

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Will the Prime Minister complete the record which he has read by naming the protecting power and indicating what steps that protecting power is taking with respect to the matters he has mentioned?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The protecting power is Switzerland. It would be a little difficult for me to indicate offhand the steps they are taking. There is a regular procedure adopted in these matters. The Swiss, being neutral, seek through negotiations with the government of Japan to have their authorized agents or representatives given free access to camps in which Canadian prisoners of war are detained. The degree of success their representatives may have depends upon how far the government concerned is willing to comply with the terms of conventions on the treatment of prisoners of war and do what is right in the matter.

Mr. GRAYDON: I suppose the diplomatic agents and the International Red Cross work in cooperation.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Oh, very closely.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ROOMS AND SEATING ACCOMMODATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): I did not want to interrupt the proceedings when the Prime Minister was about to make a statement, but I rise on a point of privilege to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, and to that of the house, the situation which exists with regard to new members. In our party we have two new members, and neither of them has been allotted a room or a seat. That has been the experience we have had in previous sessions. There are in this house now, surely, a number of vacant rooms which were previously occupied by supporters of the government, and seats in the chamber which were occupied by supporters of the government. It seems to me the time has come when a reallocation of seats and rooms should be made, in order that new members may be properly and adequately accommodated, as I think is their just due. I bring this to your attention, sir, because I have taken the matter up with responsible officials and others ever since last October in the hope that this would be done before new members arrived for the present session.

Mr. SPEAKER: The difficulty to which the hon. member refers is not wholly attributable to anyone's fault, but rather arises out of the fact that we have a number of

groups in the house and it is difficult so to redistribute rooms as to meet the convenience of all hon. members. The matter is a subject for discussion and consideration by the whips of the house. I can assure the hon. gentleman that if the whips consult with me I shall endeavour to cooperate with them, but I must also ask that there be cooperation from all sides of the house in the allotment of rooms.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I suggest that if there are to be applications for new rooms, we of this party might put in an application for a hundred and fifty or so after the next election.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

REPORTS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I desire to table the report of the advisory committee on reconstruction, and reports of five subcommittees: first, agricultural policy; second, conservation and development of natural resources; third, publicly financed construction projects; fourth, post-war employment opportunities; and fifth, post-war problems of women.

CENSORSHIP

PRESS AND RADIO—REQUEST FOR MAKING DIRECTIVES PUBLIC

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Hon. members will recall that at the last session a request was made for making public the directives regarding censorship of the press and the radio. I stated at the time that the government would have no objection to making public such of these directives as might not be prejudicial to the public interest. I now table these particular documents.

Mr. GRAYDON: Has the government found it in the public interest to make public many of them?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is, I believe, in the public interest to have these directives made public.

CRIMINAL CODE

EXECUTION OF DEATH SENTENCES—DEFENCE OF CANADA REGULATIONS

Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Minister of Justice): I beg to lay on the table the order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council under section 1075 of the criminal code, dealing with the execution of death sentences, and also the report in pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 3 of the defence of