

able leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) anent the general procedure of the Senate at this most extraordinary hour. Ordinarily an honourable member would now move that an Address of thanks be presented to His Excellency for the Speech from the Throne, this motion would be seconded by another honourable member, and then there would be a debate, which, in accordance with historical custom, would revolve around Government policy as revealed in that Speech. We all know that the Speech to which we listened yesterday does little more than call attention to the terrific exigencies of the present time. The specific course which the Government intend to pursue and the practical measures which they have to offer to Parliament at this session are not as yet known, but are expected to be announced in the other Chamber by the Prime Minister this afternoon. I feel that in the present circumstances we cannot advantageously begin a debate upon the Speech from the Throne until we know what definite measures the Government have in mind. It would be easy enough to dwell upon the past in the ordinary way, to seek to assess responsibility here and offer laudation there; but to do so would be valueless so far as this crisis is concerned, and for that kind of debate I have no spirit whatever.

My suggestion—I have already made it to the honourable leader of the House—is that either now or after the mover and the seconder of the Address have spoken, whenever these honourable members may prefer, the Order of the Day be postponed until tomorrow, when we all shall have had an opportunity of reading and studying what the Prime Minister says to-day. The honourable leader of the House knows, perhaps as well as the Prime Minister, the course which the Government intend to take, but I should not think that my honourable friend would desire merely to duplicate here what is to be said in the other House, and certainly he would not give the detail which will likely be disclosed there. However, it is for him to decide what course he wishes to take in this respect.

If we meet to-morrow afternoon at three o'clock we should be able to complete our work before six, or at all events in the evening, and then we may meet again on Monday or Tuesday, or any other date which the leader of the House may choose.

I am most anxious, particularly at this session, which we hope will be short and which should be short, that we be present at our posts of duty from the beginning to the end, that we show we are here to be of use to the country, and that we consider our own convenience not at all.

I trust what I have said will appeal to the honourable leader of the House.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yesterday, at the request of my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen), I moved adjournment of the Senate until to-day with the idea that we would proceed with the debate on the Address this afternoon. He has since advised me that he does not feel disposed to express his views on the situation until he has heard the policy of the Government from the lips of the Prime Minister. I am, in my humble way, prepared to state that policy to the Senate, but I yield to the wish of my right honourable friend. I suggest that the Order be postponed until the next sitting of the House.

The Order was postponed.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Saturday, September 9, 1939.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE OUTBREAK OF WAR

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, I have received a statement which the Prime Minister intends to read to the other House, and is probably reading there now. It is as follows:

I should like to make clear to the House the procedure which the Government have in mind as to giving effect to the decision of Parliament regarding Canadian participation in the war.

The adoption of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne will be considered as approving not only the Speech from the Throne, but approving the Government's policy, which I set out yesterday, of immediate participation in the war.

If the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne is approved, the Government will therefore immediately take steps for the issue of a formal proclamation declaring the existence of a state of war between Canada and the German Reich.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. NORMAN P. LAMBERT rose to move that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency