

discuss problems that are pressing to their constituents and to themselves, that we are loath to relinquish any of the rights of private members.

In this house there has been the custom of introducing two or three departments and going into supply thereon, and then have a number of departments go into supply at the end of the session. They could be spaced during the session to give private members an opportunity of raising certain matters that they think would be helpful. The point I have in mind is that if we are to conduct the business of this country as it must be conducted, with all the variety of business we have here, the rules must be revised. There is no question about that in my mind. I hope that the committee now set up will revise the rules.

It is perfectly true that in the British house the government plays a much greater part in deciding what shall be done in the house than does the government of this country; nevertheless the members there, as was said by the hon. member for Peel, have two wonderful opportunities, one at the question period and the other at the adjournment.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 6.05 p.m.

Monday, April 1, 1946.

The house met at three o'clock.

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

REVOCATION OF P.C. 6444—REFERENCE TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE—CASE OF MRS.

EMMA WOIKIN

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I desire to table a copy of order in council P.C. 1262 of April 1, 1946, which is to-day, approved by the Administrator, revoking order in council P.C. 6444 of October 6, 1945, for the interrogation and, for that purpose, detention of certain persons; also a copy of a letter to the Minister of Justice from counsel to the commissioners, advising the Minister of Justice that it will not be necessary to request further orders under P.C. 6444. As this order is a matter of special interest to the house I might read it so that it will appear in *Hansard*:

At the Government House at Ottawa, Canada, the 1st day of April, 1946.

Present, His Excellency the Administrator in Council.

Whereas the Prime Minister reports that the interrogation of the several persons detained pursuant to orders under the order in council made on October 6, 1945, P.C. 6444, under the authority conferred by parliament by the War Measures Act, as being persons suspected of communicating information to agents of a for-

eign power, has now been completed and that counsel for the commissioners inquiring into the matter pursuant to the Inquires Act have now advised the Minister of Justice that it will not be necessary to request further orders for detention and interrogation under the said order in council;

Therefore His Excellency the Administrator in Council on the recommendation of the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister, is pleased to revoke the said order in council P.C. 6444, and it is hereby revoked accordingly.

(Signed) A. D. P. Heeney,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

The letter to the Minister of Justice is dated Justice Building, Ottawa, March 29, 1946, and is as follows:

Dear Sir,

Following our discussions of to-day with regard to the probability of requests for further orders under the provisions of P.C. 6444, as indicated in our letter to you of February 23, 1946, we confirm that, particularly in view of the various prosecutions now pending, and that in such proceedings much evidence, documentary as well as oral, is necessarily being made public, we have advised you that it will not be necessary to request further orders under P.C. 6444.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) E. K. Williams,
G. Fauteux,
D. W. Mundell,

The letter is addressed to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa.

I should like to make one statement to the house on this matter which I am sure hon. members will be pleased to have. It is in reference to an impression respecting the civil service of Canada to which the espionage inquiry may have given rise, but which is quite erroneous and which I feel, in justice to the honour, integrity and good name of the public service of Canada, should be speedily eliminated.

Of the persons whose detention under P.C. 6444 the commission felt it necessary to recommend, and on whom the royal commission has to date reported adversely, not one has been a regular permanent member of the Canadian civil service. All twelve were persons either appointed during the war to temporary positions in the civil service, or temporarily commissioned in the armed forces. I need not remind the house that during the years of war the Canadian people provided hundreds of thousands of men and women for our armed forces, also provided manpower for greatly expanded production in industry and in agriculture, and at the same time personnel for the expanded war-time needs of government administration and public service. During these years the filling of war-time needs was stretched to the limit. In these circumstances, temporary appointments may occasionally have been made to