

rates by this parliament. The right hon. gentleman then said that he would answer this question to-morrow, which would be to-day. I wonder if he would be good enough to give me the answer now.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I think if my hon. friend would read a little further he would see that I said if he would put his question on the order paper I would try to give him an immediate answer. I will give him an answer when his question is placed on the order paper, but not until then, because I am not in a position to make a reply until I have studied the question.

Mr. LADNER: That reply related to the questions concerning the Peace River block and the Dominion railway belt. This is a different matter; there is widespread public comment in this connection in British Columbia, and I would like to know whether or not an application has been received by the government or by the Minister of Railways relative to the question of freight rates, and their reduction by parliament. Surely the Prime Minister can say if such an application has been received.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have no desire to withhold the information from my hon. friend. In any conversation I have had with Mr. Oliver since he has been in Ottawa, he has not mentioned the subject of freight rates. He may have spoken to some of my colleagues on the question, so I would not like to make an answer until all the members of the government have had an opportunity of saying whether or not they have been communicated with. In this connection I might say, Mr. Speaker, that many questions asked on the orders of the day should properly be placed on the order paper.

Mr. LADNER: But, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has already spoken.

Mr. LADNER: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Railways, to whom I addressed the same question yesterday. The Prime Minister then spoke on his behalf, but I would like to ask the Minister of Railways if he has the information and if so, to give it to the House.

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Railways and Canals): What is the question?

Mr. LADNER: The question is: Has any application been made or have any representations been received by the government or the Minister of Railways, or has there

been any conversation relating to the question of reduction or equalization of freight rates by this parliament, on the application by Mr. John Oliver, Premier of British Columbia?

An hon. MEMBER: How long ago?

Mr. LADNER: Since his arrival here during the present session.

Mr. DUNNING: I can make exactly the same answer as did the Prime Minister. I have no recollection of any such matter being dealt with in conversation with Mr. Oliver. As to representations, I would like the question put on the order paper, and I can then ascertain if there are any written representations in the department relating to the matter.

THE BUDGET

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed from Thursday, May 6, the debate on the motion of Hon. J. A. Robb (Minister of Finance) that the Speaker do now leave the chair for the House to go into committee of Ways and Means, and the proposed amendment thereto of Hon. R. J. Manion.

Mr. THOMAS DONNELLY (Willow Bunch): Mr. Speaker, in rising to make a few remarks in favour of the present budget, I wish first of all to compliment the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) for his businesslike, concise and clear-cut statement of his budget proposals. I wish also to compliment him for the businesslike manner in which he presented the budget. We have been in session in this House now for something like four months, and though I am only young in the political sphere, having come into touch with politics only in the last six months, I think I am safe in saying that his is the only businesslike address we have heard in this House during the last four months; I mean by that, the businesslike statement we would expect to hear delivered to the shareholders of a large joint stock company or big corporation. I think the hon. Minister of Finance is to be complimented on that.

This budget has been called by different names. Some people have called it the people's budget; some have called it an economical budget; some have called it the poor man's budget; but I believe that it will be known in history as the Robb budget, as a compliment to the Minister of Finance who brought it down.