

governments of the United Kingdom and of the United States accredited ministers to the President of the Czechoslovak republic some time ago. While the Canadian government does not at present propose to accredit a Canadian minister to the president of the Czechoslovak republic in London, we are glad to receive a minister of the Czechoslovak republic in Ottawa. The question of the permanent exchange of ministers between the two countries is to be deferred until after the war.

I should like to take advantage of this occasion to express again the profound admiration and deep sympathy of the government and the people of Canada for the Czechoslovak people, who are proudly and valiantly enduring the most bitter oppression in their long history. The free peoples of the world, enured though they may be to reports of nazi persecution, have been shocked and horrified by the brutal executions and repressions which followed the assassination of Heydrich. The destruction of Lidice, with the indiscriminate execution of its male inhabitants and the systematic purge of the leaders who have remained in their own country, are unforgettable additions to a long tale of terrible suppression. Their spirit of resistance has not been dampened by these barbarous outrages, and we can feel sure that they will endure these trials with high courage until the hour of their liberation.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SECRET SESSION TO BE HELD
ON SATURDAY, JULY 18

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I notice that the press interpreted the vote of yesterday on the motion of the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Roy) as a decision by this house that there should not be any secret session. Such as a matter of fact is not the case, nor was it the intention. The motion that was voted on yesterday was a motion for the house to adjourn. Just why hon. gentlemen opposite supported that motion in the way they did I have yet to understand. However, hon. members will recall that I stated that before the government could decide on the question whether or not it was advisable to have a secret session it was desirable that the minister who is primarily concerned should have

before him such information as it was thought would justify the calling of a secret session. Since the return from Collingwood and Midland yesterday of my colleague the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services (Mr. Macdonald), he and I have gone over the matter together and we both feel that in the light of some of the things which were said in the course of the discussion yesterday afternoon, and as well in the light of representations which have been made to him, it would be advisable to have a secret session of the house. I would now announce that to-morrow morning the first order of business will be the holding of a secret session to discuss or consider the matter of urgent public importance which was the subject of the motion by the hon. member for Gaspé.

Mrs. DORISE W. NIELSEN (North Battleford): Would the Prime Minister be kind enough to tell us whether it will be possible for hon. members of the house to obtain any information to-morrow morning during the secret session, with regard to the opening by the allies of a second front, or is the discussion to be limited to the question raised by the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Roy).

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I stated that the discussion would have reference to the question raised by the hon. member for Gaspé, but if my hon. friend wishes to bring up the question she has just raised, I will be prepared to make such answer as it may be possible to make to it.

GASOLINE

USE OF TRUCKS BY FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. DIEFENBAKER (Lake Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance in connection with a matter which has been previously mentioned in this house, following representations made by various public bodies in the western provinces, including, I believe, the government of the province of Saskatchewan. The question is whether or not a final decision has been arrived at by the government on the question of the relaxation of the rule preventing farmers and their families from using trucks for transportation purposes, subject, of course, to conformity with gasoline and rubber regulations.