

are all agreeable and glad to have the opportunity of welcoming General McNaughton to our midst.

I should like to say something by way of criticism of the proceedings so far. I think we should get down to business just as quickly as possible. I am hopeful that to-morrow at three o'clock the Prime Minister will be able to proceed with the motion which stands in his name on the order paper. I am sorry that he was not able to bring it on to-day. I think the proceedings would have been more regular had the Prime Minister made his motion first; General McNaughton's statement could then have been made during the general course of the debate.

I should like to make one further observation with respect to the position which the Prime Minister has just announced in connection with government policy. This is a partial reversal of the position to which the government has adhered so rigidly over a long period of time. Having regard to public opinion it is not much of a surprise to us that the government has partly surrendered what we had thought for some time was an untenable position. In spite of the partial reversal of policy, in spite of the position taken by the government, we intend at a suitable stage of the proceedings to move an amendment or to introduce a motion so that this matter may come before parliament. I indicate this merely to indicate to the Prime Minister our position. We intend to move a motion along the general line that this house no longer has confidence in the present Prime Minister, and that the interests of our troops in Europe and the honour of Canada call for the immediate application of the full provisions of the mobilization act, and that another government should be formed without delay under leadership known to favour and pledged to take that course.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Replying to my hon. friend may I say that I agree with what he has laid down as the condition under which General McNaughton is to be permitted to appear, namely, that the discussion shall not be carried on beyond to-day in connection with anything that General McNaughton may say in his statement or which may arise out of the questions that will be asked later.

The question of a secret session is entirely in the hands of the members of the house. I recall that yesterday the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation and the leader of the Social Credit party both expressed the view that it would be helpful to hon. members to have the fullest information, even to the extent of information which

if made public would lend comfort to the enemy, but which if disclosed in secret session would not be subject to that risk. General McNaughton will be asked questions, and I am sure he will answer them as fully as he can, subject to the one condition that when questions are asked which affect military security he will have to say that he cannot give the answer in public. I believe he will express a willingness to give that information to the house in secret session, but that will be a matter entirely for the house to decide for itself. I am not pressing for a secret session. For my own part I would prefer, like my hon. friend, to have everything completely in public, but I would not wish to have anyone disclose matters which would be of comfort to the enemy.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That principle has been stretched to the limit.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend referred to the proceedings to-morrow and to the motion, notice of which appears in the *Votes and Proceedings* of to-day, which reads:

That this house will aid the government in its policy of maintaining a vigorous war effort.

I propose on that motion to make a statement and to have the debate thereon proceed. I regard that motion as being a motion of confidence and it will be so construed by all members of this house. I would point out, however, that I have given notice of another motion reading:

That the order passed on July 13, 1944, under which the house was permitted to sit at 11 o'clock a.m. until the end of the session be rescinded and that the house shall in future met at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of each day as provided in standing order No. 2.

I would hope that there would be no objection to that motion in the light of what was said yesterday. If, however, there is to be objection in some respects, it is a matter of indifference to me whether the motion is brought up at the end or the beginning of the day. I would prefer to settle that question first thing to-morrow, and I hope the house will feel it desirable to pass it unanimously.

My hon. friend has spoken of the order in council which I have just tabled with respect to the extension of service of N.R.M.A. personnel as a partial reversal of policy. May I say to him that the government regards that order as being in entire accord with its policy. My hon. friend has paid me a further compliment on behalf of himself and his party by saying that they have lost confidence in me.

Mr. HOMUTH: We never had any.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That was the reply I was going to make, that they never