

Canada should be represented at that conference, and it is desirable that if Canada is represented it should have as strong an expression of approval as possible from both houses of parliament of the purposes for which the conference is being called and of the position to be taken by Canada at the conference.

I do not know whether my hon. friend asked another question which I have not answered, but I hope I have made it clear that while it is perfectly true that this is a session, it is not the 1945-46 session of parliament. It is a part of the year during which we have already been sitting; its purpose is to make the provision that should be made to enable a general election to be held at an early date.

Mr. GRAYDON: There was one other question I raised with respect to the motion that is now before the house. So far as the budget is concerned, I think the same set of arguments apply with respect to it as apply to the address, because actually I do not think the government would expect, and certainly the country would not expect, that the government should escape censure at this stage of parliament for having failed to take full advantage of the first three months of this year. It could have called a session early in January and could then have given parliament an opportunity to debate, in connection with the address, those things which were essential to determining confidence in the administration. It could also have brought down a proper budget for the ensuing year.

I do not wish to extend my remarks at all, but I would say that business and the taxpayers can hardly be expected to plan very far ahead, and I think it will cause considerable inconvenience if the budget is to be left over as the government now suggests.

I did want to ask the Prime Minister whether, in passing this motion, the house would be deprived of the opportunity of making any amendment that might conceivably be moved on the motion to go into supply or ways and means.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This motion in no way affects the rights of the house with respect to what it may wish to do on going into supply.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The motion is intended to set up a committee of ways and means, but if there is to be no budget—and the Prime Minister made it abundantly clear that there is to be none—why the committee? I can scarcely understand a government asking the house to go into committee of ways and means unless it has proposals by way of a budget to submit to parliament.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

I concur entirely in the statement made by my leader, that this house should have been summoned early in January, notwithstanding what the Prime Minister has said about six sessions in a parliament. That does not mean a thing. There can be ten sessions in a parliament; or, more properly, parliament ought to be called into session more frequently than it has been. We have been away from Ottawa for seven months, whereas the parliament at Westminster has been in almost continuous session.

Mr. HOWE: You have, but the rest of us were here.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is intended to be facetious, I know. Well, I was away from August until now except for the short session. During the short session I was here. That short session was called, however, by reason of the ineptitude of the Prime Minister and of his policies, and for no other reason. I want to know as a matter of information now, before the motion passes, what necessity there is for setting up a committee of ways and means if, as has been announced, there is to be no budget.

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): The procedure which is necessary in granting interim supply, which will be asked for, involves the submission of a resolution to the committee of ways and means. The ordinary form of the resolution is: "Resolved, that towards making good supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1946, the following sums be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, namely". . . And then follow the sums. It is the committee of ways and means that designates the source of the funds which are voted by the committee of supply. With regard to the other question, while it does not specifically answer the point raised by the hon. gentleman, I would point out that it is not uncommon for periods of fifteen or sixteen months to intervene between budgets.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It is very unusual.

Mr. ILSLEY: It has happened in the last two or three years.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It is not proper either.

Motion agreed to.