

in the affairs of this country, was not permitted to continue in the debate on the resolution after having been first assigned the right to speak by you, Mr. Speaker. I do not imagine that it was the intention of rule 17 that, after the Speaker of this House saw first the leader of the Opposition, that right could have been taken from him under any of the provisions of that rule.

Before I proceed to discuss the resolution, I wish to refer to another rule of this House. It is quite clear that the motion made by the Prime Minister the other day in introducing the resolution was not in order, upon the ground that he did not give to the House the necessary notice. Rule 40 is to the following effect:

Two days' notice shall be given of a motion for leave to present a Bill, resolution or address, for the appointment of any committee, or for the putting of a question.

The rule further says:

Such notice shall be laid on the table before five o'clock p.m., and be printed in the Votes and Proceedings of that day.

I contend that this rule was not observed by the Government, and accordingly, the resolution is improperly before the House. I am not going to argue what is two days' notice under this rule; but I think it is quite clear that the requisite notice was not given to the House. I remember very well on Monday night of last week, after the House had adjourned, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers), in my presence, gave notice to the leader of the Opposition that the Votes and Proceedings of the following day would contain notice of closure, which is the resolution before us. I think I am perfectly safe in saying that that notice was not filed with the clerk on or before five o'clock on Monday afternoon, and, that being the case, I think beyond peradventure the resolution is not properly before the House. When I conclude the very brief remarks which I am going to make, I shall ask for your ruling, Mr. Speaker, upon that point.

Before proceeding further, I wish to point out that rule 40 says further, that two days' notice is necessary for leave to present a motion for the putting of a question. In my judgment, without having had the opportunity of giving very much study to that particular part of the rule, I think it must refer to the putting of a motion such as moved by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Hazen) on Wednesday last, immediately after the resolution was moved by the Prime Minister. In any event, Mr. Speaker, I am submitting this rule to you for your consideration, feeling that the contention which I am putting forward is amply supported by the rule, that the

resolution is out of order for want of notice; and, further, that for want of notice the motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is out of order, and that, if the main resolution is in order, it would be subject to an amendment.

I do not propose to discuss the scope and effect of the amendment proposed to be made to the rules of this House by this resolution. I do not deny that it is possible that some of the rules of the House might with propriety be amended. I do not think that any hon. gentleman on this side of the House will contend that the amendment of any rule which circumscribes within proper bounds the debates on any matter is not perfectly proper. If hon. gentlemen opposite are moved sincerely with the desire of reforming the rules in the interest of the business of the House and the country, they will have the cordial support of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House.

I wish to present some objections to the resolution and to answer briefly some contentions which have been urged in support of the resolution by hon. members opposite.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does the hon. member argue that, inasmuch as the notice was not given in time to be in the Votes and Proceedings of Monday, as a consequence its being taken up on Wednesday was premature and out of order?

Mr. MACLEAN: Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Just because it was not in the Votes and Proceedings of Monday?

Mr. MACLEAN: I say that that notice was not laid on the table of the House before five o'clock on Monday afternoon, and consequently the appearance in the Votes and Proceedings on Tuesday would count for nothing.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would inform the hon. gentleman that it was in the Votes and Proceedings of Monday.

Mr. MACLEAN: That is a matter which I shall leave to the Speaker for inquiry. As it is a question of fact, he will have to determine that and to announce to the House his grounds for his finding. In any event, provided the notice was placed on the table before five o'clock in the afternoon of Monday last, even then I do not think the rule was complied with so far as time is concerned, as there was not the full two days' notice.

I was saying that all hon. members would view with favour any effort on the part of the Government to amend our rules so as to expedite the business of the House. In this connection, I wish to