

prorogation being arranged for Monday afternoon (April 16) at 3 o'clock. If that cannot be carried out, then the House will of course resume its sitting at 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon, to be continued, if need be, until 11 o'clock at night. Were this to happen, without the business being concluded and Royal Assent given to the bills before midnight, the Government would be obliged to resort to Governor General's warrants to meet expenditures both for the conduct of the war and for civil government over the period of the general election and the opening of the new Parliament.

Now as to the completion of the business of the present special session, as honourable members are aware, I stated some time ago that a general election would be called before April 17.

It may assist honourable members in deciding upon the course it is advisable in the public interest for them to pursue if I inform the House at once, on my responsibility as Prime Minister, that His Excellency the Governor General has authorized me to say that he is willing to approve a recommendation to have Parliament dissolved just as soon after the conclusion of its business as may be possible. His Excellency has also authorized me to say that he is willing, at the same time, to approve the immediate issue of a Proclamation for the holding of a general election on June 11.

I am in doubt as to just what our procedure for the rest of the day should be, and therefore will move that the Senate adjourn during pleasure, to resume at the call of the bell, probably at six o'clock. By that time His Honour the Speaker may have information from Government House as to whether the Royal Assent will be given this evening.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting was resumed.

Hon. Mr. KING: Honourable senators, I am advised that there is still some prospect of certain bills coming to us from the other House, and would suggest that we again adjourn during pleasure.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

Hon. Mr. KING: Honourable senators, I have to report merely that it is the hope of the Government that the two Bills now under consideration in the other Chamber will be completed and sent to us before 11 o'clock. That would give us an opportunity to deal with them this evening, and then I would move that the Senate adjourn until Monday at 2.45, so that at 3 o'clock we might have Royal Assent and the Prorogation of Parliament.

I now move that the Senate adjourn during pleasure, to resume at the call of the bell.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

WAR APPROPRIATION BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 3, an Act for granting to His Majesty aid for national defence and security.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable senators, when shall this Bill be read the second time?

Hon. J. H. KING: I would move second reading now. Briefly, the Bill provides that out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund there may be paid and applied, beyond the ordinary grants of Parliament, a sum not exceeding two billion dollars, subject to allotment by the Treasury Board, towards defraying any expenses or making any advances or loans that may be incurred or granted by or under the authority of the Governor in Council during the year ending March 31, 1946.

As is well understood, it is proposed to grant only five-twelfths of the war appropriation. The estimates are based on those of the preceding year, and the items are virtually the same.

I would suggest that the explanatory notes which accompany the Bill should be placed on Hansard.

(The explanatory notes follow.)

Apart from the necessary changes to make this Bill accord with the changes in the amount of the appropriation requested, and the changes in dates, this Bill is in the same form as that of previous War Appropriation Bills, with the two following exceptions:

(1) The preamble draws attention to the fact that the term of the present Parliament will have ended on April 17 next, and that consequently an interim appropriation is necessary to provide funds for the continuing prosecution of the war until the next Parliament assembles; and

(2) There has been added a new paragraph (d) in section two of the Bill.

It is intended that the funds to be provided under the Bill will be used for the purposes set out in the War Appropriation Acts passed last year, and in the War Appropriation (United Nations Mutual Aid) Act 1943 as amended by the War Appropriation (United Nations Mutual Aid) Act 1944.

The amount of the appropriation requested is based on the assumption that expenditures for war and Mutual Aid will continue during the next five months at approximately the same rate as during the last five or six months.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable senators, I do not intend to oppose the passage of