

Friday last and which I asked for unanimous consent to introduce. Had that consent been given it would not have been necessary to introduce this motion at this time. However, consent was not given. Here I wish to correct at once a false impression that has arisen. The press in some quarters has indicated that I withdrew the motion. I never withdrew the motion because the motion was never before the house. All I asked for was the unanimous consent of the house to be allowed to introduce the motion which I thought would save time; but hon. gentlemen opposite refused to give that unanimous consent. Therefore the motion could not be put at the time it was introduced.

Mr. GRAYDON: There was a retreat somewhere.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, on my hon. friend's side.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The other false impression I should like to correct at once, because I think it is advisable that it should not become too current, is that the motion was intended in any way to deprive anyone of his right to speak in the debate on the address in reply. There is no intention of the kind. The government intends to give the fullest opportunity to every hon. member in the house, under the rules, to debate the address in accordance with his full rights. All that the motion had in its intent was that the debate should be begun by the leaders of the parties opposite, myself and another member on this side, and then be adjourned until later in the session when it would be resumed, so that in the meantime the house might have before it the important measures, for the purpose of dealing with which the house had been called at this particular time, and might know exactly what was to be expected of it in the way of procedure between now and the Christmas recess.

The motion reads:

That the debate on the address in reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be the first order of business on Monday, December 8th instant, and that this order be followed by government notices of motion and government orders notwithstanding anything in standing order 15.

I have on the order paper immediately following that a motion to this effect:

That on and after Tuesday the 9th December, 1947, and every sitting day thereafter until Tuesday, the 30th December, government notices of motions and government orders shall have precedence over all other business except introduction of bills, questions by members and notices of motions for the production of papers.

As that motion will be coming forward immediately after this one, I think that part of the present motion which relates to precedence for government business is superfluous; if the house will give me its permission I will ask to be allowed to strike out the concluding words, "and that this order be followed by government notices of motion and government orders notwithstanding anything in standing order 15" so that the motion would simply read:

That the debate on the address in reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be the first order of business on Monday, December 8th instant.

I think that will accord with the wishes of the house. It goes the length of simply indicating that today will be the date to begin the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Perhaps the house will allow me to amend the motion in the way I have indicated.

Mr. COLDWELL: Mr. Speaker, does it not require the consent of the house for this motion to be moved at this particular time and in this particular place? I am not going to object to it. I think it is the right place to move it, but as I see it the procedure really should be that the Prime Minister ask the consent of the house to make that motion at this stage. I do not think it is in the proper order. We have not reached government orders. Am I right?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No; I gave notice of this motion last week. It appeared on the order paper and it is on the order paper now. It had forty-eight hours' notice. Therefore it is quite in order at this moment, and it comes up under motions.

Mr. COLDWELL: Under government notices of motions.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No; I beg my hon. friend's pardon. If he will look at the rules of the house, Beauchesne, page 41, Citation 130, he will find the following:

The house may, by unanimous consent or upon motion after forty-eight hours' notice, make such alterations in the order of business as it deems advisable.

Mr. COLDWELL: With notice. All right.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Citation 132 reads as follows:

The motions allowed on routine proceedings are motions relating to the business of the house and for the discussion of reports from committees.

I think the motion is quite in order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?