

documents or of their nature, but I do think that it is creating a very serious precedent to permit the indiscriminate reading into Hansard of documents. It is a practice we have not followed in this House save in the case of the Budget or of detailed statistics, or, in other special instances. It is not my business particularly to object, but I do think it would be in the best interests of the House not to indulge the precedent.

Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I might say that I agree with what my right hon. friend has said. I did not take any exception at the time because I happened to see in my hon. friend's hand the document he proposed to insert and it did not appear to be one of very considerable length, and this debate is on a question so all-important that I felt I would not be justified in raising the point at this time. I should like, however, to associate with what the leader of the Opposition has said and to ask the House not to consider it as establishing a precedent in any way if it permits this document to be inserted.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that, in this instance, the hon. gentleman shall have the right to insert the document unread in Hansard?

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure): Will you allow me, Mr. Speaker, as an old member of the House to express my approval of what has been said by the leaders on both sides of the House, and to point out that in the old days a request of this sort was absolutely refused except in the case of government statistics and tables of figures in government speeches on the Budget, and so on. If this is allowed in this instance, the House, not having heard the document read, will not be in a position to vote intelligently to-night as we shall not be able to read the statement until we get to-morrow's Hansard. Therefore, I do not think it would be proper for the hon. gentleman to insert the document.

Mr. NEILL: Might I suggest that it be referred to the Speaker, the leader of the Government, or the leader of the Opposition while I continue my remarks, for an opinion as to whether it might properly be inserted.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is purely a question for the unanimous decision of the House.

Hon. A. K. MACLEAN (Halifax): The document which the hon. gentleman asks [Mr. Meighen.]

leave to insert in Hansard may be very informative and very interesting. I do not know, of course, but I assume the hon. gentleman would not ask leave of the House for its insertion unless it was relevant and important. Nevertheless, this is the first instance that I can recall in which any hon. gentleman has asked leave at this stage to insert a document in Hansard when it is of a character merely supplementary to his remarks. It is quite another thing for a member of the Government to ask leave to insert statistical tables or information of that kind, but I think it would be a great misfortune for the House if we were to institute the practice which is suggested this evening.

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Marquette): I associate myself, I think entirely with what has fallen from the lips of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) my right hon. friend who leads the Opposition (Mr. Meighen), the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil) and the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Maclean). If we adopt the practice in this House of permitting extracts to be inserted in Hansard, it will be very difficult to draw the line, and I can conjure up a vision of Hansard growing to two or three times its present size. I would suggest to my hon. friend that he either quote extracts from the article in question bearing on the matter, or that he read the document in its entirety. If the document has any bearing on the subject I think it should be placed before the House so that we can more intelligently vote on the question when we come to do so.

Mr. NEILL: I would have no hesitation in reading the article in its entirety; I am a comparatively young man, but as other speakers are to follow me to-night, it would not be fair. We have agreed on a schedule of speakers, and it is not fair to take up the time of the House in reading this document, but if any hon. gentleman would care to see it, I shall have much pleasure in showing it to him privately.

Dealing with this California question, in April, 1921, just last year, the Senate and legislative assembly of the state of California passed by unanimous vote a joint resolution in connection with this subject, called the Declaration of Principles. It consisted of four paragraphs, some of which I should like to allude to. In order to save time, I shall allude to them as briefly as possible.

The first declaration demanded absolutely the exclusion of Asiatics from the