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For the first time in the 900 year history of London's oldest landmark, there's talk of a strike at the Tower of London. And it's the Beefeaters who are beefing at the violent increase in rents that the Ministry of Works are planning to charge them in the future.....

Right now they pay 5 shillings a week for their quarters in the Tower, but it's going up - to 23 shillings. An 18 shilling rise for the privilege of living in houses they describe as dark and damp...They wouldn't live there if they didn't have to.....

The Yeoman Warders say the duties they're paid £8.16.6 a week for, are all inside the Tower. Jobs like guarding the Crown Jewels and looking after visitors.....

The extra duties, such as acting as guards to the ~~State~~ Imperial State Crown at the Opening of Parliament, are unpaid overtime. They don't mind doing it and the traditional ceremonies like searching the vaults of Parliament before a Royal arrival wouldn't be the same without them. But in return they want their low rents.....

If they can't have it that way, then its overtime for extra duties - or work to rule. They'll still be acting as guides, answering countless questions ^{They'll still be} posing with the ravens - their rivals for popularity with camera-happy tourists. ~~They'll still be~~ -

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Outside the Tower, the Garter ceremony at St. George's Windsor would lose alot of its glitter without the Beefeaters.

So far they're not satisfied with the War Office's offers of extra pay. One month to pay-up or put up without them is the ultimatum - after that it'll be routine only.....

But whichever way the wind blows in the Tower controversy, they'll still be making mud pies with the kids on Tower beach next summer. And there'll still be Beefeaters on guard, adding to the fascination of a visit to the Tower of London.....