

Business of the House

benefits as soon as the legislation is passed. If my understanding is correct, the leaders of the several groups have said that they realize it would relieve distress to have that done as soon as possible. If that is our understanding at large, we would like, as the first order of business tomorrow, to call this resolution and see how far we can get with the legislation necessary to make these payments possible.

Mr. Graydon: The Prime Minister is quite correct in his statement concerning the consent and approval which were given to proceeding with this legislation tomorrow. Originally there was some suggestion that it might be proceeded with today, and we would have liked to facilitate that action, but the request came too late last night, and it was impossible to arrange our speakers, those who might perhaps want to participate in the debate. In view of the urgency which the Prime Minister has indicated, and which the Acting Minister of Labour indicated last night, we felt there should not be any delay in having the legislation dealt with because no doubt there will be considerable discussion in connection with it. We thought that a start should be made on it as quickly as possible. For that reason we felt we were justified in consenting to the legislation being considered tomorrow, as the Prime Minister has indicated, and that is quite agreeable to this group.

Mr. St. Laurent: It is understood we will ask to have this resolution considered and see how far we can go. I know that all hon. members, without distinction of party, would like to see the legislation implemented as early as it can reasonably be done. I am not asking that we should determine now how far we will go. It will depend upon what hon. members will find out in the course of the debate. We will go just as far as we can.

Mr. MacInnis: Because of the motion that has already been passed I understand that it will require unanimous consent to implement the request of the Prime Minister. I understand the leader of the C.C.F. party had a conversation with the acting leader of the opposition and the Minister of National Health and Welfare last night, and that we will not oppose the introduction of the measure in any way.

Mr. Graydon: If the resolution receives first reading and passes through committee in the resolution stage what will we do afterwards?

Mr. St. Laurent: The bill will be ready for distribution. Hon. members will then see whether they will be prepared to proceed with the bill or whether they will prefer to wait until the next day. As soon as this matter is disposed of we will continue the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.
