

to attending to our duties in our offices, at the same time I have no personal objection, nor has the party with which I am associated any objection, to sitting to-morrow if it will facilitate matters. I do not think it will facilitate matters sufficiently, however, to give us a chance of concluding our business before their majesties arrive; even if we take a couple of extra days I doubt if that is possible without giving the appearance of showing rather unseemly haste or undignified hurry in disposing of the business.

In that regard I should like to mention another matter. When we were discussing this question some time ago I offered the opinion that so far as I was concerned I was not going to make any trans-Canada speeches—if any of them ever get across Canada—in regard to politics while the king and queen were here. Let me quote my words:

That being so it seems to me it would be very difficult for the house to continue to sit while their majesties are here and while the Prime Minister is travelling across the country with them.

I added the reason:

After all, it would be practically impossible, during a continued sitting of the house, to avoid matters of dispute or criticism here. So it would appear almost inevitable that during the visit the house must be adjourned, if it is not prorogued, until the king and queen leave the country.

I must confess very frankly that in my own party there is a considerable difference of opinion on that question. Many members wish or hope that we might be able to prorogue at once. I think most of us wish that, if it could be done without seeming to ignore the real business of the country. Personally I have come to the conclusion that it is practically impossible to do so. Others of my party would like, instead of adjourning a month, to adjourn for a week only. I have expressed my opinion, but on thinking it over I should be quite willing to leave the matter in the hands of the house; and if the whips could get together, with the Prime Minister's consent it might be possible to come to some other arrangement. I do not wish to have those words of mine interfere in any way with what is most convenient for the majority of the members of the house. Consequently so far as I am concerned I should be very glad if the Prime Minister cared to reconsider the matter. If he does not; if he feels that he must do it otherwise, I will not offer the least criticism. On that previous occasion he was pretty definite, as I was also, but in view of the pressure on the part of many of my own members and having heard a good deal of discussion among other hon. members, I

felt that perhaps the matter should be reconsidered, and I should be quite willing to agree with what the majority of the house is anxious to do.

With regard to sitting to-morrow I repeat that if, in spite of the protest of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth), the Prime Minister wishes to adhere to his motion, we are quite willing to do so. If after listening to the emphatic protest that has just been made the Prime Minister cares to let the matter stand, that will suit me just as well. I have expressed a few opinions, but let me repeat that I do not think it is possible for us to attempt to conclude, within the next six or seven days, the amount of business that still remains to be dealt with. I believe it is our duty to decide later, with the consent of the government, what is the best course to pursue.

(The member for Vancouver East having risen):

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I was going to permit the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore) to precede me, but when one gets orders from the other side of the house to sit down it is better to stand up.

I believe the leader of the opposition (Mr. Manion) has put the matter very clearly. If there is no possibility of finishing the business before next Friday, there can be no justification for rushing the business at the present time. If we cannot finish by next Friday we shall have to meet after his majesty leaves Ottawa for the western trip, or after he leaves Canada.

There is an enormous amount of business to be done. Only this morning I looked carefully through the estimates, and I find that of a total amount approximating \$550,000,000 we have passed only something like \$30,000,000. That is a very small percentage of the total amount. I believe one of the main functions of an opposition is the careful consideration of estimates before parliament. If the opposition—and I am referring particularly to the official opposition—allow these estimates to be voted in large sums, without due consideration, there will be no check whatsoever upon expenditures. I feel quite satisfied that it would be taken throughout the country that the opposition had not fulfilled its duty if proper consideration of those expenditures were not made.