

*Invoking of War Measures Act*

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, we have not been given a copy of the amendment, and therefore cannot consider it.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I am sorry. I will send a copy over.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Make sure it is the same as the copy that was sent to Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I was under the impression that the hon. member could read quite well.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, may I make a suggestion? In view of what Your Honour has said on the matter put forward by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), could we not consider this matter during the dinner hour? We are to come back at 7.30 p.m.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members who are interested in this matter from the procedural standpoint and wish to give advice to the Chair when we resume at 7.30 p.m., will have the opportunity of doing so. After that a ruling can be given by the Chair as to whether the amendment can be put to the House.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I undertake to give a copy to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Macdonald) and explain it to him.

**Mr. Speaker:** It being five o'clock, and pursuant to the order made earlier this day, I do now leave the chair. I remind hon. members that the House will resume its sitting at 7.30 p.m.

At five o'clock the House took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 7.30 p.m.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. When the House rose at five o'clock a point of order had been raised in connection with the proposed amendment of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). As I indicated, I am quite prepared to give a ruling now. If, as I have said, hon. members can bring forth arguments to support the proposition that this suggested amendment is acceptable procedurally, I will of course hear them.

**Mr. Baldwin:** In view of the fact that the child is mine and Your Honour appears to look upon him with some disfavour, I would like to comment very briefly. Recognizing that I am departing from precedents, I point out to Your Honour that the motion of the government is unprecedented, calling upon this House to give its approval to a certain type of action taken by the government and brought before the House in this way. This is a unique and unprecedented motion.

The motion I have sought to put before the House in the form of an amendment simply seeks to provide an alternative course that could be taken by the government. Your Honour may well say, and I recognize the

[Mr. Speaker.]

truthfulness of the statement, that we have our right to dissent by voting against the motion. However, that does not permit us to offer for the consideration and the division of the House, what we feel is the most logical and sensible alternative. That is the unprecedented amendment which I offer to the unprecedented motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Without going into the details of the situation I am sure the hon. member for Peace River, who knows so much about rules, Standing Orders and precedents, will agree that it is difficult for the Chair to accept this interesting amendment from a procedural standpoint. I indicated to hon. members before the House rose that in my view this motion brought in an entirely new proposition. I concluded that, on this basis, the amendment was not acceptable. In support of this view, I refer hon. members to Beauchesne's fourth edition, citation 203, paragraph (5) which reads:

An amendment was ruled out because it raised a new question which could only be considered on a distinct motion after notice.

This is the suggestion I respectfully make to the hon. member at this time. I also refer hon. members to citation 202(12) which reads as follows:

An amendment proposing a direct negative, . . . is out of order.

Hon. members realize that the way to express their disapproval of a motion before the House is to vote against it rather than to propose an amendment which is, in fact, a direct negative. I will spare hon. members other citations with which I was occupied during the dinner hour.

I am not suggesting that the motion now before the House cannot be amended. I have no doubt that it can. I certainly do not want to use the rules to prevent legitimate amendments, but in the case of this suggested amendment I respectfully submit to hon. members that it cannot be put at this time.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I believe Your Honour suggested that we ought to decide our course of action as soon as possible on resuming business at 7.30. I have had consultations with the other House leaders. In order to provide a maximum opportunity for members who wish to speak, to provide a definite time for a vote, and to give certainty on that, as well as to recognize the urgency of the subject matter, the House leaders propose the following arrangements to the House.

The House will sit tonight until ten o'clock and then adjourn until eleven o'clock tomorrow morning. Tomorrow, we will rise for lunch and resume at two o'clock. There will be routine proceedings tomorrow as usual. We will continue in the afternoon until every member who wishes to speak has had an opportunity to do so. Following that, we will adjourn until Monday. The vote will be the first item of government business on Monday. There will be no further speeches at that time.

Monday will be regarded as the fifth appointed day for the Address in Reply. I believe that will give every member an opportunity to speak. There will be a certainty as to when the division will take place on this impor-