

## WEDNESDAY SITTINGS

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

That on Wednesday, the 21st day of March, 1945, and all subsequent Wednesdays until the end of the present session, the sittings shall in every respect be under the same rules as provided for other days.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I seek clarification on one point? I take it that this means Friday nights as well as Wednesday nights?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It means exactly what it says—unless the house should decide it prefers not to sit Friday evenings.

Mr. GRAYDON: The reason I asked the question was that during the last session the Prime Minister on two or three occasions seemed to assume that some motion had to be made as regards Friday night in order that we would sit; and I wanted to clarify the position.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No.

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. Ilesley, 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 purpose and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled: An Act Respecting the House of Commons.

## SUPPLY

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

That this house will, at the next sitting, resolve itself into a committee to consider of a supply to be granted to His Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

## WAYS AND MEANS

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

That this house will, at the next sitting, resolve itself into a committee to consider of the ways and means for raising the supply to be granted to His Majesty.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): This gives me an opportunity to inquire of the government at what time during

this session the budget will be introduced. Also may I ask whether the passing of the motion for the constitution of these committees in any way deprives hon. members of the right to make the usual amendments as provided by the rules, upon the house going into supply.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend has brought up a matter which it is fortunate, perhaps, that he mentioned at this stage. He has referred to the time at which the budget will be brought in at this session. May I say to my hon. friend and hon. members that it is customary for parliament to have five sessions, when it extends over five years. The statute fixes five years at the period over which parliament can sit without a general election. This parliament has already had five full sessions. The present session is not to be construed and should not be construed as the session of parliament for the year 1945-46. That session will come later in the present year. It will come after the general elections, just as was the case, as I recollect, with the first session of this parliament; it came after the general elections, after the people had pronounced upon what particular party they wished to have control the affairs of the country during the coming years.

The purpose of this session is to enable the general election to be held as soon as it can reasonably be held; to make provision for the carrying on of the necessary civil government during the period of the election, and to obtain the appropriations which are necessary for the prosecution of the war. It would be a mistake to assume that the government is seeking to have six sessions in a parliament that has already had five long sessions. It is simply seeking to comply with the spirit of the constitution and obtain from the people's representatives in the house what will be necessary in the way of interim supply for the period which will elapse between the beginning of the present fiscal year and the time at which a new parliament comes into being. When the members of the new parliament shall have been elected by the people, it will be for whatever government may be here to introduce its own budget and its own legislation on other matters.

This particular session would have been concerned solely with the question of necessary supply had it not been that recently there has been sent to our government an invitation by the government of the United States for Canada to be represented at the conference at San Francisco on world security. We have felt that the people of Canada would wish that