

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## ADJOURNMENT AT SIX O'CLOCK ON FRIDAYS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): The order of the day to-day is No. 4, for the house to go into committee of the whole on the resolution respecting the war appropriation bill. Before the house proceeds to that order, I should like to say a word about evening sittings on Friday. On one or two occasions before, I have mentioned to hon. members that as the time of the house is taken up during the week with the discussion, for the most part, of urgent war matters, and all of us are obliged to concentrate very closely on these particular questions, which are most important, that for the present at least, unless there is some special reason to the contrary it would probably meet the wishes of hon. members generally if it were understood that we would adjourn on Friday at six o'clock instead of continuing sitting during the evening. I have discussed the matter with the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson), and he and I hold the view that the house has much to gain and nothing to lose by having it understood that at least for this part of the session unless the government deem it important to have hon. members do otherwise, the house will not sit on either Wednesday or Friday nights. Unless there is some view to the contrary on the part of hon. members, I should like to announce now that we will not sit this Friday evening, and that for the present we will not be sitting on other Friday evenings unless there is some special reason why we should do so.

I would draw attention to the fact that intensity of effort is a factor that has to be taken into account in considering the significance of duration of effort. I imagine that in our discussions at this very critical time we are expending more energy in a few days than at other times we would expend in several days. That is a factor which has been recognized in the British House of Commons, and I think we might equally recognize it here.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): May I say that I concur entirely in what the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has said. Speaking for myself I can say honestly that at the end of the week I feel very tired. It is a tremendous effort to come here in the morning and work continuously from nine o'clock until eleven o'clock at night. I do not think the public will expect men, especially members of the government and others charged with responsibility, including myself, to put in a day as

[Mr. Howe.]

long as that. I must have some relaxation, and I welcome this release from attendance here on Friday night. I hope other hon. gentlemen will concur in the suggestion that has been made by the Prime Minister.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): Speaking for the small group with which I am associated, Mr. Speaker, I should say we welcome this suggestion. I agree with the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) that members of the government are working under a very heavy strain which to some extent will be relieved if this suggestion is adopted. I have often thought that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) might have some hon. members deputize for the members of the government on occasion, because I realize the heavy strain they are under. We in this little group, with our committee work and so on, welcome this change. Though we are a small group in opposition nevertheless we devote a very considerable amount of time to the work of this house. So I say that not only have we no objection to this proposal; we welcome it, and we hope all other hon. members will welcome it also.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should like to express my appreciation of the cooperation given in this matter, but there is one thing I should like to say to the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell). I hope he will not imagine that members of the government are being relieved of any duties because the house rises at six o'clock. We have in the past reserved Wednesday and Friday evenings, when they were free, for additional meetings of the war committee of the cabinet, so that we will be just as busy with the work of the administration at that time as we would be if we were in the house.

## WAR APPROPRIATION BILL

## PROVISION FOR GRANTING TO HIS MAJESTY AID FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY

The house resumed from Wednesday, February 26, consideration in committee of a resolution to provide sums not exceeding \$1,300,000,000, for the year ending March 31, 1942, for the carrying out of measures consequent upon the existence of a state of war—Mr. Ilsley—Mr. Bradette in the chair.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Mr. Chairman, when the house adjourned on Wednesday afternoon I had partly completed the statement which I wished to make at that time. I desire now to continue with that statement, and I promise the committee that I shall not take any great length of time. May I express the hope that the heat dis-