

Ordinarily the House would first give consideration to the Address in reply to the Speech which has just been delivered by His Excellency. I think there will be general agreement, however, that the importance of the matters that have to be considered before the adjournment for Christmas gives them a necessary priority and makes it impossible for the usual procedure to be adhered to. It is, accordingly, proposed to have the seconder to the Address in Reply move the adjournment of the debate this afternoon. This is the procedure that was followed in March, 1945, when urgent matters had similarly to be considered at an early date. The debate on the Address will be resumed as soon as the more urgent business has been concluded.

In order to allow the trade agreement and the emergency exchange measures to be considered immediately and without interruption, it will be necessary for precedence to be given, for the first days of the session, to government business. Consequently, I propose to move on Monday for such precedence for a period of two weeks. The motion will be as follows:

"That on and after Monday the 8th December 1947, and every sitting day thereafter until Monday, the 22nd December, government notices of motion and government orders shall have precedence over all other business except introduction of bills, questions by members and notices of motion for production of papers".