

by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) struck me with astonishment. I came here to elicit all possible facts bearing upon this situation, and to form to the best of my ability a considered opinion as to the merits of the several cases. Imagine my amazement, then, when a proposal is made which would prevent me from forming such a considered opinion. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that thus far I am thoroughly in accord with the procedure being followed by the government in this investigation. It is only fitting that we should hear the correspondence read, and that we should have time to read it ourselves and be prepared to ask questions in regard to it if needs be. If we can just secure to-morrow a similar amount of information bearing upon the general question, and again have time to consider it, free from haste, then we shall take another step forward in our deliberations.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

RESCISSION OF ORDER OF JULY 13 FOR MORNING SITTINGS

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: When the house was seeking to bring to an early end the concluding portion of the session in the late summer we adopted certain resolutions which were designed to conclude the proceedings as rapidly as possible. Among others were resolutions providing for sittings in the mornings and on Saturdays. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition has just said that he thinks that while we are considering this grave question, we should sit mornings, afternoons, evenings and Saturdays.

Mr. HATFIELD: And Sundays.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: And some hon. member of the official opposition has just added Sundays. May I say that I think any such procedure would be most inadvisable, and would be so regarded by the people of this country. I believe it would be taken as evidence that we were not prepared to give to this question the thoughtful consideration it merits, as one of the gravest questions that has ever been before the Canadian parliament for consideration. May I put it in this way. If I had come forward with the proposal that this house should sit to-night, and again to-morrow morning and afternoon and evening, and do the same on Friday and Saturday, no one would have been on his feet more quickly than my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, to condemn me for seeking to hasten the whole procedure of this house.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): The boys overseas are not laying off Saturdays and Sundays.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend would have said immediately that what was required, in a situation such as this, was opportunity for the fullest consideration of all aspects of the question and that, obviously, until there had been time to peruse the correspondence carefully and to hear all sides of the question, this house should not be rushed to a decision.

Mr. GRAYDON: I hope my right hon. friend is not trying to put words into my mouth, because I am sure I would not have uttered quite those words.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am not putting any words into my hon. friend's mouth, but I would say to him that it is not so much quantity of talk as it is quality of thought which counts in matters of this kind.

Mr. HATFIELD: And we are wasting time.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say one word to hon. gentlemen opposite who are continually interrupting. If they have no regard for the order of debate as indicated by myself, and the manner of the conduct of the debate, perhaps they will listen to their own leader, who made quite a strong appeal to them just a few moments ago, in which he said that he hoped this house would deliberate on this matter in the most careful manner possible, and I think he added, on the highest plane.

In order to permit of that deliberation which I think is essential in this matter, it would be advisable to rescind the resolution which still stands that the house should sit in the mornings, and I therefore move, seconded by Mr. Crerar:

That the order passed on July 13, 1944, under which the house was permitted to sit at eleven o'clock a.m. until the end of the session be rescinded and that the house shall in future meet at three o'clock in the afternoon of each day as provided in standing order No. 2.

I have thought that this would be the procedure that would most commend itself to hon. members of this house, and in all that I am proposing at this session I shall seek, at every turn, first of all, to give the amplest opportunity for the discussion which is necessary. I shall seek to meet, as I have at all times sought to meet, the convenience and wishes of the great majority of the members of the house.

Mr. STIRLING: May I ask whether notice has been given of that motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: Notice is not necessary. This is with regard only to the hour and not the