

Accession of King George VI

be submitted with respect to the discharge, in any coin or currency which is legal tender, of debt payments at present required to be made in gold or gold coin.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts of the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be submitted for your consideration.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In again inviting your careful consideration of the important matters which will engage your attention, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

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

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration on Monday next, and that this order have precedence over all other business, except the introduction of bills, until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

That a special committee consisting of Messrs. Casselman, Gray, Mackenzie (Vancouver), Power and Woodsworth, be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the standing committees of this house, under standing order 63.

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Honourable T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources, the Honourable Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice, the Honourable Charles A. Dunning, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable W. D. Euler, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled *An Act Respecting the House of Commons*.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to lay before the house the report of the joint librarians of parliament.

ACCESSION OF KING GEORGE VI

NOTICE OF ADDRESS TO HIS MAJESTY CONVEYING GREETINGS AND ASSURANCES OF LOYALTY AND SUPPORT

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the leave of the house to move that to-morrow [Mr. Speaker.]

the house take into consideration a resolution to extend the greetings of its members to His Majesty King George VI upon His Majesty's accession to the throne, and to convey to His Majesty and to Her Majesty the Queen the assurance of their loyalty and support, and that standing order 45 with respect to notices be suspended in relation thereto.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister is aware, forty-eight hours' notice is necessary before a motion of this kind may be introduced. At page 117 of *Beauchesne's Rules and Forms*, I read:

Forty-eight hours' notice shall be given of a motion for leave to present a bill, resolution or address, for the appointment of any committee, or for placing a question on the order paper,—

And so on. That clearly refers to a matter of this kind. This was recognized by the Prime Minister himself a year ago under similar circumstances, when he said on the opening day of the session:

As hon. members know, the rules of the house require forty-eight hours' notice of any resolution.

If this were a minor matter I would not raise objection, but it is a very important one. Only this afternoon the Prime Minister introduced a bill providing for alteration in the law touching the succession to the throne. That is a very important bill, and we are all fully aware of the extraordinary circumstances under which this legislation is being introduced. As a matter of fact, the legislation is intended to be retroactive because already we have an accomplished fact.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I think the Prime Minister ought not to press a motion of this kind. It is very undesirable indeed that questions relative to procedure and criticisms of the policy of the government should be mixed up with an address to His Majesty, and yet that must inevitably result if the Prime Minister insists upon introducing this matter at this time. The debate on the bill which the Prime Minister has introduced would be lacking in reality if an address to His Majesty were presented before the bill is proceeded with. Personally I am of the opinion that the government has already taken steps which it should not have taken. Even within the last few days we have had a notification from the clerk that no member shall be permitted to take his seat without first taking an oath or declaration of allegiance to the crown, but if parliament has the right to go on, members have the right to take their seats in this house; and it