

Mr. COPP: I understood the minister to say that the purpose of this Bill is simply to legalize the appointment of about two hundred and sixty men in the Department of the Interior, but that it does not affect appointments which will hereafter be made by the Civil Service Commission. Is that correct?

Mr. CALDER: Yes.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—FURTHER LEGISLATION

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE FOSTER (Minister of Trade and Commerce): May I be allowed to state, in further reply to a question put to the Prime Minister as to legislation that may yet be brought down, that his reply as given must be taken to include any legislation that is made necessary by the report that has been laid before the House this afternoon by the member for London, (Mr. Cronyn) and that whatever legislation is required in that respect will be brought in on Monday.

BANKRUPTCY BILL—SENATE AMENDMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a message from the Senate informing this House that by mistake, there is included among the amendments made by the Senate to the Bill 118, intitled: "An Act to Amend the Bankruptcy Act," which amendments were sent to the House of Commons for concurrence, an amendment adding a Clause 5A to the said Bill, being the first of the said amendments, and requesting that the House of Commons will give leave to the proper officer of the Senate to make the necessary correction by striking out the said amendment.

SUPPLY—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE FOSTER (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved that the House go again into Committee of Supply.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Shelburne and Queen's): Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I desire to say a very few words concerning the order of business leading up to prorogation. For a week past, or more, we have had in that portion of the press which generally receives its inspiration from the Government, announcements of an

[Mr. Maclean.]

almost immediate prorogation. I think, in fact, the first announcement was that it was fixed for to-day, and it was also announced that an agreement had been come to between the various parties in the House to facilitate such prorogation. I believe I am correct in stating there was no such agreement in particular. Far from desiring to delay the proceedings of the House, I sympathize with the desire of the Prime Minister (Mr. Meighen) to bring the proceedings of Parliament to an early close and I shall willingly aid him in that direction. At the same time, I think it would be a mistake to hasten the prorogation of this House in the manner that has been implied in these various announcements. I would think it is to be regretted if my right hon. friend were to insist upon having prorogation before his departure; but that, of course, is for him to say, not me. I do say, however, that it will not be seemly if the business of this House is rushed to a conclusion in the manner in which it has been in former years and by all governments—for I do not blame one more than another. Consideration of the departmental Estimates is the best opportunity, in fact the only opportunity, for the discussion of some branches of our public business. Now, we have had some discussion of the Estimates, but I think the Estimates of some departments—perhaps not more than one or two—we have not touched at all, and it is not too much to say that at this moment votes for hundreds of millions of money that have yet to be dealt with. Consequently, when we are asked, in the last hours of the session, to rush these things through without consideration, it is an unseemly business and one that is not creditable to Parliament. I do not wish to say any more than to urge my hon. friends not to ask for any such way of doing business. If my right hon. friend finds it necessary to leave that is his own affair, and he will arrange that with his colleagues; but I do say that in the interest of decent parliamentary government we ought not to rush business through in the way that has been done more than once—and I repeat that it is not true of any one government more than another. If we want to have Parliament respected by the country, Parliament must stay here and perform its duties.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: (Prime Minister): I do not know any ground for the assertion that it is the desire of the Government to rush business through without consideration, or to have hundreds of