

Relevant extract from the House of the People
Debates dated 23.4.1953 on the Salaries and
Allowances of Officers of Parliament Bill

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SHRI T.T. KRISHNAMACHARI: X X X

The position of the Deputy Speaker as we now envisage it is that of a whole-time officer. As my hon. friends Dr. Mookerjee and Shri Gurupadaswamy mentioned, the moment he receives a salary he becomes a whole-time officer.

X X X

To come back to this point of whether it should be expressly mentioned in the statute that the officers of Parliament shall be whole-time officers or not, an amendment has been tabled by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. I might say that we did, as a Government, consider this aspect. We know that similar provisions have existed in the past. We felt that in respect of just four officers, two here and two in the other House, elected by Parliament, it is much better that a recognition of this comes out of convention rather than that it should be laid down by statute. This question of putting hedges there is not necessary because they are watched all the time. We know whether they are carrying out their duties as whole-time officers or not. I know they are honourable men, they would not get beyond any of the conventions we prescribe. I think in the interests of our own self-respect it is much better for us to achieve this end by tradition and convention rather than by putting a clause here. I am only mentioning this because it was considered and we felt as a Government that we should not ask officers of Parliament, elected by Parliament, to subject themselves to a condition which they would voluntarily subject themselves; and the fact that they are transgressing it, if, they do, will be known practically every day. That is why we have not put in in and I would humbly request Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee to give this convention a trial. And I have no doubt that after a period of time we will feel that what we have done is perfectly right.

(H.P. Deb., dt. 23.4.1953,
cc. 5301-5303.)