

Budget Changes

Mr. MEIGHEN: One day's notice?

Mr. ROBB: I will not say that.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister may give me a half minute's notice, on this understanding, and I think I am entitled to more than that. I am only asking for one day's notice.

Mr. ROBB: When does my hon. friend intend to speak?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I will know better when I know what the budget is. I would like to speak on the budget as it is to be, and that is why I am asking this question, which I think is only fair.

Mr. ROBB: I can make my right hon. friend clear on that. In general what has my hon. friend in mind? Is it the tariff or the income tax?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Mostly the tariff, but I want the minister's answer to cover everything.

Mr. ROBB: I told my hon. friend yesterday that there would be no substantial changes in the tariff.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am not doing this to delay the House, Mr. Speaker, but it is a matter of extreme importance. Leading a party, as I do, I think I should not be put off with a mere evasion. The question is most simple and clear, and I want the Minister of Finance to tell me to-day whether there are to be any changes made before the debate closes or, if I must wait until Monday to renew my question, will he then undertake that the proposed changes will not be announced until Tuesday at least?

Mr. ROBERT FORKE (Brandon): Mr. Speaker, I would like a little information in regard to this matter. I suppose all hon. members want to know if there is to be any change in the budget. I do not exactly understand this situation. The budget has been brought down; why is it necessary to interrogate the Minister of Finance every day as to whether or not there will be any changes? I want to know the reason; I want to know why there is special privilege. The House is entitled to all the information the right hon. leader of the opposition may receive.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am trying to get that information for the hon. member, if he will permit me. Perhaps the government would [Mr. Robb.]

prefer that I ask the hon. member himself. Now I will repeat my question. The minister will not give me any notice whatever, on his answers so far; I ask him again if he will undertake that there will be no changes announced in the budget until we are given notice. I did not understand my hon. friend's answer, if he gave one.

Mr. ROBB: My recollection is that I answered that question.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the hon. gentleman repeat it? It was an evasion; it did not answer the question at all. Does he undertake that there will be no changes until we get into committee?

Mr. ROBB: I think I made it clear to my right hon. friend that we would follow parliamentary procedure. I told him that if changes were made before parliament generally, before we go into committee, they would be considered, but that on the general principle this budget will go through as it is.

Mr. MEIGHEN: In the minister's opinion are there changes proposed which should be made before we go into committee?

Mr. ROBB: No, not at this moment.

DUMPING DUTY—AUSTRALIAN BUTTER AND FRUIT

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. J. L. STANSELL (Norfolk-Elgin): I would like to inquire of the government with respect to certain statements appearing in the press to the effect that, owing to the heavy importation of Australian butter and fruit, and the fact that such imported products were being sold greatly below the market price, the government has imposed and started to collect a dumping duty of 6 cents per pound on butter, and also on certain fruits.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I observe, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Customs (Mr. Boivin) is not in his seat at the moment. I will direct his attention to the question asked by my hon. friend, and ask the minister to give an answer early next week.

EQUALIZATION OF FREIGHT RATES

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. L. J. LADNER (Vancouver South): Yesterday I asked the Prime Minister if any application or representation had been received by the government from Mr. John Oliver, Premier of British Columbia, relating to the reduction or equalization of freight