

are in our seats this afternoon have just come from the electorate. There are certain problems that we have been asked to bring before the House of Commons by way of resolution. While we are not objecting to the government asking us to forgo this right because of the circumstances that exist, we would ask the government to provide ways and means later on in the session, when perhaps the regular business slackens—those of us who have been in the house know that at times, for very good reasons, government business is not ready for the house—for the consideration of these private members' resolutions. Perhaps an alteration in the rules would make possible the consideration of some of these resolutions.

On behalf of the group with which I am associated I want to reiterate that we wish to do all we can to facilitate the business of the house, but we also want to maintain the right of a private member to discuss the matters which the electors have requested should be brought forward by member's resolution.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a word on this motion, although hon. members have in some respects anticipated what I had intended to say; perhaps I was not sufficiently alert. I appreciate the desire of the government to get on with the business of the country at this time, especially after what we have heard to-day and what we have been hearing for the last two or three days from the front. I do not think there is any disposition on the part of anyone to retard the business of the session for the sake of discussing, shall I say, what are more or less academic questions.

I have never had a great deal of enthusiasm for the discussion of private members' notices of motions. In the years that I was in the house in days gone by I never had the temerity to introduce one myself. I always thought that it was more or less a waste of time. Nevertheless I suppose ten per cent of the resolutions which have been put on the order paper during the last ten, fifteen or twenty years have served a useful purpose. Of that ten per cent, probably half have resulted in action in one form or another. I had hoped that the government would see its way clear to giving private members at least to-morrow afternoon. I still hope that the government will consider that. It would be a compromise and it would dispel any impression there might be in the minds of hon. gentlemen that they are being deprived of their rights and prerogatives. I just throw that out as a suggestion; I am not going to move an amendment to the motion.

There is one other thing I should like to point out. I hope this will not be considered as a precedent for future sessions. Private members have substantial rights of debate in this house and if they are taken away at this session, perhaps some future government, not next year but later, will say, "What is the use? We need this time; here is a precedent, let us follow it." I am not hopeful that the suggestion put forward by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat will have any effect on the government. As a matter of fact, as time goes on I believe there will be less and less opportunity for the discussion of private members' resolutions. If this motion is carried we may take it as an accepted fact that it is the end of private members' motions and resolutions for this session. I commend to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the government the suggestion I have made, that private members should be given to-morrow afternoon.

Mr. RALPH MAYBANK (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise to express in as few words as possible my opposition to the proposal of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson), that we postpone the adoption of this motion, or at any rate not make it effective for a day or so. There is a strong feeling in the country that this government is too complacent, that it is not ready to go to work and that it has not been doing any work. Now the government proposes to put everything else aside in order to try to push forward its own plans. In the light of that, no opposition of any kind should be presented to the motion. It should not be delayed until to-morrow afternoon; it should not be delayed one minute. So far as its being a precedent is concerned, so far as taking away the rights of private members is concerned, where the devil would your private members' rights be if we lost the war?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MAYBANK: All right; I will take back that word and speak less feelingly; hon. members will understand it. I share very largely the view that there is too much complacency on the part of the government, and this in spite of what I heard yesterday. I am not satisfied, and I want that to be known now. I would not interfere for one minute in any way with the prosecution of the programme of this government. Rather I want to see it put forward and got under way.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, my group is just as anxious as any group in the house that the business of the government should go forward, but the expedition with which this war is carried for-