

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Leader of the Opposition): It may have slipped my memory but I do not remember any notice having been given of this motion. It has come on me very unexpectedly.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Perhaps my hon. friend attaches more importance to the motion than he will if I explain it. Under the rules the House meets at two o'clock on Wednesday until a motion is carried that it shall meet, as on every day, at three o'clock. The custom has been to change that particular rule at the beginning of each session and meet forthwith at three o'clock instead of at two on Wednesday. This being the case I thought it advisable to put the motion immediately. I have no objection to letting it stand until the close of this sitting if my hon. friend wishes to discuss the matter with hon. gentlemen opposite, but I rather think it is the general wish that the House shall meet at three o'clock on Wednesdays.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I do not mind agreeing that we meet at three o'clock to-morrow but I suggest that the Prime Minister allow the motion to stand until we have had an opportunity of discussing it. Meeting at three o'clock instead of at two on Wednesdays takes an hour off one of the days allotted to private members. I am not sure whether or not, in consequence of the recess which we have had, private members are now to be deprived of Thursday. If I am right in assuming that they are, then Mondays and Wednesdays are the only private members' days now available, and Thursday becomes a government day. I do not want to curtail the rights of private members who may have motions which they desire to discuss, and I am afraid that such will be the effect if the present motion is carried.

Mr. SPEAKER: Rule 40 provides:

Two days' notice shall be given of a motion for leave to present a bill, resolution or address, for the appointment of any committee, or for the putting of a question; but this rule shall not apply to bills after their introduction, or to private bills, or to the times of meeting or adjournment of the House.

In view of this rule I must rule the point of order not well taken.

Hon. J. W. EDWARDS (Frontenac): Owing to the recess which took up the month of January, private members, I understand, are deprived of Thursday, so that we have now only Mondays and Wednesdays. I think the government should take that fact into consideration. I do not believe the introduction of such a motion so early in the session

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

will expedite the business of the House nor will it tend to shorten the session. I would ask the Prime Minister to take into account the fact, which I have pointed out, that owing to the recess, private members will not now have that full opportunity, which otherwise they would have had during an entire month, to discuss questions in which they are interested. I do not think that the motion ought to be pressed at this time.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Let me assure my hon. friend at once that I shall see to it that the rights and privileges of private members in this matter shall not suffer in any way by reason of the adoption of this motion. We will take care to see that the extra hour is made good to private members. The only reason for introducing this motion is that it meets with the convenience of all hon. members. When the rule for meeting at two o'clock on Wednesdays was observed it was found very frequently that the attendance when the House met at two o'clock on that day was very slim, most members being apparently unable to break away from the custom of attending at three o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER: Shall the motion stand?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I move, Mr. Speaker, that the motion be amended to read that to-morrow the House shall meet at three o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion as amended?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. SPEAKER: Carried; the House meets at three o'clock to-morrow instead of at two o'clock.

THE COPYRIGHT ACT, 1921, AMENDMENT

Mr. L. J. LADNER (Vancouver South) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 45, to amend and make operative certain provisions of the Copyright Act, 1921.

He said: This very bill was exhaustively inquired into and a great deal of evidence was heard by a special committee of parliament which sat during the session before last. The terms of the present bill are practically the same as those of the bill which was reported by that special committee, and the measure is being reintroduced now. It consists mainly of minor changes with one exception concerning licensing clauses. In other respects the bill contains no matters of great moment. During the interval between the session before last and the present time—that is to say, during last session—I had occasion as proposer of the bill to confer with