

changes, about which there may be difference of view as to whether they are substantial or not. I will ask the minister now to say whether he intends to make the nature of those changes known to the House before the close of the budget debate.

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if there are such minor changes as it is necessary to submit to the House, surely that is always the procedure. But if the changes are only in minor details, such as are made in committee after listening to the arguments which I imagine my right hon. friend and others may make, I ask him: Is it necessary to present those before the budget is voted on? Let me tell my right hon. friend again that during this debate I have received many compliments from his followers and others as to the popularity of the budget; others have said it is an election budget. I can assure my right hon. friend that any changes which may be made will in no manner take away from its popularity.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Now that the minister has delivered himself of his speech, will he revert to the question I put to him: Whatever the changes are, describe them as he may choose, will they be announced before the budget debate is closed or will they not?

Mr. ROBB: Perhaps my right hon. friend will renew that question on Monday.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Then there will be no announcement on Monday of changes? If I may assume that, I am quite prepared—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I will try to keep in as good order as hon. gentlemen opposite. I am prepared to adopt the suggestion of the minister if he will guarantee that there will be no changes announced on Monday.

Mr. CAHILL: Guarantee nothing.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the minister not say?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The right hon. gentleman is entitled to put that question when the orders of the day are called. I would ask the House to maintain decorum.

Mr. CANNON: One question, not six.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister asked me to wait until Monday to renew my question. I ask him in return, if when I do that he will say that he will not announce changes on Monday. If he is going to announce changes on Monday, I would look rather foolish putting my question again touching such changes.

Mr. ROBB: I will make no announcement of any changes on Monday until I have listened to my right hon. friend. At least I will go that far with him.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will my hon. friend not answer me frankly? I asked him if he proposed to make any changes whether he would announce them before the budget debate is closed. This question he asked me to defer until Monday. Now I ask him again: Will he defer the announcement of those changes past Monday? Surely it is a fair question.

Mr. ROBB: What is the point?

Mr. MEIGHEN: My point is this, Mr. Speaker: I want to know in advance whether or not the minister is going to make any changes. I feel that the party which I represent has a right to know, and I will not know in advance if the minister makes changes on Monday with no previous intimation. I am asking him to make that intimation now; he refuses and asks me to wait until Monday. In order that I may be advised now, I again ask him to undertake that there will be no changes announced on Monday, otherwise I will not have any notice in advance.

Mr. ROBB: On the routine proceedings?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Or on the orders of the day, at the opening of the budget debate, or at any time on Monday.

Mr. ROBB: I fear I must be dense, but I do not understand my right hon. friend. If he proposes to ask me again on Monday whether I am prepared to go further than I have gone to-day, he surely would not expect me to be able to answer to-day.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister does not understand my point. The question I put to-day was whether the minister intended to alter the budget proposals before the close of the debate. He asks me to wait for an answer until Monday. I am asking him—because I think we have a right to know in advance—whether or not any changes are proposed. Consequently he must defer any changes until after Monday, or we will not know in advance. I am prepared to wait and renew my question on Monday, if he will tell me the changes will not be made then. If he can tell me on Monday that there will be changes made at a later time I will be satisfied.

Mr. ROBB: I will not make any change until I have given my right hon. friend a fair intimation of such proposed change.