

in the Upper House. It does not matter what party did it. It is the result we have to look at.

Mr. ARTHURS: I say the gentlemen who—

Mr. LOGAN: Order, order.

Mr. ARTHURS: What is the point of order? The gentlemen who are principally opposed to this bill in another place—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. ARTHURS:—are not opponents of this government, they are strong supporters of this government, and probably had their instructions from the government as to their action—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): With reference to the remarks of the hon. member for West Calgary (Mr. Shaw), parliament need not necessarily prorogue at three o'clock this afternoon. I may say that I agree entirely with the hon. member that every effort should be made to accomplish what can be accomplished by conference with the Senate, and I would like their Honours to feel that when the conference takes place the hour of prorogation should not influence their deliberations in the least. I am prepared to ask His Excellency to permit us to fix a later hour for prorogation, as long as there is the slightest chance of a compromise.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind hon. members that it might be well to bear in mind that if we are to have a conference now there should be as little delay as possible, because time flies.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I welcome very heartily the suggestion of His Honour the Speaker that we do not waste any time, and also that we should endeavour to present the attitude of the Commons to the members of the other body in the proper light, even though it may necessitate delaying the hour of prorogation.

Mr. GEORGE BLACK (Yukon): I express my agreement with what has been said as to the lack of necessity of the House proroguing at three o'clock. Apparently there was no necessity for the Senate to have dealt with the matter as it did yesterday in such a precipitous manner.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): The Senate might just as well have considered the matter today; if as has been said the bill was dealt with without proper consideration, which I do not think is the fact, because—

Mr. BELAND: It is so stated in the report of the Senate—that they had no time.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): If it is said that the House of Commons dealt with the bill in that manner, it is not correct, because this House appointed a committee of its members which, in the opinion of the House, were best qualified to suggest amendments. On that committee there was a number of men who have served on the same committee for years, they are the men best qualified to prepare recommendations to parliament concerning pensions legislation and I say it is important that parliament should not let the hour of prorogation interfere with the proper consideration of this question. I do say, however, that the committee should have submitted its recommendations as to pension legislation amendments at an earlier date. These recommendations might very well have been presented to the House of Commons some time ago, followed perhaps by suggested amendments to the legislation, dealing with Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, after which the complaints against the pension board might have been considered. A great deal of time was consumed in that committee in considering questions which were of comparatively little importance, compared to the importance of amending the pension legislation. As a member of the committee I must say that the chairman was warned of the danger of allowing these suggestions to remain unstated until so late in the session. Satisfactory consideration was not given last year by the Upper House to legislation passed by the House of Commons along these lines and by reason of the Senate's action last year we were aware what might happen this year. I want to read to the House a telegram which I have received from the Dominion president of the Amputations Association. I presume that other members have also received it. It is dated Toronto, this day, and reads:

Disabled soldiers expected pensions bonus would be made permanent and are bitterly disappointed at action of Senate. All party leaders in Senate assured us of their unqualified support. Will you use every effort to prevent prorogation of House until this vital matter is settled in our favour.

I for my part am prepared to stay here as long as may be necessary to accomplish the desires of the association.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: It is only right that I should put in a word. I am not in accord with the Senate's action but at the same time there is some justification for the complaint that the bill was precipitated into the Upper House at such a period of the session as did render adequate or appropriate