

in to the house this afternoon I was informed that the plane which was bringing the Right Hon. Peter Fraser to Canada had arrived at Boucherville a few minutes before three. As I told hon. members on a previous occasion I had invited Mr. Fraser to visit Ottawa on his way back to New Zealand. On behalf of both houses I also extended to him an invitation to address members of both houses of parliament when he was here. Mr. Fraser has kindly consented to do that, and will address the members of both houses of parliament to-morrow afternoon.

I have been speaking with His Honour the Speaker about the arrangements, and I believe it will suit the convenience of all if we follow the same procedure as when the Right Hon. Mr. Curtin, the Prime Minister of Australia, was here, that is to say, have hon. members assemble at three o'clock to hear the address by Mr. Fraser and after the address is concluded then have the house begin its regular proceedings. When Mr. Curtin was here, on behalf of both houses and of all political parties in the house I extended a welcome to him and asked my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) to join with me in making it apparent that the welcome was unanimous. Since that time I believe a question was raised as to why an invitation had not been extended to the leader, or at that time the acting leader, of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party also to join in extending a welcome; and that would, I assume, apply also to the leader of the Social Credit group, though no question was raised at that time by any member—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): What about the other parties?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend is speaking of other parties and putting in a word for them. I do not know whether he intended it as such or not. However, with regard to the welcome to Mr. Fraser, may I say I think it would be advisable to follow the same procedure as was followed in the case of the welcome to Mr. Curtin. May I say that in extending a welcome I am not doing so as the leader of a political party. Nor is Mr. Fraser being welcomed as the leader of a political party. The welcome that will be extended to Mr. Fraser by myself will be from me speaking as the Prime Minister of Canada to the Prime Minister of New Zealand as representing the government and the people of New Zealand. Our constitution does not take account of political parties as such, but it does take account of gov-

ernments and oppositions. The leader of the opposition is a salaried officer of this house, and I have felt that to make it quite obvious that both the government and the opposition are agreed on the welcome extended I should ask my hon. friend to join with me in that welcome, but that does not mean that I am excluding any other parties. As I have said, we are not speaking as leaders of political parties, we are speaking in our representative capacities. The government is speaking as the government in office, and the opposition is being asked to join so as to make it perfectly clear that this is a matter above party in every particular. His Honour the Speaker of the House and His Honour the Speaker of the Senate will extend a word of thanks because of their official positions in their respective houses. I hope that will be satisfactory to all concerned. I just want to make quite clear to my hon. friends who are leading other parties or groups that it is not in any way the intention to pass them over. Five speeches will be delivered as it is and to add to that number would perhaps be going farther than we should.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): May I just say a word? I think the house will agree with me that we have never endeavoured to usurp any place in this house. On previous occasions when distinguished visitors have been welcomed we have not intruded upon the time of the house to any extent. The remarks made by the leader of the Social Credit group and myself have always been brief. I think the Prime Minister is quite right in saying that he speaks for the entire parliament, but I take a different view with regard to the opposition. I do not think the leader of the opposition can speak for my own party in this house.

Mr. HOMUTH: He never tried to.

Mr. COLDWELL: The supposition is that he does. I am stating my position very clearly. I think the precedents which have been established in this house over the past number of years ought to be followed in this particular, and I may say that we have a peculiar interest in the welcome extended to Mr. Fraser.

Some hon. MEMBERS: So have we.

Mr. GRAYDON: Not any more than anyone else.

Mr. COLDWELL: I entirely disagree with the procedure that is to be followed. I do not propose to create—I have never done so—any scene in the house on that occasion, but the policy which is now being laid down, if it is