

DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT INQUIRY

On the Orders of the Day :

Hon. W. D. EULER: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to address two questions of a non-controversial nature to the leader of the government in the Senate. They are as follows:

1. Has the government given consideration to the unanimous request of the Senate to refer to the Supreme Court of Canada the question of the validity of the legislation which prohibits the manufacture and sale of margarine in Canada and, if so, what is the decision of the government?

2. If such consideration has not been given, will the government leader in the Senate urge upon the government the desirability of an early decision in the matter?

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON: My honourable friend was kind enough to acquaint me beforehand with the questions he has asked. Consequently I will lose no time in answering them.

The answer to the first question is "No. There is no decision to report." In answering the second question I may say that in my capacity as government leader in the Senate I consider it at all times my responsibility to urge upon the government the earliest possible consideration of requests made by this august body

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE (SPECIAL) SUPERANNUATION BILL

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved the third reading of Bill 349, and Act to amend the Diplomatic Service (Special) Superannuation Act.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

DOMINION ELECTIONS BILL

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved the third reading of Bill 198, an Act to amend the Dominion Elections Act, 1938.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

SALARIES BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved the second reading of Bill 365, an Act to amend the Salaries Act.

He said: The purpose of this bill is to increase the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island from \$7,000 to \$8,000 a year. As honourable senators are aware, parliament fixes the salaries of lieutenant-governors. These salaries vary from province to province. In Ontario and Quebec they are \$10,000, in six other provinces \$9,000, and in Prince Edward Island \$7,000. Income tax, of course, is paid on these salaries. In some provinces government houses are provided. Such is the case in Prince Edward Island, but the lieutenant-governor of that province personally has had to meet practically all the costs of upkeep and the secretarial expenses. Perhaps the duties of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Island are not quite as heavy as those of his colleagues in some other provinces, but the government felt that parliament should be asked to grant this \$1,000 increase in salary because of the rising financial obligations connected with the position. There has been no adjustment of lieutenant-governors' salaries in forty years.

I do not believe that the government can be accused of extravagance in the measure now being presented for consideration. The position in question is an honourable one, and as the stipend has remained so long unchanged, and income tax and other expenditures have increased, it could well be argued that if the institution is to continue and to be within the reach of those in moderate circumstances, the whole salary structure pertaining to these appointments should be reconsidered upon some appropriate occasion.

Reflecting on the general subject, another consideration has occurred to me which I should like to briefly bring to your attention. This bill seeks to amend the Salaries Act, which is the statute under which the salaries of cabinet ministers are paid. What I am about to say will be said on my own responsibility, without prior consultation of any kind with any of my colleagues. I feel no personal embarrassment in raising the matter, because by no stretch of the imagination could the benefits of the proposal apply to me personally.

Of recent years I have been impressed with the large amount of discussion and legislation in relation to retirement pensions. They have become part and parcel of our system of federal government, and, indeed, most of our other governmental systems.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: All.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The incidence of high income tax, and low interest rates have tended to shift attention from salary levels to adequate retirement allowances. The pension system has been adopted by almost all the