having an opportunity to ascertain whether or not the statements made by ministers were in accordance with the contents of those documents.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, the ruling I have given arises from the fact that I have often studied the precedents and the citations on this very point. It has so often arisen in the course of debate that hon. members demand that a document should be tabled, either because it has been referred to or because a minister has quoted from it.

I would think the citation I have before me justifies the ruling I have made.

> A minister of the Crown is not at liberty to read or quote from a despatch or other state paper not before the house unless he be prepared to lay it upon the table.

My suggestion to hon. members is that the Prime Minister has not quoted from the document. The hon. member says he has referred to the content. That is not my interpretation of what has been done by the Prime Minister.

Mr. MacLean: On the question of privilege, I have a question I should like to ask the Prime Minister. Since it seems evident that the intent of this document was misinterpreted by at least one of the officials receiving it, and that he took action on it which resulted in the termination of the employment of a number of persons, will the Prime Minister consider reinstating all those people who have been affected by a directive based on what is, as yet, only a bill and not an act of parliament?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: Without accepting the premise that any employment has been terminated as a result of a misunderstanding of the document, I am prepared to ask the minister to study this case. I have already asked him what has happened in other similar cases, and he has told me there has been no termination of employment—that there had been some shift in employment from one part of a building to another.

An hon. Member: With loss of pay.

Mr. Trudeau: No termination of employment and no loss of pay.

An hon. Member: Sent to Siberia.

[*Later:*]

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): I do not want to prolong the discussion unduly, but I thought my hon. friend from Peace River was rising on the same point. Your Honour did make a ruling with regard to a document. I would respectfully recommend to Your Honour the reading of citation 159 paragraph 3. I would also point out that the Prime Minister indicated to members of the house he had the document itself in front of him.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Mr. Speaker: I should like at this point to read from citation 159. I have before me 159 (3) which reads:

> It has been admitted that a document which has been cited ought to be laid upon the table of the house, if it can be done without injury to the public interest.

This should be read along with citation 159(1). What I suggested to hon. members in the ruling I made a moment ago was that the document had not been cited by the Prime Minister. He referred to the document, but of course that is not the same as making a citation.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): May I ask the President of the Privy Council to tell us, as leader of the house, the nature of forthcoming business?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker. As the house knows, today we shall begin the debate on second reading of the omnibus Criminal Code bill. Because of the wide interest in the bill and the prospective list of speakers it is anticipated we shall continue second reading tomorrow and on Monday.

In view of the heavy volume of business before the committees—the 15 legislative items before the standing committees—it is my intention to propose a motion similar to the one moved last November, that the sitting for Tuesday be suspended in order that the standing committees may pursue their study of the legislative items on that day.

On Wednesday and Thursday next I propose to call order No. 1 for the consideration of the business of supply. I understand there will be an opposition motion forthcoming on those two allotted days.

Mr. Baldwin: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that, inspired and led by the opposition the house has given second reading to 15 bills in seven days, can the leader of the house indicate when some constructive measures will be brought before the house—and I hasten to say I exclude from that description any measures sponsored by the Minister of Finance.