

MOTION WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF  
DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe):

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration as soon as Bill No. 1, an act to provide for the resumption of operations of railways and for the settlement of the existing dispute with respect to terms and conditions of employment between railway companies and their employees, be disposed of, and that this order have precedence over all other business except introduction of bills, until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

TRANSFER OF DUTIES

SOLICITOR GENERAL—CANADA SHIPPING ACT

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table two copies of orders in council passed under the provisions of the Public Service Re-Arrangement and Transfer of Duties Act, the first transferring the functions of the Solicitor General to the Minister of Justice, and the other transferring the powers, duties and functions under part X of the Canada Shipping Act, 1934, and all the rules and regulations made thereunder with respect to the harbour at Esquimalt, British Columbia, from the Minister of National Defence to the Minister of Transport.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister)** presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Honourable Alphonse Fournier, Minister of Public Works, the Honourable D. C. Abbott, Minister of Finance, the Honourable J. J. McCann, Minister of National Revenue and the Honourable F. G. Bradley, Secretary of State for Canada, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled: An act respecting the House of Commons.

THE LATE RIGHT HON. W. L.  
MACKENZIE KING

TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as we meet here today in this special session to consider very important and grave problems having both domestic and international aspects, we have to deplore the passing of three distinguished Canadians, whose wise counsels might have been of assistance to us in considering these problems, were they available.

*The late Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King*

I am sure that I believe the approval of all hon. members if I repeat in the house, of which for so many years he was the leader, the statement I made when I received the news of the death on July 22 of the Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, so that these words may constitute a part of the permanent records of this parliament, as would have been the case had they been uttered while parliament was in session.

This statement was broadcast over the national networks of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in English and French on Sunday evening, July 23, and reads as follows:

I am grateful for the opportunity to pay this tribute to the memory of Canada's most distinguished citizen. Mr. Mackenzie King's friends have known for some time that his health was failing, but his death is nonetheless a great shock. For Canada, it marks the end of a period which historians will certainly describe as the Mackenzie King era.

For a generation after 1921, the personality of Mr. King dominated every aspect of our public life. He had three great aims in public affairs: the first was to achieve complete national autonomy for Canada without destroying our historic associations; the second was to strengthen the unity of the nation by scrupulous respect for the rights and the traditions of all elements of our population and by the development of a genuine pride in our common homeland, our common history and our common citizenship; and the third was to give all Canadians a genuine sense of equality of opportunity by the promotion of social justice.

To achieve these aims, and to maintain what was achieved, Mackenzie King realized that enduring peace in the world was essential, and he never ceased to work for peace and to direct all our external policies to that end.

But it was the direction of our country's affairs, throughout the most terrible war in human history which was his greatest achievement. Yet his closest associates can testify that, even in the darkest days of war, he never lost faith in the future and he never lost sight of his fundamental aims in public life.

I shall not attempt to forecast his place in Canadian history, but I am confident no other man will have a larger place or higher claims on the gratitude of his fellow citizens.

For me personally, Mr. King's death is a great sorrow and an irreparable loss. From the day I entered public life, his wisdom and counsel were always available and always invaluable, and nothing was more reassuring than to have one's own conclusions confirmed out of his vast knowledge and experience.

Today the government of our country has lost its wisest counsellor and the people of Canada their greatest public servant.

**Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, it is still very difficult for most of us to realize that a man who for so long was associated with the public life of Canada is no longer with us.

Whether one shared his political opinions or agreed with the policies he adopted, no one will at any time question the fact that in Mr. King this house had one of the greatest