

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is part of my duty to bring to the attention of Mr. Speaker an occasion where I believe rules are being violated. I have done that, and in the interests of all hon. members of the house I have asked Mr. Speaker for a ruling. I am not trying to stop any hon. member. When the resolution respecting war expenditures is before the house the hon. member may read all he wishes of what he has in hand at the present time. But I am trying to give the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Harris) the opportunity to make the speech which it was announced last Friday evening he would make this afternoon, in presenting the views of the opposition with respect to the budget. I must say I think it has been a great discourtesy to the hon. member that this afternoon should have been taken up, in part by hon. members of his own party, in a manner which will prevent him from bringing before the house until this evening the matters with which he will wish to deal in the most important speech he will make this session.

Mr. GREEN: This motion before the house is of great importance, and I suggest to the Prime Minister that this is no time for him to try to shut the mouths of hon. members.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I take exception to the statement that I am trying to shut the mouths of hon. members, and I will ask my hon. friend to withdraw those words. He has no right to say that I am trying to shut the mouths of hon. members, and I ask him to withdraw. I am in part responsible for seeing that the business of the house is carried on in accordance with the rules, and with due regard to its importance, and I am trying so to do, with as little interference as possible with any hon. member, but we have taken the whole afternoon in discussing a matter for which on the order paper due provision is made and which should be taken up at the appropriate time, later.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: A point of order has been raised, and of course I must decide. There has been considerable latitude in this debate, due in the first instance to the speech made by the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker), who was dealing in his argument with the secret session and supporting it by instances of past procedure of the house and the committee, and therefore I allowed him to speak. But I must say that since then there has been more latitude taken than is warranted by the motion before the house. My

attention has now been drawn to standing order No. 41, and citation 293, which states in part:

Besides the prohibitions contained in this standing order, it has been sanctioned by usage both in England and in Canada, that a member, while speaking, must not: . . .

(d) anticipate discussion on a motion set down for future consideration.

A notice of motion was given by the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Douglas) with regard to the amendment which I have already discussed and ruled out of order, and exception might be taken to it. But in view of the fact that it is at the end of the notices of motion and that there is doubt whether it would come before this present session of parliament, I did not take it into consideration. But now that this matter has been brought to my attention, as to the procedure before the house, and having regard only to the procedure, I must ask the hon. member to continue only with regard to the motion itself and without regard to matters which took place and were discussed in connection with another committee.

Mr. GREEN: I submit to Your Honour that that is exactly what I am doing. You have mentioned this report from which I am quoting and which was tabled on the last day of the last session. It has nothing whatever to do with the notice on the order paper for the setting-up of a war expenditures committee for this session, and therefore I submit that in mentioning it I am not discussing anything which is on the order paper for consideration by this house at a later date; I am stating what I think should be considered by the public accounts committee; and I submit that in doing so I am entitled to refer to this statement contained in the report of the war expenditures committee of last session and to ask that the allegations contained in this paragraph be placed before the public accounts committee and be considered by them very, very carefully.

The paragraph goes on to say—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I say that my hon. friend is out of order. Not only that; he is an old member of this house and one who has had some experience in its proceedings, and he knows he has no right to defy Mr. Speaker in the manner in which he is doing.

Mr. GREEN: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: And I wish to ask this further question—