

limitations. I have to say this. It's come to my attention that the authors of those stories were not even in the Ways and Means Committee hearing where Dr. Cooper testified; and I would call upon these two gentlemen — certainly I'm not accusing them of any bad faith — but I would call upon them to please be a little more careful in how they report these facts. Dr. Cooper assured me this morning that he did not make that statement and he is available to refute it if asked.

The other thing I want to cover is the so-called designation of certain changes in executive salaries as fat pay raises. Now, the executive salaries that have been revised are those that are not covered by the standard salary board. The raises that were given to keep these people, none of whom, incidentally, I appointed — all of whom are hold-overs from the previous administration. To keep them in line with the pay raise that's going to be proposed for State employees requires even less in overall percentage than the employees are getting. The employees' pay raise package equals out to over a ten percent increase, eleven or so percent. The raises that we recommended amount to, on the average, about ten percent. And this is only offered to keep these people in the same relative position as the other people who have received increases. Now, the ones that I handled before were ones that became a matter of great necessity. Certainly nobody can quarrel with the fact that the Department of Corrections, if it is to be revised in the sense that we're talking about, will require a very substantial increase. I don't think anyone could expect the Director of Public Improvements to continue at a figure such as the one he presently is paid on the basis that his counterparts in the counties are already receiving 4 and 5 thousand dollars a year more than he is. These were attempts to adjust inequities.

I want to make those points very clear. One final point. I was somewhat worried about putting money in for certain major repairs to Government House, which is structurally in sad condition as far as plumbing, heating and electrical wiring are concerned. The Fire Marshal tells me that actually the Mansion is close to the point of condemnation as far as being a hazard because of the old wiring. And the 150 thousand dollars placed in the budget is principally designated for the restoration of the wiring under modern requirements, replacing of plumbing and heating facilities which I assure you must be replaced if this investment of all the people is to be maintained. No repairs have taken place in Government House of any significance for nearly twelve years and I think it's too great an investment to let run into the ground. Now I throw myself open from that point.