

to be followed, will have to be followed closely in the future, both in this and in subsequent parliaments.

Mr. E. G. HANSELL (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I think perhaps this group pretty well agrees with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) that on the occasion of the visit of any distinguished visitor the Prime Minister, who is the leader of the house, and the leader of the official opposition, together with your honour, might very well welcome that person on behalf of the entire house. However, the circumstances surrounding the visit of any prominent person to Canada are usually about the same. It is a matter of welcoming him; what one person can say can be said by anyone else, and in these matters there is a great deal of repetition. We do join with the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party in saying that the leader of the official opposition does not speak for the entire opposition, for the reason that there are various schools of thought in Canada for whom I am afraid he cannot speak. I do not believe the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell) can say that the visit of Mr. Fraser is of any more particular interest to his party than to anyone else. We are quite willing to abide by whatever decision may be arrived at, but we do ask that the ruling made be followed in future.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In reply to the leader of the C.C.F. party (Mr. Coldwell) may I suggest that what he has just said illustrates the wisdom of not departing in the first instance from rules of procedure, but adhering strictly to them. I have tried, where it has been possible and convenient, to extend courtesies that did not strictly follow the rule; I have asked leaders of different groups to join in extending welcomes on such occasions, but my hon. friend will remember that when Mr. Eden addressed the house, while cordial welcomes were extended, they were overwhelming in number and in balance. By that I mean there was more in the way of welcome than there was in the way of reply from Mr. Eden. I was taken to task by the press, and there was a good deal of comment around the house as to why so many should be requested to extend a welcome, and for that reason I thought it would be wiser thereafter to limit the number. Perhaps my hon. friend has heard of the young man who was about to be married, and someone asked him why he had not asked his father to the wedding, and he replied that he had to draw the line somewhere.

[Mr. Coldwell.]

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): There is one happy aspect to all this, Mr. Speaker; the competition to welcome the Prime Minister of New Zealand seems to be very keen. I hope this word will be conveyed to him, because I think it is very much better that way than in the reverse.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have sent it to him already by telegraph.

Mr. GRAYDON: I am going to deal with my right hon. friend in a moment in connection with another matter. When the Prime Minister speaks of drawing the line, perhaps he has drawn one already a little too fine, though of course it would be just like a bachelor Prime Minister to do this. I understand that Mrs. Fraser is to accompany her husband, but the Prime Minister has not said anything about her; neither have those interested gentlemen to my left. I think some expression of welcome should be extended to her also. Perhaps on this occasion the Prime Minister will want to make up for some of the things that have escaped him in the past.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend can trust me to see that every courtesy is extended to Mrs. Fraser.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): I should like to say that I am very well satisfied to forgo my right as a leader of a group to participate in the welcome to our guest in favour of either the Prime Minister or the Leader of the Opposition; but if this principle of pandering to the vanity of individual groups is to be continued to its grotesque end, then I also want to be one of the speakers, seeing that the years of service of the party I represent far outdates those of the groups to my left.

INTERNMENTS

CAMILLIEN HOUDE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. LIGUORI LACOMBE (Laval-Two-Mountains): I gave notice to the Minister of Justice that I was going to ask him this question: Est-il vrai, tel qu'annoncé à la radio et publié dans les journaux, que le ministre a ordonné la libération de M. Camillien Houde?

Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Minister of Justice): The hon. gentleman is inquiring whether a report, said to have been published in the newspaper and over the radio, that an order has been made for the release of Mr. Camillien Houde from internment, is