each year,