

ister during that campaign have been placed on Hansard. I remind him of only one:

Mr. King promises you conferences; I promise you action. He promises consideration of the problem of unemployment; I promise to end unemployment. Which plan do you like best?

There is mention in the speech from the throne of the possibility of a world economic and financial conference. I wish to protest emphatically against dealing with outside problems until we have dealt with those confined to Canada. To-day, in Canada, with the exception of a few important commodities, we have natural resources and machinery of production sufficient to satisfy the consumption of our people. Yet there are people in Canada on the verge of starvation. I submit the present is not the proper time to put off consideration of these economic problems. Winter is before us, and I trust that before very long the government will give to this house some intimation as to its policy concerning the economic problems within Canada.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to repeat what I said on Friday concerning the desirability of concluding the debate on the address before other matters are considered, and certainly before this parliament adjourns. I join whole-heartedly with the hon. members who have just spoken concerning the importance of the domestic problems of Canada. I agree that they are of greater magnitude than those with which the country has been faced at any previous time. The Imperial economic conference should not be made a cover or a shield to conceal the government's inability to deal with the larger immediate domestic problems. We have a right to ask that before Imperial economic conference matters are discussed the Prime Minister should give this house a definite undertaking that before the adjournment at the end of the preliminary session there will be ample opportunity to discuss not only problems of unemployment but questions concerning banking, credit and currency as well.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, I join with those who have spoken in asking the government to give the house an assurance that the problems confronting us may be discussed before any adjournment for an international economic conference. May I say that I do not like the new practice of not going on with the discussion on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I have just looked at the order paper for the day and I find that consideration of the speech of His Excellency is placed there under the title of government

orders. That is a new practice, or I am considerably mistaken. It has always been placed on the order paper as a special order. This is an order which is directed to be placed there by a vote of the house, after Your Honour has informed the house that His Excellency has kindly read his speech at the opening of parliament. It is not a government order; the speech of His Excellency is not directed to the government, it is directed to you and to the members of the house. My right hon. friend the Prime Minister is attending there as is everyone else,—perhaps he is better looking than the others on account of his official uniform—but the speech is delivered to the members of the house. It is parliament, all the members of the house, who move an address in reply to the speech from the throne; not the government, not the Prime Minister. I think it is certainly desirable that the members of the house should have the opportunity of discussing all the problems of the country in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I understand that there are special circumstances this year that might make it desirable that we should proceed with consideration of the agreements which were reached at the last Imperial economic conference, but to adopt this as a practice I think is wrong.

I also submit that we should have an assurance that the majority of this house will not force an adjournment after the debates are concluded on the agreements reached at the conference, and thus deprive hon. members of the opportunity of discussing the problems of the country in the debate on the address.

Mr. SPEAKER: For the information of the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) and the house generally I wish to say that the words "government order" on the order paper were a clerical error. The consideration of the speech of His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session should have been placed under the heading "special orders." It was printed as it is, as I say, by a clerical mistake and not at the instance of the government or anyone on behalf of the government.

Mr. LAPOINTE: So much the better.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver South): I think the point raised by the member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) and the member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) is very well taken. During the opening ceremonies of parliament a few days ago my mind kept reverting back to a somewhat similar situation some two years ago. I can well remember with what assur-