

Honourable Members will observe that this motion does not exclude questions or notices of motion for production of papers.

The first item of Government business will be to ask the approval of the House for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. When I spoke on November 17 from London, I said that "at all times and at all costs we must keep our real and long-run objectives constantly in sight". The government feels that by bringing the Agreement forward before we deal with the temporary emergency measures there will be much better prospect of keeping these temporary measures in proper perspective. In matters of this sort there is a danger which we must avoid of seeing whatever is more pressing and more urgent as being more important. The urgent economic programme is indeed important, but in the long term it will be seen for what it is -- a temporary and regrettable aberration in the course of achieving the real and long-term objectives which are the wider and freer opportunities of trade which the Geneva Agreement has opened up. The motion asking the House's approval of the Geneva Agreement will be in general terms and will be sent forward as notice to-day.

It might perhaps be as well if I indicate now the procedure which the Government proposes to adopt in dealing with the Geneva Agreement. The resolution to which