

of the Marshall Plan became more definite". Once these conditions became known, the government was able to complete its plans for rectification of our present exchange difficulties. Further time has, of course, been needed to get these emergency measures in final form for presentation to the House. The task has been an exceedingly large one and the time that has been available has been less than would have been desirable. I think from this it will be clear that the session has been called at as early a date as it was felt it could effectively be called. I might add that, apart from the necessity of having some time after November 17 to put measures in final form, there has been an added advantage in that since November 17 the country has had time to study the decisions that have been taken and to gain some clearer understanding of what is involved. This will be of substantial assistance in the effective consideration of the legislative measures that will be presented.

The details of the proposed programme for the early weeks of the session, which I shall now outline, were discussed by the Acting Prime Minister in my absence with leaders of the other parties in the House.