

ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE
HOUSE

Mr. BENNETT: I move the adjournment of the house.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will it be eleven o'clock on Monday or three o'clock in the afternoon?

Mr. BENNETT: I was going to move that the house stand adjourned until either eleven o'clock or three o'clock, as the right hon. gentleman thinks his friends desire. If they wish to talk from eleven o'clock to one o'clock, discussing the items, very well; if not, the house will meet at three o'clock.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend has shown his capacity to make decisions. He had better say which

Mr. BENNETT: Eleven o'clock, so that hon. members may have an opportunity to discuss the estimates on agriculture.

Mr. SPEAKER: This house stands adjourned until Monday morning at eleven o'clock.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Monday, August 3, 1931.

The house met at eleven o'clock.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

QUESTION AS TO REGULARITY OF PROCEDURE
RESPECTING ELEVEN O'CLOCK SITTING
ON MONDAY

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question respecting the privileges of this house. Standing order 2 reads as follows:

The time for the meeting of the house is at three o'clock in the afternoon of each sitting day

As hon. members know, and as you Mr. Speaker are aware, that rule cannot be changed except with the unanimous consent of the house and by resolution to that effect. No motion has been put to this house to alter that rule with regard to the sitting of the commons to-day, and I submit that in the absence of a formal resolution, duly passed and assented to, the whole proceedings of this House of Commons would be irregular. I should be very sorry to see this parliament break up with a violation of the rules of the house as its last act, particularly

[Mr. Bennett.]

where the effect might be to render irregular all the business done this morning, if not also possibly the business of prorogation itself.

Let me read what took place on Saturday evening last with respect to adjournment. Hansard, at page 4516, records the following:

Mr. Bennett: I move the adjournment of the house.

Mr. Mackenzie King: Will it be eleven o'clock on Monday or three o'clock in the afternoon?

Mr. Bennett: I was going to move that the house stand adjourned until either eleven o'clock or three o'clock, as the right hon. gentleman thinks his friends desire. If they wish to talk from eleven o'clock to one o'clock, discussing the items, very well; if not, the house will meet at three o'clock.

Mr. Mackenzie King: My right hon. friend has shown his capacity to make decisions. He had better say which.

Mr. Bennett: Eleven o'clock, so that hon. members may have an opportunity to discuss the estimates on agriculture.

Mr. Speaker: This house stands adjourned until Monday morning at eleven o'clock.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

I think that record makes it very clear that no motion was put to suspend the rule of the house with regard to sitting at three o'clock, and that to that end the unanimous consent of the house was not so much as even asked, but that the Prime Minister himself declared that the house would sit at eleven o'clock. In view of that fact I am more than surprised that in the votes and proceedings of Saturday I should find the following record of the alleged proceedings of the house, at page 685:

On motion of Mr. Bennett, it was resolved,—That when the house adjourns this day it do stand adjourned until Monday next, at eleven o'clock a.m.

That is not a correct statement, Mr. Speaker, of what took place in this house. There was no motion made by the Prime Minister to suspend standing order 2, as the record of the house shows.

Mr. BENNETT: These Journals are the record of the house.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, the Prime Minister now says the Journals of the house are the record, but unfortunately in this case, the Journals are not accurate. That is what I am taking exception to with regard to the privileges of this house, that someone, with no authority from this House of Commons, has included in the Journals a record of a motion which was never introduced in this house, never made and never