

Governor General's Speech

which an hon. member can move to adjourn. That is the point I take, and take most firmly. I acquiesce readily if it is the desire of Mr. Speaker to adjourn the debate on the point of order but not at the instance of any hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: With all due regard to the argument of the right hon. leader of the opposition I still maintain that the motion of the hon. member for Labelle is in order. That hon. gentleman moved the adjournment of a debate which had started on the motion of the hon. Minister of Justice. That is my ruling against which the House can appeal if it so desires.

Hon. J. W. EDWARDS (Frontenac-Addington): Do I understand from you, Mr. Speaker, that you take the ground that any member of this House may decide for you as to whether a motion is or is not in order, because that is what the moving by the hon. member for Labelle of his so-called motion really amounts to. I have always understood it to be the practice of the House that the Speaker had the right of pronouncing judgment and that, in order to afford him time to be sure that he was correct, he was at liberty to postpone his decision on any point of order. But I never heard before of moving to adjourn the debate on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I rise at this juncture to remind the hon. member that a motion to adjourn is not debatable. However, some latitude must be permitted at the beginning of the session when hon. gentlemen are not so familiar with the rules. It seems to me that the ruling which I have suggested is the proper one. On the motion which was presented a point of order was taken by the right hon. leader of the opposition. Other members have not spoken so pointedly on a question of procedure as the right hon. gentleman and the hon. member for West Calgary (Mr. Bennett). The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) suggests that in view of the importance of the question the whole debate should be adjourned until Monday. I must confess that if I had been pressed to give a ruling on the point of order I would have asked, in deference to the House, not out of consideration for myself, to defer that decision until Monday. The right hon. leader of the opposition has argued that the debate on a point of order cannot be adjourned, but I must give a ruling on the point of order which is grafted on the main motion.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Your Honour has misinterpreted me. I have not suggested that because a motion, which indeed, cannot be made, is made, Your Honour is compelled to [Mr. Meighen.]

immediately decide the point of order. Not at all. Your Honour has the privilege of deferring your decision until Monday, but it is Your Honour, and Your Honour alone, who can defer discussion on a point of order; no member of the House can do that. As long as Your Honour takes the position that at your own instance you defer the debate, I am entirely content.

Mr. LAPOINTE: May I interject, Mr. Speaker, that my hon. friend from Labelle moved the adjournment of the debate even on the main motion. He was speaking on the point of order. Now I had the floor on the main motion and have remarks to offer concerning it, and if there is a motion to adjourn the debate, I think I am entitled to make those remarks. I am quite willing to meet the wishes of hon. members in that respect.

Mr. SPEAKER: In order that I may be afforded an opportunity of considering my ruling on the point of order which has been raised, I would ask the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) to withdraw his motion, as I would like to defer that ruling until Monday. Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. member shall have leave to withdraw his motion?

Mr. MEIGHEN: There is no motion.
Motion withdrawn.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy which is as follows:—

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

It gives me pleasure to welcome you to your important duties in this first session of the fifteenth Parliament of Canada.

Since our last meeting, the Empire has been called on to lament the demise of Queen Alexandra. In our Dominion the memory of the late Queen will ever be held in affectionate remembrance. At the earliest opportunity a resolution will be submitted to you expressing the deep sympathy of the Parliament and people of Canada with His Majesty the King and other members of the Royal Family in their bereavement.

Canada has been signally honoured by the selection of a member of its Government as President of the sixth assembly of the League of Nations.

I congratulate you on the growing prosperity of this favoured land. The products of our agricultural and other basic industries have greatly increased. Our export trade shows remarkable expansion. Our manufacturing and related industries throughout the Dominion have experienced a development not enjoyed in many years. Further evidence of industrial progress is reflected in the greatly improved earnings of the railways.