

present situation to that of previous sessions. I have not looked up the dates and therefore do not dispute the correctness of the figures given. The point I make however, is that this session the legitimate business of private members, comprising motions of the greatest consequence, has not been reached. There has been no opportunity for discussion, for there are pages and pages of such motions, some of them of considerable importance, still on the order paper. It is the condition of the order paper which I plead as a reason for not hastening the taking of Wednesday for government business. This was not the case—certainly it was not so to the same extent or anything like it—in previous years; and I do not think that in any of those years the government forced the abolition of Wednesday as private members' day against the wishes of the House or of any substantial proportion of it. The Prime Minister says that I have been urging expedition, and I think he said, the expedition of the budget. I said nothing about expedition at all, but I did think that the government would have opportunity enough for expediting its business without reserving to itself so soon a day which should be devoted to the discussion of private motions. What I urged was not the hasty bringing in of legislation but the maturity of it before it is brought in. I object, and object most strenuously, to the Prime Minister's intimating to this House that I have missed opportunities of going on with this resolution. Imagine the Prime Minister suggesting that I should have responded to the call of Mr. Speaker at eleven o'clock or so at night, to move resolution No. 29 standing in my name.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend could have gone on and asked for an adjournment of the debate.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes; and the Prime Minister knows that an adjournment buries the resolution.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If the right hon. gentleman will look up the record he will find that there have been adjournments of debates which have been continued. This has happened this very session.

Mr. MEIGHEN: This session? No. There was one debate which concluded at six o'clock but which finally came on again the next day or a day or so afterwards; it was not adjourned at all. That is the only case of the kind I have known for years. And can that be urged as a reason for my going on with a resolution of this importance at a few minutes to six? I think it is most significant that the Prime Minister should suggest that

the only opportunity to debate this resolution should be given a few minutes before eleven o'clock, or a few minutes before six on Wednesday. It does not indicate any disposition on the part of the government to have this subject thoroughly discussed prior to the budget.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The right hon. gentleman could have his opportunity on Monday.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Possibly, but will the Prime Minister assure me that I shall be in a position to proceed with the resolution on Monday?"

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: On some Monday, yes; I cannot say which one.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Some Monday, after the budget. May I make a comment on the haste of the government in bringing in the budget before the end of March?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I do not think my right hon. friend is in order.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I thought I was on the subject which the Prime Minister discussed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The mover of the motion closes the debate, of course. I thought, however, that as the subject was one concerning the business of the House it might be desirable that I should afford the hon. member some latitude of discussion. Generally speaking the mover of a motion closes the debate; but by leave of the House the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Meighen) may conclude what he has to say.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not think I have gone beyond the subject matter of the Prime Minister's speech; I did not think that he was out of order and consequently I am not. It seems to me very precipitate, this evident anxiety on the part of the government to hasten the budget before the end of the fiscal year, when the results of the fiscal year cannot possibly be known, and before the fullest opportunity has been given for deliberate debate on that subject, which is the essence of the budget itself. I did not anticipate—indeed, nothing was further from my mind—coming into conflict with the government on this subject. I never for a moment entertained the idea that the government would seek to precipitate the budget debate or would fail to give me an opportunity, if I asked it, and some definite assurance of such an opportunity, of discussing a motion of the very transcendent importance of that which stands in my name.