

The Deputy Speaker

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That the address be engrossed and transmitted to His Excellency the Governor General by such members of the house as are of the honourable the privy council.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That this house will, on Monday next, resolve itself into a committee to consider of a supply to be granted to His Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That this house will, on Monday next, resolve itself into a committee to consider of the ways and means for raising the supply to be granted to His Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

MAIN ESTIMATES 1933-39

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance) moved:

That the message of His Excellency the Governor General, together with the estimates presented on February 3, 1933, be referred to the committee of supply.

Motion agreed to.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER 56 TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That standing order 56 be amended by adding the following as section (5):

(5) At the commencement of every session, or from time to time as necessity may arise, the house may appoint a deputy chairman of committees who shall, whenever the chairman of committees is absent, be entitled to exercise all the powers vested in the chairman of committees including his powers as deputy speaker during Mr. Speaker's unavoidable absence.

He said: Mr. Speaker, standing order No. 56 has to do with the office and duties of the Deputy Speaker. The Speaker of the House of Commons Act provides that at the beginning of each parliament the house shall appoint, first, a speaker, and then a chairman of committees. The act also contains provision for the appointment of a deputy chairman of committees, but that right has not

[Mr. Brooks.]

thus far been availed of, and there is at present no rule of the house relating to a deputy chairman of committees.

The circumstance which has brought the matter to the attention of the government at this time is that the Deputy Speaker and chairman of committees, Mr. Sanderson, is likely to be absent from the house until towards the end of March, he having been chosen by the Empire Parliamentary Association as one of the delegates to represent Canada at the 150th anniversary of the founding of Australia. It has been pointed out that if it should so happen that His Honour the Speaker were absent at the same time as the Deputy Speaker, the house might, pending some action formally agreed upon, find it impossible to meet until we succeeded in having either His Honour the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker return to his place.

To avoid a possibility of that kind, and in conformance with the practice followed at Westminster, I have introduced the resolution now before the house. If it is adopted it will make possible the appointment of a deputy to the chairman of committees, and I shall then suggest, for this position an hon. member whose name will, I believe, appeal to all hon. members.

I may say that this resolution does not contemplate the appointment of a deputy chairman for the entire term of parliament, but simply for the session and from time to time as occasion may arise. There are similar orders, not at Westminster only but in the parliaments of the other self-governing dominions.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that only one question arises in this matter: is it competent under the statute as it now stands to confer the powers of the Speaker upon a deputy chairman of committees? I am bound to say that I find it difficult to give an affirmative answer to that question. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has pointed out that the Speaker of the House of Commons Act provides for the election of a speaker and that under our standing rule we have a chairman of committees who has exercised the powers of the Speaker when the Speaker has been absent; but I have some doubt that we can name a deputy of the chairman of committees and confer upon him the powers of the Speaker.

I assume the Minister of Justice (Mr. La-pointe) has given this matter his consideration and has arrived at a satisfactory conclusion, otherwise the resolution would not have been introduced. It seems to me the safe