

Mr. MacINNIS: That is what I am saying, too; it was four hours wasted, and the major portion of it was wasted by members on the government side of the house.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. MacINNIS: My understanding is that there is considerable difference of opinion at least among members on this side of the house—

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacINNIS:—as to whether or not they would like to sit Saturday morning.

Mr. FLEMING: Speak for yourself.

Mr. MacINNIS: Well, one member on this side says "hear, hear" and another says "speak for yourself", which goes to prove that there is a difference of opinion. There is very little difference of opinion in this group, but I understand the same difference of opinion holds with the Social Credit group.

That is our position. We are quite willing to facilitate and expedite the business of the house when we see that there is an attempt on all sides to do so.

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE

##### REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF POSITION WITH RESPECT TO UNITED STATES FUNDS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): Mr. Speaker, having regard to the importance of the question may I ask the Minister of Finance if he will consider, before prorogation, making a statement to the house and country about the situation in connection with American exchange?

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): I will give consideration to the question, but I doubt if I can add anything to what I said a short time ago.

#### HIGH WATER AND FLOODS

##### REPORT AS TO DAMAGE TO TORONTO ISLAND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Public Works when the report of the government's engineer on the Toronto island floods will be tabled.

Hon. ALPHONSE FOURNIER (Minister of Public Works): My information is that we will have it in two or three days.

##### REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMAGED AREAS IN MANITOBA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. S. ZAPLITNY (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply. In view of the very serious damage to crops, live stock and bridges caused by recent floods in the area around Dauphin, as well as other parts of Manitoba, will the minister state what steps the government is prepared to take, in cooperation with the government of Manitoba, to assist in the work of reconstruction in these flooded areas?

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that any representations from the government of Manitoba have been made to the federal government. If they are, careful consideration will be given to the relative responsibilities.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: Will the minister undertake in every way to assist in obtaining priorities on timber and steel for the repair work? A serious situation has developed in that area, and only today I have received requests for help in obtaining priorities.

Mr. HOWE: In respect of disaster in any part of Canada it has been the practice of the department to give the highest priority on requirements for rebuilding. I can assure the hon. member that requests for priorities will receive consideration.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS

##### REQUEST FOR FURTHER STATEMENT ON FLAG TO BE USED

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, the other evening the Minister of Public Works stated, when the subject of flags for public buildings was under discussion, that both the Canadian ensign and the union jack were distributed and the caretaker could choose either. On Dominion day no union jack appeared on this building. Will the minister make a further statement?

Hon. ALPHONSE FOURNIER (Minister of Public Works): The other night I read to the committee the policy of the government which was laid down in an order in council passed in September 1945. I stated at that time that the public buildings were flying the Canadian ensign.

Mr. CHURCH: The Prime Minister said that parliament would decide.