

Mr. KNOWLES: What are the emergency measures?

Mr. COLDWELL: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I cannot answer both at once. My hon. friend asks what the emergency measures are. They are the one that the Minister of Finance was dealing with yesterday, and the transitional measures act, and the gold bill. I think those are the only ones.

Mr. GREEN: The agricultural products act.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. COLDWELL: May I direct a question to the Prime Minister? I have before me page 71 of *Hansard* of December 9, 1947. I interrupted the Prime Minister when he was indicating what the motion meant which the house had then passed. I asked if this would govern until the end of the session. While I must not read directly from that previous debate, the right hon. gentleman in effect said, no. The government can always, he said, with the approval of the house, rescind a motion or substitute another. The motion as it stood, and as it was subsequently passed, was intended to apply to the end of the year, that is to say, up to the Christmas season, or if we did not get through by that time, up to the end of the year. That is the point we are making. The understanding we had at the time was that the motion as it was passed—I think unfortunately—by the house was to govern until the end of 1947.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think my hon. friend is quite right. I had hoped we would get through the emergency measures before the year was out, but we did not get very far along with them. What I have stated about clearing up those two subjects is something I brought to the attention of hon. members and got agreement on. I shall be only too happy to see these emergency measures cleared up as rapidly as possible, and then get into the regular proceedings of the session.

Mr. KNOWLES: Bring in a new motion on the 1st of April.

IMMIGRATION

INQUIRY AS TO POLICY WITH RESPECT TO COMMUNISTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. L. SMITH (Calgary West): Yesterday I asked a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the absence of the Minister of Mines and Resources, as to what the government's policy was with respect

to the admission to this country of known communists. He said he would consult the minister and let me have an answer today. Apparently the minister has not returned. I am asking the question now merely in order that it may not be overlooked. It is a routine matter, and if we could hear about it tomorrow it would be satisfactory.

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I immediately communicated with the private secretary of the Minister of Mines and Resources and had him make a note of it and to call it to the attention of his minister as soon as he returned from official duties which have taken him out of town.

POSTAL SERVICE

INQUIRY RESPECTING FORWARDING OF FIRST CLASS MAIL BY AIR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. DONALD M. FLEMING (Eglinton): I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. Are the postal authorities forwarding first-class mail that is not marked or stamped "air mail", by Trans-Canada Air Lines between Toronto and Montreal and elsewhere?

Hon. ERNEST BERTRAND (Postmaster General): It so happens, Mr. Speaker, that at certain times we had such a load of mail that we were not able to carry all of it between Toronto and Montreal by rail, and in order to give the good service that we generally give, we loaded a few planes with mail at four cents a letter and delivered it in Toronto or Montreal. But this delivery of mail at some time like this is not guaranteed as an ordinary mail carrier service.

TARIFFS AND TRADE

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE AT GENEVA, 1947— APPROVAL OF GENERAL AGREEMENT

The house resumed from Wednesday, December 10, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mackenzie King:

That it is expedient that parliament do approve the general agreement on tariffs and trade, including the protocol of provisional application thereof, annexed to the final act of the second session of the preparatory committee of the united nations conference on trade and employment held at Geneva from April 10 to October 30, 1947, together with the complementary agreements of October 30, 1947, between Canada and the United States of America and between Canada and the United Kingdom; and that this house do approve of the same, subject to the legislation required in