

pill which will come later on. We shall have these Geneva agreements purporting to lower tariffs around the world, and then we shall find the government bringing in a restrictive measure which almost completely nullifies the trade agreements, certainly so far as the immediate situation is concerned.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that we should not make a decision now to limit the debate on the speech from the throne. Members wish to discuss these matters as a whole and not be tied down by rules limiting discussion to some particular question today and some other particular question tomorrow. We should continue to discuss what members regard as the basic issues facing the country today. I suggest that there be no decision with respect to the length of time allowed for this debate on the address, but that we proceed until Monday at least; and then I, for one, am willing to sit down and take stock with the other leaders as to what is the wise thing to do.

I wish to say this in closing. The Canadian people expect the members who have come here to raise the issues I referred to earlier, issues which the people feel are the real issues that should be dealt with.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggar): Probably it was unfortunate that the various leaders and groups in the house were unable to meet with representatives of the government to discuss the business of the house before the house met. My impression was that, although we were consulted separately, there was likelihood of general agreement along the lines suggested by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) this afternoon. I may say at once that I could not agree to postponement of the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne in its entirety, because I felt, with the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken), that at least some discussion of the matters which are affecting the people of Canada should take place immediately, and that the various political parties in this house through their respective leaders should be given an opportunity to place their views before the house and the country.

I quite agree that the Geneva agreements do not require any lengthy debate at this time. The agreements were long in being consummated among the nations which have signified adherence to them, and it seems to me that this house should give very considerable attention to their details to see exactly what they mean to our own country and to the world. I am, however, greatly interested in having a debate and a thorough discussion

[Mr. Bracken.]

of the pressing matters which affect the Canadian people, both farmers as producers and the masses of our citizens as consumers.

One of the strangest speeches I have heard in this house I heard a few moments ago from the leader of the opposition. No hon. gentleman and no group in this house were more insistent on the immediate removal of controls than the leader of the opposition and the party supporting him; and the matters that are now before the country, the high cost of living and so on, are, in my opinion, the result of intensive propaganda by powerful interests in this country and by the official opposition and their friends, resulting in the tremendous rise that we have had in the cost of living.

I want to see the house get down to a discussion of these matters at the earliest possible moment, and I would suggest even that the Geneva treaties might wait until after that discussion has been held.

I do not agree with the Prime Minister when he says, as he did a few moments ago, that we must consider temporary measures to meet conditions over which the government have no control. I want to say I believe that this house, and the government as the executive of this parliament, had complete control and relinquished complete control; and when we relinquished complete control we invited the chaotic conditions which face this country at the present time, both in agriculture and as far as the consumers are concerned.

An hon. MEMBER: How about conditions in Britain?

Mr. COLDWELL: Let me tell my hon. friend that as far as Great Britain is concerned, and in spite of grave shortages, the increase in the cost of living since August, 1945, has not been one point.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. COLDWELL: While out of their ignorance they may say "oh, oh", let them get the records issued by the Department of Labour of this country, the *Labour Gazette*, and they will find substantiation for what I have just said. My hon. friends read so little that it sometimes accounts for the lack of information contained in their speeches in this house.

As regards the transitional powers act and the farm products act, I think they must, of necessity, be continued into the future. As far as the business of the house otherwise is concerned, I think I can say immediately that we shall be glad to agree to the sitting of the house on Wednesday evenings. Having regard