

Governor General's Speech

consideration of other measures. I should explain at once what these measures are and why it is advisable that we should not delay in bringing them forward.

In the speech from the throne there is mention of the intention of the government to invite the consideration of the house to what measures may be necessary to continue the policy of price and commodity control after the expiry of the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act; also what measures enacted under the wartime powers may be required for a considerable period, and what bills may be necessary to give statutory form to their provisions.

The National Emergency Transitional Powers Act, as hon. members are aware, expires on March 31. How long it will take to consider these measures which may have to be enacted in order to enable certain powers to be continued, it is impossible at this moment to say, but the government has felt it would be advisable to lose no time in presenting these measures to the house. It is suggested that two weeks be allotted at the outset for the consideration of these particular measures. At the end of the two weeks I shall look forward to having a further conference with my hon. friend and other leaders as to what procedure we should follow from then on.

May I make it perfectly clear that my hon. friends and myself were of the view that we should not in any way attempt to impose our wills or desires on hon. members of the house. Hon. members may feel that they do not approve this course; they may wish to take some other course. Of course, they are at perfect liberty to express what views they may wish to express and to have them carefully considered by the house. But I do believe that if what is proposed meets with general approval, it will enable the house to get on with its business more rapidly.

May I also say the hope was expressed by all that the debate on the address might be concluded by the end of next week. I have said it is a hope. It is an earnest hope in the interest of getting on with the business of the session; but may I again make it clear that it is for hon. members to decide for themselves what length of time they wish to take for debate on the address and in the discussion of the different measures that may be before the house.

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the arguments advanced by the Prime Minister at the conference to which he referred as having taken place last Tuesday, and in view of the

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

further statement he has made today, I am glad to be able to say that, speaking personally, I approve the procedure he has outlined, and I should like to hope that those who sit around me will see fit to approve it also. Our understanding is that next week the full time of the house will be allotted to the discussion of the address we have heard today, and for the two weeks following the time will be wholly given over to government business. At the expiration of the three weeks it is proposed that some mutual arrangement can be arrived at as to what the procedure should be from then on. In the meantime other than the desire that the debate be not prolonged unduly no attempt is being made to prevent anyone who wishes to do so from speaking on the debate in the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose standing committees of this house under standing order 63, said committee to be composed of Messrs. Mackenzie, Chevrier, Casselman, Knowles and Weir.

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Right Hon. Ian A. Mackenzie, Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Hon. J. A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. D. C. Abbott, Minister of Finance, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled: An Act respecting the House of Commons.

THE MINISTRY

TRANSFERS AS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is customary to announce any changes in the ministry where there are resignations and vacancies created thereby. The mere transfer of a minister from one department to another does not necessarily call for any ministerial explanation. However, I think it would be of