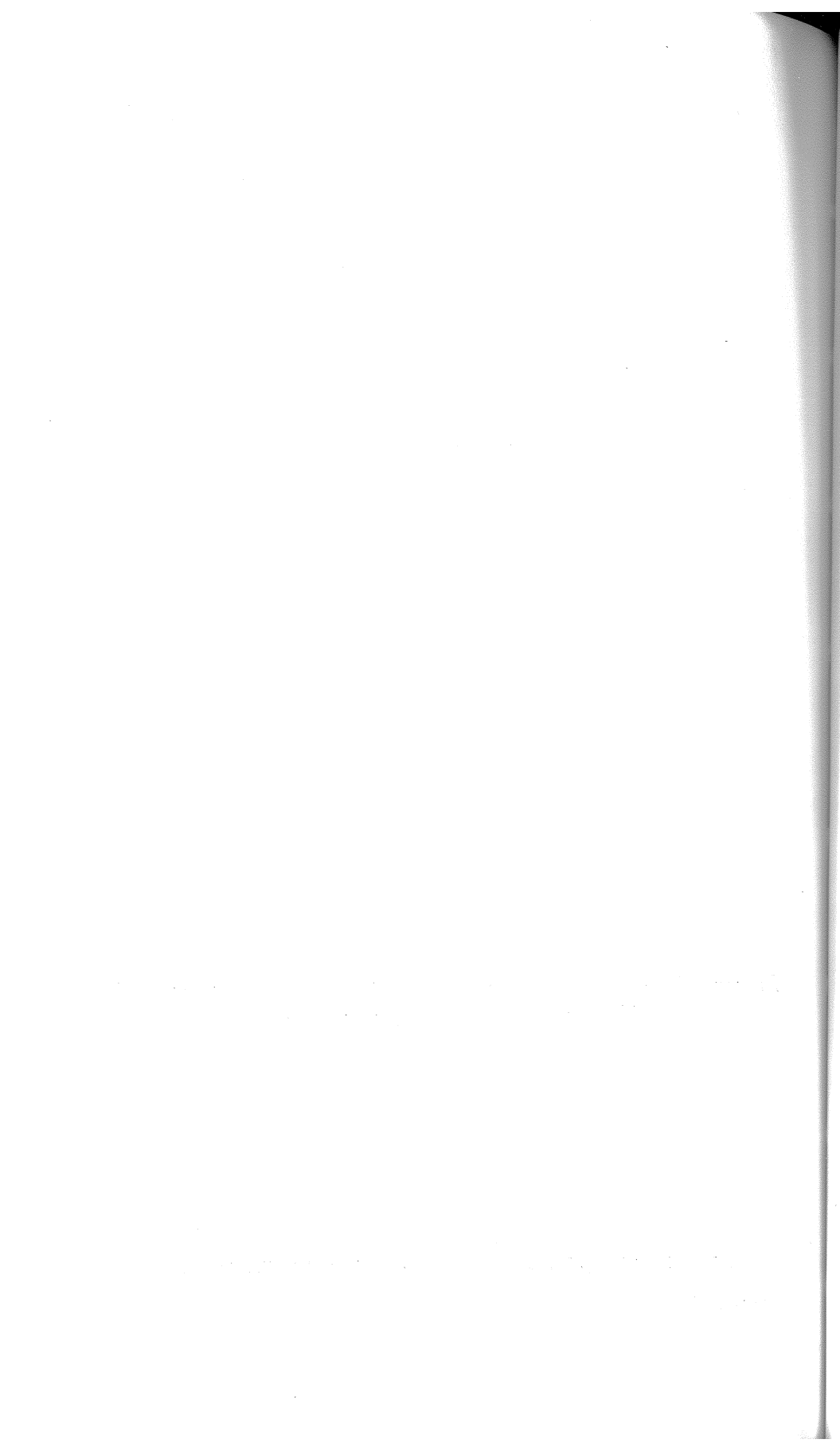


REPORT
OF THE
Royal Commission
Upon Parliamentary Salaries
and Allowances
1967

*Presented to the House of Representatives by Command of
His Excellency the Governor-General*

BY AUTHORITY:
R. E. OWEN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND—1967

Price 6d. (5c)



Interim Report of the Royal Commission Upon Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances

To His Excellency Brigadier Sir Bernard Edward Fergusson, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over New Zealand:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the undersigned members of the Royal Commission constituted by virtue of section 27 of the Civil List Act 1950, to inquire into and report upon parliamentary salaries and allowances, respectfully submit our interim report as follows:

1. We met at Wellington on March 17 1967 primarily to consider whether in view of the present economic situation we should proceed with our Inquiry now or ask that the time within which by your warrant we are required to report, namely, not later than 31 July 1967, be extended.

2. To assist us on this question we have conferred with the Prime Minister who conveyed to us the view of the Government that because of the present economic situation our inquiries and our report should be deferred for approximately one year. Opinions to a like effect were expressed to us by the Leader of the Opposition and to the Chairman by Mr V. F. Cracknell the sole Social Credit Party Member of Parliament.

3. These opinions accord with our own. We believe also that they would be supported by the great majority of the public.

At present the economic outlook of the country is particularly obscure. Sufficient time has not elapsed for the full effect of the remedial action which has been taken by the Government already to be gauged with any certainty. It seems probable that in the forthcoming Sessions of Parliament further remedial measures will be authorised. Should that be so there will be even further delay before the full effect of these becomes apparent. We have always to remember that any recommendations we may submit, if they be adopted, would apply for an approximate period of three years. To decide on these now or within the next few months may prove unfair to those directly affected or adverse to the public interest generally.

4. It is our respectful recommendation therefore that the time for submitting our final report be extended to 30 April 1968. If this be adopted we propose to adjourn our Inquiry until towards the end of this year or, depending on the circumstances as they then are, possibly until early next year.

5. *Parliamentary Commissioner—Ombudsman.* By virtue of section 7 (2) of the Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) Act 1962 we are required to inquire into and report upon the salary of the Ombudsman and to make such recommendation thereon as we think fit. In its Report of 1964 the then Royal Commission recommended that the salary of the Ombudsman should be the same as that of the Auditor-General, namely, £4,100 per annum. This recommendation was adopted. We have received a letter from the Ombudsman submitting (*inter alia*) that as the salary of the Auditor-General had been increased last year to £4,235 per annum effective as from 1 April 1966 in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Higher Salaries in the State Services, it was reasonable that a like increase should be recommended in respect of his salary. He drew attention to the observations in the 1964 Report to the effect that a useful guide to his salary could be taken from that payable to the Auditor-General who was also directly responsible to Parliament. He asked that he be afforded an opportunity at a more appropriate time to make further submissions regarding his salary but that in the interim there should be the like increase as applied to the Auditor-General.

The matters which would influence us in any recommendation regarding the salaries and allowances of Ministers and Members of Parliament are different in many respects from those which properly bear on the office of Ombudsman. We think that the submission made to us is fair and in the circumstances reasonable and accordingly we recommend that the salary of the Ombudsman be increased to £4,235 per annum effective as from 1 April 1966.

We have the honour to be Your Excellency's obedient servants.

E. D. BLUNDELL, Chairman.

G. T. BOLT, Member.

E. W. McCALLUM, Member.

Wellington, New Zealand, 4 April 1967.

BY AUTHORITY:

R. E. OWEN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND—1967

33191—67 G