

would seem now that here is an attempt to take one more step by which the members of the house shall be deprived of their right fully to express themselves.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, the bill which the Prime Minister has introduced should be discussed and should be passed before there is an address to His Majesty. If the government insists on presenting an address to-morrow we shall have to take the opportunity to discuss the matter at that time. In the meantime I must protest against this suggested abrogation of the rules of the house. The rule is there. The Prime Minister will not go so far, I think, as to set aside an accepted rule of this house.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, may I say to my hon. friend that I have been very careful to observe the rule with respect to notice, because I prefaced my remarks by asking for the unanimous consent of the house to move to-morrow the resolution to which I referred. My hon. friend is quite within his rights in raising the objection that he does, but I hope he will not press it, for a reason which I shall mention to him.

He has referred to the bill which I introduced respecting an alteration in the law touching the succession to the throne as being retroactive. I may say to him that it is not retroactive in any of its clauses. It relates to the succession to the throne as it applies to the future, not to the past; therefore on that point my hon. friend may be assured that there could be nothing in the discussion of the measure here which because of any retroactive features would occasion embarrassment. Moreover, when this bill does proceed to its second reading there will be ample opportunity for my hon. friend and any other hon. members of the house to discuss any and all matters relating to the succession in so far as they may desire so to do. There will be no attempt. I can assure my hon. friend, to curb the discussion in any way.

The purpose of the resolution which I have asked the house to consent to allow me to move to-morrow is simply to give this house the earliest possible opportunity of extending to the new king the greetings which all hon. members are anxious to extend, and to express to His Majesty and to Her Majesty the Queen their feelings of loyalty and support. I know that my hon. friend will wish to join with all other hon. members in that resolution.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: At the proper time.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend, with respect to the proper time, that when we have regard to the great

responsibilities that rest upon His Majesty King George VI, I think the proper time to assure him of our loyalty and support is at the earliest possible moment. If my hon. friend continues to press his objection it will simply mean that instead of the resolution being moved to-morrow it will have to stand as a notice and come up later on. I had thought that to-morrow the house might pay the tributes that are customary to those of our number who in the interval of the recess have passed away, and that we might also adopt the resolution for an address to His Majesty King George VI, the terms of which I think my hon. friend will heartily approve.

I shall not press the matter further if my hon. friend still objects to giving unanimous consent, because he is entirely within his rights in so doing. I am sure, however, that hon. members would appreciate his withdrawing his objection and allowing the resolution to be proceeded with to-morrow, and I hope he will do so.

Motion agreed to.

#### DOCUMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I desire to lay on the table of the house two photostat copies of a message from His former Majesty King Edward VIII, dated December 10, 1936, and the instrument of abdication of King Edward of the same date; two copies of the order in council of December 10, 1936, P.C. 3144, setting forth the request for the consent of Canada to the enactment of legislation by the parliament at Westminster providing for alteration in the law touching the succession to the throne; also two certified copies of the proclamation of accession of His Majesty King George VI as recorded by the Registrar General of Canada.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE PERLEY (Argenteuil): I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question. Is it the intention of the government to lay on the table of the house copies of all communications in any way relating to the abdication of His Majesty King Edward VIII, including copies of all cables, letters and other correspondence between the Canadian government, or any member thereof, and the governments of Great Britain and the other dominions, or any member thereof?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I might say to my right hon. friend who is leading the opposition that it is my intention to make to the house at an early day a statement