

exchequer on behalf of the whole Canadian people, it is a surprising stand for any member of the government to take that they should not let us know what they are going to do.

Mr. GOTT: Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask a question?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): Not at all. I think if ever there was a time when we ought to have a statement from the members of the government, it is now. They have sat silent during the last half hour or so. This is a cabinet responsibility; every member of the cabinet is responsible for the actions of any member of it; the cabinet as a whole is responsible for the action of every individual member thereof.

Mr. GOTT: If the hon. member will not allow me to ask a question, I shall draw the attention of the Speaker to the fact that it is now eleven o'clock.

#### NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Mr. BENNETT: I beg leave to give notice that, at the next sitting of the committee of the whole house, I shall move that the further consideration of the title and clauses 1, 2 and 3 of the Unemployment and Farm Relief Continuance Act, 1932, shall be the first business of the committee and shall not be further postponed.

I may say that yesterday I had some reason to believe that the statement made in connection with this evening would be implemented; otherwise we should have taken a very different line of action. I am very sorry it was not.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is the statement to which the Prime Minister refers?

Mr. BENNETT: A statement made by the ex-Minister of Justice to me.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Never. I said: if this bill can be put out of committee to-night, would the third reading be to-morrow? The Prime Minister said yes. I said I would try to see it passed through committee, but I never gave any undertaking.

Mr. BENNETT: We all believed he did. That is all.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: If the Prime Minister had made a statement in the house we would have got through.

Progress reported.

#### ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I suppose the second application of the closure will be the first order of business to-morrow?

Mr. BENNETT: That will be if the hon. gentleman's representations are as I now understand them, that this bill is not to go through except by closure. I have already given notice of that. If this business is concluded some time after two o'clock, we shall then proceed with government orders and supplementary estimates.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

#### Friday, April 1, 1932

The house met at three o'clock.

#### CLOSURE—PRIVILEGE

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, I desire to bring a question of privilege of the whole house to its attention. At the close of last night's sitting the Prime Minister, having mentioned that he would apply closure to the matter under discussion, made this declaration:

If this business is concluded some time after two o'clock, we shall then proceed with government orders and supplementary estimates.

The point I desire to raise, and I think it is of importance for future debate, is that the house has no right under the present rule to take up anything after the closure has been applied to any measure under discussion up to two o'clock. I take first standing order 39 under which closure is applied. I will not read the whole of it, but simply the concluding part:

And if such adjourned debate or postponed consideration shall not have been resumed or concluded before two of the clock in the morning, no member shall rise to speak after that hour, but all such questions as must be decided in order to conclude—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I cannot understand the hon. member's question of privilege. He is talking of the application of the rules of the house. At the present moment no rules are being applied except the ordinary rules of procedure.

Mr. BOURASSA: Mr. Speaker, with a view to helping the house in future—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, no.