

Motions for Papers

Mr. McILRAITH: Mr. Speaker, the motion calls for letters and other correspondence which are very voluminous; and in addition they disclose some matters as to the competitive position in industry. I have spoken to the sponsor of the motion about this, and I understand he is satisfied to have the words "letters and other correspondence" deleted from the motion. Subject to that, there is no objection to the motion passing.

Motion as amended agreed to.

JAPANESE NATIONALS

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North) moved:

For a copy of all petitions, letters and other correspondence received by the government during the past year, asking that the applications to go to Japan signed by persons of Japanese origin be reconsidered.

He said: I am informed that this would entail a great deal of work, and I am therefore quite willing to drop the motion in view of the fact that I can examine the originals.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I wish to thank my hon. friend for what he has said. A large part of the correspondence asked for is wholly repetitious. The same application has been made in the same words in hundreds of letters. If my hon. friend will go to the Department of External Affairs or the Department of Labour the officials will be pleased to allow him access to the entire files to assist him in obtaining the information he may wish to have.

Motion dropped.

CIVIL SERVICE—RECLASSIFICATION

Mr. BLAIR:

For a statement showing, (a) the names of all civil servants who have been reclassified by the treasury board and/or the civil service commission in each year since December 16, 1940, stating in each case whether temporary or permanent employee; (b) the increase awarded to each, and the date of such awards.

Mr. MARTIN: This motion would entail a great deal of work; it would require the services of twenty stenographers working for five months to compile the facts. It would necessitate the examination of some 48,000 files. In view of these impressive facts perhaps the hon. gentleman would be willing to drop the motion.

Mr. BLAIR: Yes.

Motion dropped.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

[Mr. Gillis.]

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): I do not know, Mr. Speaker, whether this question should be addressed to the Prime Minister or to the Minister of Finance: I think I handed a copy to the office of the Prime Minister. On Monday, November 12, the Minister of Finance gave the house a statement of the further legislation to be presented to parliament at this session. Is it still the intention of the government to proceed with the legislation then indicated? If so, I believe it would greatly facilitate the business of the house if all the remaining legislation could be introduced at an early day. I make the suggestion to the Prime Minister that this be done, in the belief that the house will then be in a better position, not only to consider these measures, but to facilitate their passage and at the same time avoid an unseemly rush of work as the end of the session approaches.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I am obliged to my hon. friend for bringing up the question he has. The government is anxious, as I am sure all hon. members are, to get through the business of this session as early as possible before Christmas, and, also, to give adequate time to the discussion of the different measures. To further this end, the government has gone over the list of bills mentioned by the Minister of Finance. Some of these it will be possible to have postponed to another session. I might say that we had hoped to get through the bill respecting citizenship, nationality, naturalization and status of aliens, which is an important measure; but so long as it is understood that it will be one of the first measures to be proceeded with at the next session, I think it may be allowed to stand, if near the end of the session we should be pressed for time. The ratification of the extradition treaty is another matter which might be allowed to stand over until the early part of the next session. Approval of the Bretton Woods agreement will have to be proceeded with; also an amendment to the Export Credit Act, and an amendment to the Dominion-Provincial Taxation Agreement Act. It relates to the province of Alberta and, I understand, is not a contentious measure. The maple sugar industry bill has been introduced in the senate and will come from that house to this.

Mr. BRACKEN: We should be sending one like that to them.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It was thought the senate might get through the discussion of it to begin with.