

The Address—Mr. Legare

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. GERARD
LEGARE AND SECONDED BY MR. A. B.
WESELAK

I do not think we can just meet outside the time provided by the orders and competently deal with parliamentary business.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): I think the procedure that was suggested of moving a part of the motion relating to tomorrow morning would be appropriate, and I would be prepared to accept the entire motion because it is in line with the 1950 precedent. If there is any division, could we not have the motion setting the time of meeting tomorrow and then take the other part of the motion later tomorrow?

Mr. Rowe: That is very good.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): Then I shall redraft the other paragraphs, which will be as I have read them into the record, but I will redraft them as a motion to be presented tomorrow morning.

Mr. Speaker: May I be allowed to point out to the house that the Clerk has indicated to me that if paragraph No. 3 of the original motion is not agreed upon, the 15 notices of motion that have been received will have to be printed tomorrow and the same situation would apply to private members' bills. Paragraph No. 3 of the motion reads as follows:

That the provisions of standing orders 15, 41, 71 and 93 providing for the introduction, printing and consideration of notices of motions and bills by private members be suspended.

I merely want to pass on this information to the house in case it wishes to deal with it.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): If that can be added to this motion, paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 will be dealt with tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: By leave, Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East) moves, seconded by Mr. Harris, that the following changes be made in the procedure of the house for the present session:

1. That the house shall sit every day except Sunday, and that standing orders 2 and 6 be suspended in relation thereto.

2. That, until the proceedings on the proposed appropriation bill have been disposed of, the daily hours of sitting shall be 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., and 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.; government orders shall have precedence of all other business except the daily routine of business, notices of motions for the production of papers, and questions; and that the provisions of standing orders 2, 6 and 15 be suspended in relation thereto.

3. That the provisions of standing orders 15, 41, 71 and 93 providing for the introduction, printing and consideration of notices of motions and bills by private members be suspended.

Motion agreed to.

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

(Translation):

Mr. Gerard Legare (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I felt greatly honoured in being invited by the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne. The invitation came to me in New York at the very time when the General Assembly was considering the situation in the Middle East. In my own name and in the name of all my constituents, I want to express my very sincere appreciation to him.

The session which is starting today is and will remain a historical one. It is the result of serious unforeseen and regrettable events that took place during the last few weeks and which, I am sorry to say, still darken the international horizon.

Those events are of a different nature and cannot be compared; on the one hand, there is military action by three states which, because they foresaw trouble and a further deterioration of an already upsetting situation, decided upon an emergency operation; on the other hand, we have an almighty state bent upon the wholesale butchery of a defenseless people in order to maintain the control it has been exerting too long now, with total disregard for the most elementary rules of law and justice.

Could Canada, which, though an autonomous country, is interdependent with all nations seeking peace, the establishment of a reign of justice and the respect of individual rights, dissociate itself from those events?

Could the Canadian government remain unconcerned by the suffering and the tortures of a whole nation which, wearied of oppression and persecution, was seeking freedom?

I say no, and that for two reasons.

When the invasion of Egypt occurred, followed by the armed intervention of the French and British forces, Russia offered to send thousands of volunteers to support president Nasser.

The whole world shuddered at the thought that we might be on the threshold of another vast and terrible world conflict.

Urgently called in special session, the United Nations Organizations seemed falter-