

budget. I intended to ask for a special day for it, but I am not going to do so if hon. members feel that that is asking a favour which should not be given to any hon. member. But I do want to insist that it be reached in advance of the budget, and that other resolutions of corresponding importance be given an opportunity for discussion during this session. I do not know what the need for shutting off private members' day so soon is, and I do not think we shall get on very much faster by doing so. Yesterday we covered several resolutions in a short session of three hours. It seems to me that it would meet the wishes of everybody better to leave Mondays and Wednesdays for some time yet. Wednesdays can be used very conveniently for private members' days, and I fancy that the government will need all the time at its disposal to prepare its programme and that the session will be expedited rather than otherwise by giving them a little leisure on Wednesdays. I know some of us wish, and I know the government wish that, before putting some measures before the House, there had been more leisure for meditation.

**Mr. MACKENZIE KING:** Mr. Speaker, I think my right hon. friend is the last person who ought to complain that a longer time has not been given for discussion of these motions on Wednesdays. I have in my hand a statement of the dates at which Wednesdays were taken under his administration. I find that in 1920, twenty-three days were allowed to elapse from the opening of parliament before Wednesdays were taken, and in 1921, nineteen days were allowed to elapse before Wednesdays were taken.

**Mr. RYCKMAN:** Is this not a different administration?

**Mr. MACKENZIE KING:** Fortunately, yes. This administration has already allowed thirty-four days. I might also point out that, in the session of 1917, nineteen days were allowed to elapse and, in the session of 1918, twenty-two days were allowed to elapse before Wednesdays were taken.

**Mr. JACOBS:** We did not have Progressive members in the House at that time.

**Mr. MACKENZIE KING:** I think the government of the day proceeded on the assumption that it was part of the government's duty to see that government business was expedited and that parliament was not kept unduly long in session. With respect to the opportunities that hon. members have had, as the leader of the opposition (Mr. Meighen) has just said, he, as well as others, have had

[Mr. Meighen.]

at least two or three opportunities to speak. If they did not take advantage of the opportunity presented on the order paper, that was no fault of the government, it was entirely their own fault. A member can begin discussing a resolution and adjourn it. If they have not gone on, it is because they did not wish to go on with their resolutions. The right hon. gentleman says that he hopes the government will expedite its programme. Every hon. member and, I believe, the country generally realize that the government has expedited its programme and has been in readiness.

As regards the budget, the government would have brought down the budget this afternoon, but for the debate that has been going on with respect to ocean rates. If that debate is concluded to-day, the budget will be brought down on Tuesday; if the debate is not concluded to-day and is concluded on Tuesday, the budget will be brought down on Thursday. But we are certainly not going to hold over the budget to suit the convenience of my right hon. friend or any other hon. member with respect to any motion he may have on the order paper. I think the country looks to have the business of the country conducted as expeditiously and efficiently as possible, and it is part of the government's programme to see to it that measures are brought down in an orderly and speedy way. We hope that in bringing the budget down at an early date, we shall greatly expedite the work of this session of parliament. There is no reason why, if the debate on the budget begins on Tuesday or Thursday, it should not be concluded before the Easter recess. Hon. members have been asking the government at different times to open the session earlier so that they might get back to their homes before the summer comes on. Hon. members of both groups have made that representation. I might draw the attention of the House to this circumstance;—this year the debate on the Address was much shorter than in any other session we have had of this parliament, and that has afforded a longer time for private members' motions than was afforded on previous occasions. I think, under those circumstances, the motion should be carried.

With respect to Mondays, as I have already said, the government does not propose to take Mondays at the present time, and it will give due notice before attempting to do so. The question of taking Mondays can be discussed at that time.

**Mr. MEIGHEN:** The Prime Minister, unintentionally or otherwise, has misapprehended what I stated. But first let me compare the