

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, it is there on Hansard.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Prime Minister says the motion was put. I ask, Mr. Speaker, whether he himself formally put the necessary motion that the house should meet at eleven o'clock by unanimous consent. If Mr. Speaker says he did put that motion I have nothing else to say.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I did not hear all that went on on Saturday night, but I understood that by consent we were to meet at eleven o'clock. But may I ask this question: If we have no right to be sitting this morning, is not the suggestion of the leader of the opposition also out of order?

An hon. MEMBER: He is trying to make the proceedings in order.

Mr. BENNETT: That would not make it in order; that would be a joke.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: If we are not regularly in session this morning we can no more pass a resolution to the effect of the suggestion made by the leader of the opposition than we can proceed to anything else.

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The leader of the opposition bases his whole argument on the assertion that no motion was made for adjournment. He also—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not for adjournment; I did not say anything of the kind. I said that no motion was made to obtain unanimous consent for the house to sit at eleven o'clock instead of at three o'clock—in other words, to suspend standing order 2 of this House of Commons. The motion that was needed was a motion to suspend order No. 2.

Mr. STEVENS: The right hon. gentleman rests his case on the fact that there is an absence of that motion. He also takes Hansard as the basis upon which he rests his contention. As a matter of fact, it is well known that the Journals of the house are the official records. But, taking Hansard, the record is so abundantly clear that the right hon. gentleman must see he has not a scintilla of evidence to support his position. At page 4516 of Hansard the incident is reported under the heading:

Adjournment—Business of the House

That is the usual heading under which the adjournment is reported.

Mr. Bennett: I move the adjournment of the house.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

That motion was before the house. It is not a debatable motion, but from time immemorial it has always been permitted the leader of the opposition to query the leader of the house as to the business of the next sitting, and any little matter of that kind. Before the Speaker had an opportunity to put the motion in the usual and regular way the right hon. gentleman asked a question:

Mr. Mackenzie King: Will it be eleven o'clock on Monday or three o'clock in the afternoon?

That was speaking to the motion for adjournment. I remember very well sitting beside my right hon. leader (Mr. Bennett); and when he said, "I move the adjournment of the house", his sentence was not complete at the time. But we will not raise that point. The record shows a period there; we will not discuss whether it should be a period or whether it should be a dash. Then the leader of the opposition asks, in a perfectly proper way:

Mr. Mackenzie King: Will it be eleven o'clock on Monday or three o'clock in the afternoon?

Mr. Bennett: I was going to move that the house stand adjourned until either eleven o'clock or three o'clock, as the right hon. gentleman thinks his friends desire. If they wish to talk from eleven o'clock to one o'clock, discussing the items, very well; if not, the house will meet at three o'clock.

That was giving an opportunity to the right hon. gentleman to indicate what his friends wished which is a common arrangement or practice followed in the house. The right hon. gentleman replied:

Mr. Mackenzie King: My right hon. friend has shown his capacity to make decisions. He had better say which.

The Prime Minister then said:

Mr. Bennett: Eleven o'clock, so that hon. members may have an opportunity to discuss the estimates on agriculture.

This is on the motion to adjourn the house—a motion which was still undecided and still properly and officially before the house; and no other business could intervene until that motion was disposed of. He spoke in the usual and regular fashion, and he is reported in Hansard as saying:

This house stands adjourned until Monday morning at eleven o'clock.

There was absolutely no objection; there was a general and complete understanding that we were to meet again at eleven o'clock on Monday to carry on the business of the house. A meticulous examination of the Journals, or of Hansard, which is the unofficial record of the house, will disclose no grounds to support the right hon. gentleman. When he invites the Speaker to say this or that on