

Mr. Drew: Is it the understanding that we shall proceed at 8.30 with the Atlantic pact and the wheat treaty?

Mr. St. Laurent: With the wheat agreement. I believe that is likely to take less time, and is really more urgent because the deadline there is July 1. Without our ratification before July 1 all the work done in preparing the agreement would fall. If that is the pleasure of the house the government will call the resolution dealing with the international wheat treaty at 8.30, and as soon as it is disposed of, the resolution dealing with the North Atlantic treaty.

Mr. Low: That will be satisfactory.

Mr. St. Laurent: I might say that, in spite of this motion, if it appears to be the desire of the house to go on for another hour tonight, instead of coming back in the morning, we can by unanimous consent dispose of it in that way. But I wish to have this motion so that we shall know whether or not there should be royal assent tonight.

Motion agreed to.

RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING

THIRD REPORT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Third report in English and French of the sessional committee on railways and shipping.—Mr. Mutch.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. St. Laurent: Mr. Speaker, there are certain private bills with respect to which there was an indication that hon. members were disposed to waive some of the rules. We still have five minutes before six o'clock, and perhaps some of them might be called. If they receive second reading they can be referred to the appropriate committee; and it might be that that committee would be in a position to report before the expiration of the hour for private bills after the dinner recess.

Mr. Knowles: I was one who had something to say on the point yesterday. We do not register any objection against the small ones, orders 76, 77 and 78. So far as the pipe lines bills are concerned, the Prime Minister will recall that there was one we asked to have stand until the next sitting of the house. We are not opposed to the calling of the others, but the calling of second reading might be the occasion for one of our members wishing to speak.

Mr. St. Laurent: Perhaps we could call item 79 at page 25 of the order paper.

Freda Linton

PRIVATE BILL

INTERPROVINCIAL PIPE LINE COMPANY

Mr. W. A. Robinson (Simcoe East) moved the second reading of Bill No. 238 (from the Senate) to incorporate Interprovincial Pipe Line Company.

Mr. Young: I move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. St. Laurent: Well, I think that is proper. If there is to be a debate I do not think we have time now. It is probably six o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at seven-thirty o'clock.

Mr. Garson: Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the house I should like to be permitted to make a statement.

And leave having been granted:

FREDA LINTON

WITHDRAWAL OF CHARGES AGAINST ACCUSED

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): As we all know, Miss Freda Linton surrendered recently to answer the charges which were laid against her under the Official Secrets Act in 1946 when the other espionage conspirators were charged. After she surrendered we immediately instructed two eminent counsel, the Hon. Philippe Brais, K.C., of Montreal, and Mr. John R. Cartwright, K.C., of Toronto, to represent the crown in the prosecution of the charge against her.

After a careful examination of the case these two lawyers have advised me that the evidence now available is not sufficient to warrant the crown proceeding with the charges against her, and that the proper course to follow in the circumstances is to withdraw the charges. I asked Mr. Brais and Mr. Cartwright to supply me with written and signed opinions to this effect, which have just come to hand—separate opinions from each respectively. Accordingly we are withdrawing the charges against the accused.

PRIVATE BILLS

GLOBE PRINTING COMPANY

The house resumed from Tuesday, April 26, consideration of the motion of Mr. Graydon for third reading of Bill No. 25, respecting the Globe Printing Company.

Mr. F. P. Whitman (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I feel that I should rise and protest the passage of this bill. I have followed it with some interest in the house and in committee, and I find that I still am not impressed