

of eleven o'clock. The Speaker, in the Journals, recorded the arrangement arrived at, the considered decision of the house given unanimously, to which no objection was taken. If it had been otherwise; if a single suggestion had been made that the proper time would have been three o'clock, we should not have met until that hour. I invited my right hon. friend to suggest the hour he preferred, but he declined that invitation and the Speaker recorded what took place, namely that this house agreed to adjourn until Monday morning at eleven o'clock.

There is only one man in this chamber who will see any doubt about that. That was the understanding arrived at; I, having moved the adjournment, was about to indicate the hour on Monday when my right hon. friend interrupted and asked whether it would be eleven o'clock or three o'clock. Could anything be more significant than that? What did the right hon. gentleman mean by asking in this house on Saturday night whether we would meet at eleven o'clock or three o'clock? Now he says it was neither. I met his views by saying I would make it whichever he chose, and when he told me to make my own decision I said eleven o'clock so that hon. members would have an opportunity to discuss these items. Whereupon, in pursuance of that consent, Mr. Speaker said, "This house stands adjourned until Monday morning at eleven o'clock." Could anything be more clear than that? If there was any objection or if the right hon. gentleman did not mean what he said he should have so stated then. If the right hon. gentleman desired to play fast and loose that was the time to do so, not now. If he desired to make a joke of the proceedings of this house that was the time to do so, not now. He asked, "When will you meet on Monday, at eleven o'clock or three o'clock?" He did not ask me what were my views; I was in the position, as leader of the house, of merely consulting the house as to what would meet its convenience. My right hon. friend himself said Monday; he himself said eleven o'clock; he himself said three o'clock, and all I did was to ask him what would best suit his convenience. Mr. Speaker recorded the decision arrived at and consented to by this house. The house has been opened in accordance with the common agreement arrived at and understood by everybody, except possibly in the subtleties of the right hon. gentleman's mind, and after having asked at what hour on Monday we would meet; after having left it to me; after I

[Mr. Bennett.]

said eleven o'clock, I cannot think that my right hon. friend should now come to this chamber seriously and so stultify himself as to suggest that we are not here at all.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am afraid that in this matter, in order to make it clear I will have to ask Your Honour to advise the house whether you put any formal resolution that we should sit on Monday morning at eleven o'clock. You, sir, know the rules of this house as to the necessity of a formal motion being put, and I am prepared to abide by whatever you say as to what you did on Saturday evening. I do wish to make clear that my right hon. friend's own words, which he quoted a few moments ago, bear out the contention I have been making that no motion was put. He said:

I was going to move that the house stand adjourned until either eleven o'clock or three o'clock, as the right hon. gentleman thinks his friends desire.

The Prime Minister said, "I was going to move." He never did make that motion which to enable the house to sit at eleven would have had to include the suspension of standing order No. 2; he did not make any motion, which is made very clear by the record. My right hon. friend now says in reference to your action, Mr. Speaker, that you took the view that the house agreed to stand adjourned until Monday at eleven o'clock. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that there were no words of yours which indicated that there was an agreement, and you never used the expression "agrees to stand adjourned." You simply put the motion for the adjournment of the house. The Prime Minister had said eleven o'clock, so that hon. members might have an opportunity to discuss the estimates on agriculture. We recall the nature of the proceedings on Saturday evening. The Prime Minister took the business of the house out of your hands, Mr. Speaker, and into his own; he simply stated that we should meet at eleven o'clock, and that was the end of it. No motion whatever was put. Now, I do not think it is very fitting on the part of my right hon. friend, when I draw attention to this matter in order to regularize the proceedings, to save him from his own impetuous and dictatorial acts, and point out emphatically to him and to the house that the whole proceedings of this House of Commons this morning might be violated by virtue of—

Mr. BENNETT: What a joke.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —the fact that no resolution was passed—I do not think he should take occasion to follow his usual course