

Suspension of Standing Order 28

On the preamble.

Mr. MacNICOL: I should like to make one or two observations before the preamble carries.

Mr. DUNNING: If I might make a suggestion to my hon. friend, I think that on the second reading of the bill there will be a better opportunity for him to make general observations. That is where such discussion would normally occur.

Mr. MacNICOL: Thank you.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Dunning thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 64, respecting a certain trade agreement between Canada and the United States of America.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Wednesday, March 29, 1939

The house met at three o'clock.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION ACT—CONCURRENCE IN SECOND REPORT

Mr. MALCOLM McLEAN (Melfort) presented the second report of the special committee appointed to inquire into the operation of the Civil Service Superannuation Act, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

MARINE AND FISHERIES—CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT

Mr. A. E. MacLEAN (Prince) presented the first report of the standing committee on marine and fisheries, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 28 TO PERMIT STATEMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON MARCH 30

On the order for motions:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the house will remember that the other day I stated that I hoped to be able to make a statement on foreign affairs to-morrow. I am prepared to make that statement, and would like to do so on the motion to go into committee of supply on the estimates of the Department [Mr. Dunning.]

of External Affairs, which have not yet been called. Thursday is a day upon which His Honour the Speaker leaves the chair without any question being put, and if I am to have the opportunity of making a statement in the manner I have suggested, which I imagine would best meet the convenience of the house, it will be necessary to obtain the unanimous consent of the house to suspend standing order 28. With the consent of the house, therefore, I move:

That standing order 28 be suspended in relation to the committee of supply with respect to the sittings of this house on Thursday and Friday the 30th and 31st March, 1939.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: May I ask the Prime Minister if opportunity will be afforded for general discussion?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The procedure adopted last year, and in previous years, was to have a statement made in the first instance by the Secretary of State for External Affairs while His Honour the Speaker was in the chair, and then have the debate proceed with the Speaker in the chair. When the debate concludes we will then go into committee on the estimates of the Department of External Affairs, at which time detailed discussion can take place, as it always does, in the form of questions and answers.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It could run right over if necessary?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. H. G. CLARKE (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has stated that to-morrow he will discuss external affairs. Could he give the house any information as to conditions in Europe, as the *Toronto Telegram* of last night reports thirty-four members of the British House of Commons calling for an all-party government to start mobilization—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): —of the nation's wealth, man-power and industry, in preparation for any emergency?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that is a question which may stand until to-morrow, when the debate will take place.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I understand the hon. member's question is with regard to conditions in Europe. I hope to have a good deal to say on that subject to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.