

desk, and which had not reached the Department of External Affairs before eleven o'clock this morning. I am in a position to say, on the information obtained over the telephone, that there was no walk-out. The matter of the election was being discussed and at a given moment Doctor Patterson, for reasons that can be understood, retired for a few minutes and then came back while the meeting still continued. The fact that he had been out for a few moments was described by newspapermen as a walk-out. That was not so.

Mr. GRAYDON: I suppose that can be referred to as an unofficial walk-out.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Certainly one that had no international connotation.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

INQUIRY AS TO CANADIAN LOAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. R. THATCHER (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, on March 2 I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs what was going to be done with the balance of the Canadian loan to Czechoslovakia. Can he tell us that now?

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): There have been no advances made on the Czechoslovakian loan over the last three or four weeks, and no question of further advances has been raised.

Mr. THATCHER: Can the minister say whether the credits under the loan have been frozen by the Canadian government?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: We have been having some pretty cold weather, and I do not think there is apt to be very much change at an early date in the international atmosphere in that regard.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

AUDIBILITY OF DEBATE AND PROCEEDINGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. A. CRUICKSHANK (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that some gentlemen are paid \$18,000 a year to tell the house and the press gallery what is going on, is any provision being made for the amplification of speeches so that we can hear the mumbling that goes on in this chamber?

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

TRANSITIONAL MEASURES ACT, 1947

CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

Right Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the continuation of certain orders and regulations of the governor in council for a limited period during the national emergency arising out of the war.

Mr. KNOWLES: Will the minister make a statement now?

Mr. ILSLEY: I believe it would be more appropriate if I were to make it in committee.

Mr. GRAYDON: Why would it be more appropriate?

Mr. IRVINE: Would the minister tell us what is before the house? We cannot hear.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: They are just mumbling among themselves down there.

Mr. ILSLEY: It is item No. 16 on the order paper.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Golding in the chair.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. ILSLEY: No; I should be very glad to have it carry, but I think I should say a few words about it, mainly for the information of hon. members.

I do not think the house will oppose the passage of this resolution in the terms in which it is drafted. The resolution states that it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the continuation of certain orders and regulations of the governor in council for a limited period during the national emergency arising out of the war. I believe there would be general agreement among members of the committee that some of the orders in council validated by legislation last year, and which have force until March 31 this year, must continue for a while at least after March 31, 1948.

The bill to be introduced will propose the continuation of the orders in council in force at the present time until March 31, 1949. It will not refer to the orders in council at all, but will be a bill for the continuation of and to amend the measure, so that instead of an expiration date of March 31, 1948, as it now