

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Friday, February 19, 1937.

The house met at three o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

FIRST READINGS—SENATE BILLS

Bill No. 24, for the relief of Joseph Neilson Blacklock.—Mr. Golding (for Mr. Plaxton).

Bill No. 25, for the relief of Francis Hector Walker.—Mr. Beaubier, (for Mr. Hyndman).

Bill No. 26, for the relief of William Edward Connor.—Mr. Leader, (for Mr. Jacobs).

Bill No. 27, for the relief of Annie Nemchek Cohen.—Mr. Johnston (Lake Centre, for Mr. Jacobs).

Bill No. 28, for the relief of James Gordon Ross.—Mr. Johnston (Lake Centre, for Mr. Jacobs).

Bill No. 29, for the relief of Florence Anna Iverson Salberg.—Mr. Johnston (Lake Centre, for Mr. Jacobs).

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DATE OF BUDGET—CANADA-UNITED KINGDOM TRADE AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance): In response to questions on various occasions from the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) and other hon. members, I am now in a position to state that I expect to be able to bring down the budget on Thursday next, February 25.

It is the hope and expectation of the government that the new trade agreement with Great Britain will be signed before that time, and if it is, the trade agreement will form part of the budget.

SUPPLY—NATIONAL DEFENCE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON AMENDMENT TO MOTION OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed from Thursday, February 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. Dunning that the house go into committee of supply, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. MacNeil.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, continuing my remarks of last evening, let me declare that I personally long for peace. The social credit movement is a movement designed to obtain peace. Many ardent social crediters are so strongly imbued with the doctrines of peace that they feel that my stand in support of defence is contrary to the ideals of social credit. It is largely because I see in social credit the means of so reorganizing the economic systems of men that peace can become a permanent reality on the earth that I have espoused so fervently the cause of social credit. We are earnestly striving toward a great and glorious ideal; but we must not forget, while looking to the future, that the present has its urgent needs. One of our most urgent needs for the immediate present is more adequate means of defence.

I deplore the misdeeds of the past that have forced us into this situation. In so far as the present government is neglecting its duty in the matter of economic and social reform, I cannot and will not condone its errors. But now that we are in this exigency we must, I feel, comport ourselves wisely.

I appeal to the present government with all the earnestness of which I am capable that they set about reforming the present system. The disgraceful suffering, as inexcusable as it is distressing, which obtains throughout this land should not be allowed to continue. If one year from now I do not see distinct evidence of redress, and if at that time the present government is not showing signs of adopting policies more modern than the outgrown and discredited devices which thus far they appear to have depended upon, then I must say they will have made it extremely difficult, if not intolerable, for me to continue to support them. I believe they want to do the right thing, but they are trying to do the right thing in the wrong way.

For this year, however, because I consider it to be in the interests of Canada to have greater defence, and because I feel it my duty as a member of the parliament of Canada