

*Adjournment Debate*

is binding on both the employer and the bargaining agent. In such a situation, comparability with the private sector and increases in the consumer price index may be considered by the arbitration tribunal.

In the case of higher levels, particularly deputy ministers and senior executive officers in the public service, the government appointed and has received advice from the advisory group on executive compensation in the public service. The advisory group has now made three reports, the latest of which was released on October 5, 1973. In this report, the group noted the need to establish some degree of comparability with the private sector and noted the pressure from below exerted on executive salaries by salary settlements in collective bargaining. We can

categorically deny any inference that we are trying to restrain inflation by offering minimal increases to the public service, and at the same time affirm that public service rates are comparable with the private sector.

It is very difficult for me to understand how a Conservative member of this House would say that if his party was in power, it would not try to bring in people from big business or would not try to make sure that civil servants in higher positions would be paid salaries commensurate with those paid in business. They cannot have it both ways, Mr. Speaker. It seems that the Conservatives would settle for people who would be less good than those we have, or would ask people from business to come as missionaries.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.