

of delivering a lecture to anyone who ventures to make mention of any shortcomings on his part, especially where it is only to point out where, in the excitement of the moment, he omitted to have regard to one of the important rules of the house.

Mr. BOWMAN: Why did not the right hon. gentleman question the proceedings on Saturday night?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In the first place, it was not my business so to do—

Mr. BENNETT: You agreed to it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —and in the second place there was no opportunity so to do. Had there been a little time, had some consideration been shown and had we been allowed to discuss the matter, I certainly would have pointed out to my right hon. friend that a unanimous resolution of the house was necessary.

Mr. BENNETT: So there was.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend cannot deny that on several occasions during this session I have sent word to him, or crossed over to him myself and pointed out where something in the proceedings had been irregular, or threatened so to be, and that some necessary step would have to be taken to regularize matters. I have done that because I realize from experience how difficult is the position of the Prime Minister, with the multitude of things to which he must give his attention. But there was no opportunity for anything like that on Saturday night. The conclusion of affairs took place in a few minutes, I should say seconds, and no one was afforded any opportunity to speak. The Prime Minister said, "It will be eleven o'clock," and that was all there was to it.

Mr. LAVERGNE: May I point out that there was a terrible noise while his honour was putting the motion. I remember speaking to my hon. friend from Northumberland (Mr. McDade) at the time. As I say, there was considerable noise while His Honour was putting the motion and, absentminded, I was under the impression that I was still in the chair and so I called for order. I remember remarking to Mr. McDade, "I am absentminded; I am under the impression that I am still in the chair and am calling for order". But I remember His Honour putting the motion.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: His Honour did not put any motion and I leave it to him to say whether or not he did. His Honour said:

This house stands adjourned until Monday morning at eleven o'clock.

That was what His Honour said. Why has Hansard no record of a motion to meet at eleven o'clock?

Mr. STEVENS: It is on record.

Mr. LAVERGNE: The right hon. gentleman knows that Hansard is not a correct report.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think the hon. gentleman will see that it is a correct report. After the proceedings were over that night I said to my secretary, "I think it was an extraordinary thing that the Prime Minister did not put a formal motion to suspend standing order No. 2 with regard to the matter of meeting at eleven o'clock".

An hon. MEMBER: There was such a motion.

Mr. BENNETT: I made the motion and it was agreed to by consent.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not want to take up more time than is necessary, but my purpose is to regularize this morning's proceedings, and if hon. gentlemen wish to have this house continue in session this morning, notwithstanding the record of Hansard, which does not show any motion having been put to suspend standing order No. 2 and thereby run the risk of the fact of violation of the rules of the house and of a bad precedent being established for all time, well and good. But as leader of the opposition I am doing my part to maintain the rules of the house, and so to regularize matters as to enable the business to be proceeded with. Let me repeat, I am quite prepared—

Mr. LAVERGNE: May I say that my hon. friend from Northumberland also remembers the incident.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The record is there and speaks for itself. But may I say that if the necessary motion is formally put, to enable this house, by unanimous consent, to sit this morning, I will ask all hon. members on this side to support the motion. I do say, however, that the first duty of the House of Commons is to maintain its rules. Your Honour, as Speaker, is primarily responsible in that regard; and I leave it to the word of Your Honour, as Speaker, whether any motion was put into your hands with respect to the matter.

Mr. BENNETT: Put into his hands!

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We will not say put into his hands, then, but whether any motion was formally put.