

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has just delivered his maiden speech in the house, and because he cannot be expected to be thoroughly familiar with the rules I did not call his attention to the rule which forbids the reading of speeches. I should just like to say that I hope no other member will take this as a precedent when he is speaking.

On motion of Mr. Reid the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre) the house adjourned at 5.45 p.m.

### Thursday, February 4, 1943

The house met at three o'clock.

#### FOOD

##### PROPOSED MINISTRY AND BOARD TO SUPERVISE SUPPLY, PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): On January 19 last a deputation representing the food industry of Canada placed before the government certain suggested correctives with respect to Canada's food supply, and among other things recommended the creation of a ministry of food and the setting up within that ministry of a food board, with the end in view that responsibility and authority for a complete food programme might be vested in one ministry.

A press dispatch from Ottawa under yesterday's date indicated that delegates attending the twenty-first annual meeting of the Canadian Horticultural Council here passed a resolution urging the appointment of one cabinet minister and a food board definitely charged with the responsibility of obtaining an abundant food supply, and the maintenance of means and facilities for its processing and distribution. I should like to ask the Prime Minister if the government has given consideration to this request and, if so, when he expects to be able to make an announcement with respect to it.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): In his last words my hon. friend referred to "this request". Does he mean the request made yesterday, or the broad question of the establishment of a food ministry?

Mr. GRAYDON: It was the one request, coming from two sources.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Any matter of government policy will be announced in due course, and this is one.

#### FUEL

##### PROPOSED MINISTRY AND BOARD TO SUPERVISE SHORTAGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): I am going to ask the Prime Minister another question, and perhaps I will have better luck with this one.

From communications I have received, the fuel shortage in many parts of Canada continues to be acute. On Friday last the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) directed a question to the Prime Minister on this point. At that time the Prime Minister asked the hon. member to allow his question to stand as a notice and indicated that a committee had been appointed by the cabinet some little time ago to deal with the problem. Perhaps the Prime Minister is now in a position to indicate to the house and to the country what steps the government has in contemplation to meet this quite serious shortage.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I have in my hand material that was sent to me by the committee to which my hon. friend has referred, but it did not seem to me to be in such form that I would care to present it to parliament. Also I should mention that the committee is associated with the wartime prices and trade board. I think the reply should be made by the Minister of Finance. I have had a word with the deputy minister of finance about the matter, and he indicated that he thought he would be in a position to see that the minister would have a definite statement to give to the house to-morrow.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS

##### REPORTED LAY-OFF AT MONTREAL ANGUS SHOPS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggar): Just before I came into the chamber I met a delegation of men from Montreal, and as a result I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Munitions and Supply. They are perturbed because reports indicate that a serious lay-off is to be made in the Angus