

*Business of Supply*

a larger number of members to contribute to the debate. Since the subject is of great interest and concern, we might do well to limit ourselves to 15 minutes in order to bring in other members, with no extension being granted on either side.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Then, Mr. Speaker, perhaps that could be made a special order of the house right now.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the house agreeable to adopting the order suggested by the hon. member for Peace River?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is so ordered.

**Mr. Baldwin:** The house will note the terms of the motion:

That this house should give consideration to television and radio broadcasting of the proceedings of the house and/or its committees.

• (3:30 p.m.)

The wording of the motion is the time honoured wording used when this house has discovered a problem with which it has not yet determined how to deal but feels that the subject matter should be dealt with, debated and discussed. For that reason when the opportunity arose to move the motion it was introduced as a motion not involving confidence. Nor was it put in more positive terms which would indicate that the members of this party specifically are in favour of having in this house radio and television broadcasting. Unquestionably, we are all concerned, we are all involved and we are all interested. I have every reason to believe that there run through the house a variety of opinions on this matter. Some believe radio and television to be necessary here; many are convinced it is not necessary and others are convinced it may be harmful. Variations of those views are entertained in varying degrees on all sides of the house. For that reason, I took the opportunity of putting down this motion and having it debated today, the idea being that hon. members following me can make their contribution.

My position is very simple. Until 18 months ago I was categorically opposed to any suggestion that radio or television ought to be brought into the house. There was no hesitation on that point in my mind. However, circumstances which developed during the last 18 months, and particularly during the last 12 or 15 months, have brought me to adopt, with some measure of reluctance I might say, a

different point of view. I wish to give the house the benefit of my views so that hon. members may debate the matter after I have finished.

One particular instance which drove me to change my mind was that which occurred about one year ago last February when, after the government had been defeated on a measure which in all other commonwealth legislative bodies would be considered a matter of confidence, the Prime Minister of the day, utilizing the time which had been granted to him to consider his position, left this chamber, and over the radio and television facilities which were available, made a statement which completely distorted and misrepresented what had taken place.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Baldwin:** After all, Mr. Speaker, so long as our parliamentary system continues, the Prime Minister holds his position by virtue of being the leader of the largest party in this house to whom the Governor General will entrust confidence. In short, the Prime Minister enjoys the largest measure of support within the house. Until we have adopted a presidential system, something I will never accept, it is to this house that the Prime Minister and members of the government must come for support. Reports must be made to this house, because this house is the source of power which the government exercises. Consequently, since what happened previously has in varying degrees been repeated over and over again, I have been persuaded to change my mind. Subsequent events that have occurred in and around the House of Commons have convinced me, and other hon. members as well, that an attempt is being made to diminish the role played here by the representatives of the people of Canada.

I was not sent here to participate in liquidating or weakening the processes of democracy as constituted in this parliament and in this house.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I am, of course, referring to the fact that immediately outside this chamber are microphones and television cameras which, I would hazard, are being used at this moment by certain hon. members of the house and members of the government.

**An hon. Member:** They are.

**Mr. Baldwin:** The Prime Minister is probably supplementing the very meagre report he