

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Then let us do it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: All right; let my right hon. friend possess himself in patience as far as he can under the circumstances.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I hope my hon. friend will do that, too.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I said to the Prime Minister a week or two ago that we in this corner had no desire in any way to block or unnecessarily prevent the business of this country going through. On the other hand I said, and I think he accepted my statement, that the business of the country was paramount and should be concluded. If we can conclude it in a regular and dignified way, giving it adequate attention, I say by all means let us do so. If we cannot, then I do not see why this mode of procedure should be resorted to. The Prime Minister states that he feels it to be his duty to accompany the king during the entire time he is Canada and the United States.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Hon. members on the government side say "hear, hear," and heartily endorse the position of the Prime Minister. That is their privilege. If he so feels—and he will have to take the responsibility for that line of action—I see no reason at all why the Prime Minister could not accompany the royal train and leave the rest of us here after his majesty has left Ottawa. There is no reason whatever why we should take a recess of weeks and weeks. And then the Prime Minister threatens us—or perhaps I should not use that word—he says he is firmly of the opinion, and the government have adopted the policy, that if we do not get through we will have to come back in mid-summer. I still say that I see no reason why the Prime Minister could not carry out what he no doubt honestly believes to be his duty and accompany the royal train, leaving parliament here to carry on its business. Why, in any case, the Prime Minister has been hardly in his seat during the last week.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: That is a fact. I have no quarrel with that, but my point is that if the house can get along without the Prime Minister for that length of time it could get along without the Prime Minister during the two or three weeks that might be necessary to complete the business of the house, especially when the government would be led by my very capable and genial friend

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

the Minister of Justice. I have nothing further to say—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: —except this—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down, then.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: We are not getting anywhere with this sort of thing. I think a certain measure of courtesy is due hon. members when they adhere to the rules of the house—I am quite within the rules—and when they honestly differ in policy from the party that happens for the moment to be in power. We are going to get along much more rapidly in this house—and I am not throwing out any threats—if the business is conducted in an orderly fashion and if the ordinary courtesies are extended to groups, which may be small in number but whose members as members of the house have certain rights.

I urge that this matter, with all that it involves, be reconsidered.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have not very much to say in regard to this question. Some weeks ago we did discuss the matter, and at that time I took the attitude that it would be the duty, the willing duty, of this party to cooperate so far as possible in concluding the business of the house before the arrival of their majesties. At the same time I cannot help but think that, with only five or six days remaining before the time it is proposed to prorogue, it is very doubtful if we can complete the business that is before us. I was looking over the order paper this morning. In addition to committee reports and important legislation, which unfortunately was brought down a little late—these wheat bills, for example, with which we began to deal only yesterday—we have the resolution standing in the name of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) regarding a central mortgage bank, which has not been touched at all, together with another resolution in the name of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud) dealing with a salt fish board. In addition, as the hon. member who has just taken his seat has stated, there is a huge amount of estimates still to be passed, which somebody estimated for me this morning at something over \$400,000,000. So I doubt very much if it is possible for this house to conclude its business by the time their majesties arrive.

However, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that while I quite agree with the hon. member who has just taken his seat, to the extent that it is a strain on all of us to be sitting in this house for such long hours, in addition