

years he protested vigorously against certain policies and he met with success. He spoke frankly to the government and urged them to take into consideration what he said, and Jack Turner won his case.

The subject matter of his protests seemed of no importance to some of the members of parliament, but it was of great interest to the army. Jack Turner deserves the tribute of being considered an outspoken member of parliament who did a good and useful job while he was sitting here as the representative of the constituency of Springfield in Manitoba.

May I express to Mrs. Turner, who often came to Ottawa with Mr. Turner, my deepest sympathy in her great loss.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

PRECEDENCE OF GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION AND GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): After Your Honour has reported the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to the houses of parliament it has been customary for whoever was leading the house to make a motion to the effect that the speech delivered by His Excellency should be taken into consideration at a subsequent sitting of the house, mentioning the time.

The intention of the government, in order to enable business to be proceeded with as rapidly as possibly, is to have the debate on the address in reply proceeded with this afternoon, but only to a limited extent. The address will be moved and seconded by two hon. members of the house and the debate will then be adjourned to a subsequent time. Except in that particular there will be no difference in the order of procedure from what has been customary. I might say that what I have just indicated is not a departure, because on several occasions this house as well as the parliament at Westminster has taken time for the consideration of the address immediately following its delivery. What is being done to-day is simply for the purpose of expediting the work of this session. I would move:

That on Tuesday, the 20th March, 1945, to the end of the present session, government notices of motion and government orders shall have precedence at every sitting over all other business except questions by members and notices of motions for the production of papers.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, before this motion carries I should like to comment for a moment upon the suggestion of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) with respect to the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I take it that the Prime Minister has in mind

[Mr. Pouliot.]

intervening with some other type of public business and postponing the debate on the address to some subsequent period.

I think I should not let this matter go by without registering objection with respect to the debate on the address being dealt with in this way. So far as the debate on the address is concerned it has been the established parliamentary practice that before supply is granted a motion of confidence in the government is placed before the house so that the house may decide upon it. I do not desire to debate the matter at any length beyond raising this objection on behalf of the opposition, and asking the Prime Minister if this procedure which he is now bringing forward has been adopted in previous parliaments. Since I came into the house some nine years ago I cannot recall any time when the government asked that the debate on the address should be postponed to some subsequent time. I should like to ask the Prime Minister what is the underlying reason for the government's proposal.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say in reply to my hon. friend that this resolution is being moved to give precedence to the business of the house rather than to a discussion on the address. As my hon. friend well knows the debate on the address might run on conceivably for weeks. This session cannot continue beyond the sixteenth of next month because the term of parliament expires at that time. I believe it will be the wish of all, certainly of the people of the country, that the house should devote its time to the most important business that will be before it. There are, as my hon. friend is aware, two particular items mentioned in the speech from the throne that are most important; one the resolution with respect to the conference at San Francisco, and the other the financial measures that will have to be considered. It is important that no time should be lost in taking up both these measures.

As to my hon. friend's remark as to precedence, I may say that I anticipated he might raise that question and I asked the Clerk to give me a memorandum. I have the following record of what has taken place—part of it, I might say, during the time my hon. friend has been in the house but which he has possibly forgotten:

After the general elections of 1930, the house met in special session on the 9th of September, 1930. The address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved by Mr. Turnbull and seconded by Mr. Gagnon immediately after the house returned from the senate. No motion