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" O CANADA "

C 208263

(Request for statement in answer to question as to status)

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. W. Neill (Comox-Alberni): May I remind the Prime Minister that on July 8, replying to a question in connection with the status of the national hymn or anthem "O Canada," he said that a statement would be made shortly. Certain bodies are asking about this, and I should like to know if we may have the statement before we adjourn.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Perhaps I might answer my hon. friend at once. As the hon. member has said, there are certain bodies that wish to get an answer to the question as to whether or not the status of "O Canada" should be established at this time. May I say that there are times and seasons for the discussion of all matters, and I should think that at this time of war when there are other more important questions with which parliament has to deal that we might well continue to follow what has become the custom in Canada in recent years of regarding "God Save the King" and "O Canada" each as national anthems and entitled to similar recognition. That is the position which the government takes and I think it is one which will be generally approved by the country.

Mr. Bruce: - What about "The Maple Leaf Forever" ?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: "The Maple Leaf Forever" in some respects is a little out of date, but if my hon. friend would like to add it on occasions to the other two I am sure there will be no objection.

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July 27, 1942.

" O CANADA "

(Request for statement in answer to question as to status.)

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. L. Church (Broadview): I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question arising out of the reply which he gave the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill), as reported at page 4145 of Hansard yesterday, with reference to "O Canada". I did not like to bring this matter up on the motion to go into supply for the simple reason that I did not wish to take up the time of the house, but I would point out that the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. LaCroix) has had on the order paper