

course to pursue would be to have the chairman of committees, when parliament meets, tender his resignation for the session, and then elect a chairman of committees. That would obviate any possible difficulty that might arise with respect to conferring the powers of the Speaker upon a deputy chairman of committees. This is the only observation I have to make, and I shall be glad to hear whether the Minister of Justice has satisfied himself on this point.

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I may say to my right hon. friend that I really believe this is a regular method of procedure during the absence of the Deputy Speaker. The question has been considered by the department and we could find no other way of dealing with it.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, with your consent I shall put again to the Minister of Justice the method which I conceive to be the safe way of dealing with this. I do not believe he got my observation, because he was reading the statute at the time.

I say we should ask the chairman of committees to resign his office for the session, or declare the office vacant by reason of his absence; then by motion of this house we could elect one of our members as chairman of committees. It will be remembered that we had the same difficulty in connection with the oaths act and that we had to go to the imperial parliament for the necessary legislation. Our constitutional statute certainly does not provide for the appointment of a deputy chairman of committees and his being clothed with the powers of the Speaker. With respect to committees, it is a simple matter; with respect to the Chair, it is difficult and complicated. I mention this only because I am unable to find any constitutional authority to deal with it. I think the safe course would be as I have indicated. It is certainly not contemplated that the chairman of committees shall be absent; it is contemplated that he will be here, and when he is within the country I personally would think that the effect of this would be to vacate the office for the session.

I thank the Minister of Justice for his courtesy in permitting me to make this statement after he had made his.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): The suggestion of my right hon. friend would meet the case except that it would mean the reappointment of the Deputy Speaker when he returns home.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I can only repeat that this matter has been considered

by the Clerk of the House and the law officers of the department and the decision was that this would provide a satisfactory manner of dealing with it.

Motion agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. J. FREDERICK JOHNSTON AS
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) moved:

That Mr. J. Frederick Johnston, the member for the electoral district of Lake Centre, be appointed deputy chairman of committees of the whole house.

Motion agreed to.

CANADA SHIPPING ACT, 1934

SICK MARINERS AND MARINE HOSPITALS—LEVY,
COLLECTION AND REMISSION OF SHIP DUES

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of Pensions and National Health) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the Canada Shipping Act, 1934 (part V, sick mariners and marine hospitals), in respect to the levy and collection, and in certain cases the remission, of ship dues.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the favourable consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES

AUTHORITY FOR EXTENSION BEYOND THE CON-
FINES OF CANADA

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the Trans-Canada Air Lines Act, 1937, to empower the governor in council to authorize the minister to enter into a contract for the extension of the Trans-Canada Lines of aircraft beyond the confines of Canada.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the favourable consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

TRANSPORT COMMISSION

AUTHORITY TO CONTROL TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS
AND GOODS BY RAILWAYS, SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following proposed resolution: