

Extradition Treaty

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your indulgence this afternoon. It has not been easy for me to make my maiden speech as leader of the opposition, but my task has been made much easier by my feeling that this house has given me an indication of a confidence which I shall not lightly forget in the days that lie ahead.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the standing committees of this house, under standing order 63, said committee to be composed of Messrs. Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre), Michaud, Casselman (Grenville-Dundas), Johnston (Bow River) and Taylor.

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Honourable T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources, the Honourable J. L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, the Honourable J. E. Michaud, Minister of Transport and the Honourable J. A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled An Act Respecting the House of Commons.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 5 p.m.

Friday, January 29, 1943

The house met at three o'clock.

EXTRADITION TREATY

ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNING EXTRADITION OF CRIMINALS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): On the concluding day of the last session the then leader of the opposition, the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson), asked me a question with respect to the treaty between Canada and the United States governing the extradition of criminals. I said I would give my hon. friend the information at an early day this session. The fact is that the treaty, as the hon. member for

[Mr. Graydon.]

York-Sunbury mentioned at the time, was signed on April 29 of last year. It was tabled in this house by my colleague, the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent), August 1 last. The treaty has been approved by the senate of the United States but it has not yet been ratified. It will be presented to this house for approval before it is ratified.

I might give the house this additional information with regard to the present position. Following the publication of the provisions of the treaty, the government received representations from many organizations in Canada who are interested in the marketing of securities. Extensive briefs were filed asking among other things for a modification of the provisions in so far as they might touch upon matters which could properly be regarded as legitimate Canadian business. These briefs and other representations, some of which have been recently received, have been the subject of careful study by the interested departments of the government. These studies are continuing. It is not possible at present to state the position which has been reached in this matter. Before ratification, the treaty will, as I have said, be submitted to parliament for approval, but it is unlikely that it will be possible to present it to parliament at an early stage of the session.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES—REVISION OF RULES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister if the government will take appropriate action to expedite the establishment of the various standing and select committees of the house.

I recognize that the rule has been that these committees are not officially constituted until the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne has been concluded. However, at this first opportunity I should like to indicate that it is the desire of the opposition members to have all the committees formally constituted so as to begin work this session with a minimum of delay. Too frequently in the past there appears to have been a great time lag between the formal constitution of the committees of the house and the actual commencement of their work. Indeed, some standing committees, having within their jurisdiction very important subject matters, have failed on some occasions to hold more than simply pro forma organiza-