

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ON THE PARLIAMENT MEMBERS' REMUNE-
RATION (AMENDMENT) BILL AT THE DEWAN
RAKYAT ON 20 OCTOBER, 1961

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill intituled "an Act to amend the Parliament Members' Remuneration Act, 1961" be read a second time.

Sir, it is with great pleasure indeed that I move this very short and very simple Bill. As Honourable Members are aware, at present the remuneration of a Member of this House is \$500 a month and this remuneration was fixed following the remuneration of Members of the former Legislative Council, but with the change in the character of this House after the election of 1959—now all Honourable Members are elected to this House it is felt that there is a need to review the rates of allowances. Honourable Members of this House, having been elected by the people, have responsibility to their constituencies and they have not only to be a constant touch with the happenings in their constituencies, but they have also to make visits to other parts of the Country. And in recent months representations have been made to the Prime Minister not only by members of the Government party but by others that the present rate of allowance is inadequate for Members of this House to undertake their responsibilities. The Government has given this matter very careful consideration and has come to the conclusion that there is justification for an increase. Therefore, it is proposed that the rate of allowance for Members of this House should be increased from \$500 to \$750.

I do not anticipate, Sir, that there will be any opposition to this Bill, but if there is any Honourable Member who feels that he does not need this increase of allowance, I am quite prepared, and I think my Honourable colleague, the Minister of Finance, will agree, that payment of this increase to the Honourable Member can be suspended.

Therefore, Sir, I accordingly beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

¹ Penggal Ketiga Dewan Rakyat yang Pertama.