

*British Import Licenses*

as they can be brought to finality I propose to make a statement to the house. In the meantime I want to assure the hon. member and the house generally that this question is receiving the very closest and most earnest attention of the government.

## INQUIRY FOR RETURNS

LEGAL SERVICES—BORDEN, ELLIOT, SANKEY  
AND KELLEY

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask regarding standing order 81, which reads as follows:

A prorogation of the house shall not have the effect of nullifying an order or address of the house for returns or papers, but all papers and returns ordered at one session of the house, if not complied with during the session, should be brought down during the following session, without renewal of the order.

On March 21 last the following question was passed as an order for a return:

By Mr. Pouliot: Since the beginning of the war, how much was paid each year by the dominion government and any dominion board, commission and corporation and any other dominion agency to:

1. The law firm of Borden, Elliot, Sankey and Kelley, barristers and solicitors, of the city of Toronto?

2. The following partners of the above-mentioned firm: (a) H. Borden, K.C.; (b) B. V. Elliot, K.C.; (c) R. H. Sankey, K.C.; (d) W. A. G. Kelley; (e) J. T. Johnson; (f) I. G. Wahn; (g) A. D. McAlpine, and (h) Hon. C. P. McTague, K.C.?

There were two or three other similar orders for returns passed that day or the day after, and I hope that I shall have the returns soon.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I say to my hon. friend that, as he is no doubt aware, the rule he has just read applies to prorogation. It does not apply to dissolution. A dissolution of one parliament ends all its proceedings.

## LABOUR CONDITIONS

STRIKE AT FORD MOTOR PLANT, WINDSOR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): May I ask the Minister of Labour if his department has taken or is contemplating any further action to try to effect a settlement in the Ford dispute?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): My hon. friend can rest assured that we will not give up until the last whistle blows. Anything and everything that can be done to bring that dispute to a

[Mr. MacKinnon.]

good conclusion will be done. As a matter of fact I am meeting somebody this afternoon at four o'clock in connection with the dispute. I was informed this morning, although I have not been able to check it, that the power house will be opened in the near future.

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY

BILL TO CONFER CERTAIN POWERS UPON THE  
GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of bill No. 15, to confer certain powers upon the governor in council during the national emergency following the war.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that much need be said in support of the motion that this bill now be read a second time, in other words that the principle of the bill be adopted. Its introduction was forecast in the speech from the throne in the following words:

You will be asked to approve a measure to extend certain specified emergency powers to meet emergency conditions in the period of reconstruction.

The necessity for such a bill was then the subject of extended debate, when the house was being moved into committee by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) to consider his resolution to appropriate \$1,365,000,000 for war purposes, demobilization, promotion of trade and industry, and so forth, I spoke on the subject at some length on October 2 last and I shall endeavour to avoid repeating much of what I said at that time.

The adoption of the motion for second-reading of the bill will mean two things, two very important things, both matters of principle: one, that in the opinion of this house the circumstances in which Canada as a whole finds herself during this period of transition to normal from the exceptional conditions existing during the war are still such as to give some matters comprised within the subjects enumerated in section 92 of the British North America Act aspects of such paramount significance as to take them outside the sphere of that section; two, that those circumstances are such that certain legislative powers of parliament delegated by parliament to the government under the War Measures Act during the period of the war should continue to be exercisable by the governor in council in the expeditious manner required by emergency conditions instead of having to be exercised by parliament itself in the unhurried way in which it is usual and proper to deal in the houses of parliament with legislation intended to be of a permanent character.