

Mr. SPEAKER. By the practice of the House, the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) is allowed, at this stage, to ask questions relating to important matters of public business, and I apprehend that the questions which the hon. member (Mr. McNeill) asks are of that nature. However, the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) should not now indulge in comment upon the answers given.

Mr. McNEILL. I, of course, abide by your decision, Mr. Speaker, but—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order; Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) has the right to ask questions on important business. Whether the Government are ready to answer them or not is their affair, but comments on that are out of order.

Mr. McNEILL. I know, Mr. Speaker, that you will allow me to make an observation. You know that I would not for a moment desire to say anything disrespectful to the Chair. But, I must ask you, Sir, to consider whether you are not pressing that rule a little hardly upon me now.

Mr. SPEAKER. The greatest respect an hon. member can show to the decision of the Chair, is to abide by it.

Mr. McNEILL. Under the circumstances—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order; sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman may have some important matter to mention which is not out of order. I will be glad to hear it if he has, and I am sure he will not again be out of order.

Mr. McNEILL. When I was interrupted by that somewhat unseemly noise from the other side of the House, I was about to say, that as this is a matter of the very greatest moment to the country, I think it right to conclude with a motion. If it is necessary I shall do that, but you know, Mr. Speaker, that I have hardly ever done it before. It was only one sentence I wished to utter, and that was—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order; sit down.

Mr. McNEILL. I am going to move—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) is entirely in order.

Mr. SPEAKER. I understand that the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) has said that he will conclude with a motion, which, of course, will be a motion to adjourn the House.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That has been moved already.

Mr. SPEAKER. It was not put to the House. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) does that, and confines his remarks to the point he has raised, he will be in order.

Mr. McNEILL. I do not intend to pursue the matter any further, or to take up the time of the House intentionally; but the one remark I was about to make is: that if it has not yet been determined; if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) has not yet made up his mind, and the Government have not yet made up their minds, whether or not the tariff of Belgium is as favourable to us as schedule "D" is "on the whole" to Belgium—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman is now discussing the tariff.

Mr. McNEILL. I must protest, Mr. Speaker. I ask the hon. Minister (Mr. Davies) to be bound by the decision of the Chair.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If the hon. gentleman will allow me, I will take a point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order; sit down.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) cannot anticipate a discussion on a question relating to the tariff which is now before the House. He is plainly and palpably anticipating that discussion by expressing an opinion as to the action of the Government in respect to these resolutions. That is my point of order.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) has asked for information, and he has the right to that.

Mr. McNEILL. It was well understood, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order; Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER. I may be wrong, but I understand that the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) is not discussing the resolutions, but as to whether the Government has taken action upon these resolutions or not. I do not think the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) should go into a discussion of these tariff resolutions which are the next order upon the paper.

Mr. McNEILL. What I propose to do is, to make a remark as to the conduct of the Government, and that, I gather from your ruling, Sir, to be quite in order.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I submit, that if my hon. friend (Mr. McNeill) is ready to state to the House, that the subject is not connected with the matter now before the House and not connected with the tariff resolutions, of course he would be in order. I am sure, however, that my hon. friend (Mr. McNeill) would not be able to