

Leader of the Opposition; all these items are preceded by an asterisk, and the explanatory note opposite the asterisk at the foot of the page is that these reductions will be authorized by legislation. What does that mean? That means that the government now is telling us and the country that not only with regard to this House of Commons, but with regard to the Senate, everything is settled and decided finally, that there might just as well not be a second chamber as far as the settling of the question of the indemnities of its members is concerned or the salary of its Speaker. In so far as the indemnity of members of that chamber and the indemnity of members of the House of Commons is concerned, everything is settled already before any hon. member has had a chance to say a word with regard to his own indemnity. If that is not putting the cart before the horse, I do not know what is.

Mr. STEVENS: That is not the correct way to put it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is the correct way. I ask my hon. friend: who can say these reductions will be authorized by legislation until they are authorized? I say that the instant a ministry asserts that anything will be done by legislation before His Excellency the Governor General has put his signature to a bill passed by both houses, that ministry is usurping the powers of parliament. Yet that is what appears in a document laid by the present ministry on the table of this house. We have here the declaration that in so far as His Excellency the Governor General is concerned, in so far as the Senate is concerned, in so far as the House of Commons is concerned, not one of these three branches of parliament count for anything with respect to what is to be done in regard to this 10 per cent reduction. A more glaring example of the usurpation by implication of the rights of parliament by a ministry has never been presented before.

Mr. STEVENS: A more glaring example of persistence in refusing to recognize cold facts has never been exhibited. The right hon. gentleman says that we are defying parliament,—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Ignoring parliament.

Mr. STEVENS:—that we are disregarding the Senate and disregarding the rights of His Excellency the Governor General. The resolution before the committee at this moment is but a forerunner of a statute which

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will not be law until it passes this house, passes the Senate and is signed by His Excellency the Governor General. That which is now resting in the hands of the chairman is simply a resolution offered to parliament to be passed before any statute can be enacted.

The right hon. gentleman is merely seeking to inflame public opinion and to turn the minds of the public against this government. The right hon. gentleman is indulging in the cheapest kind of claptrap. He knows that to cut salaries is an unpopular move at any time; he knows that that is not a pleasant thing for any government to do and he thinks he can appeal to the civil service because their interests in this instance have been immediately touched. However, I have greater confidence in the civil service; I feel that they will respond more readily to the appeal made the other day by the right hon. the Prime Minister when he said that among other efforts being made by the government to balance the budget in the coming fiscal year was an appeal to the civil service that they should forego for this year the statutory increase and submit to a reduction of their salaries. That was the appeal made the other day by the right hon. the Prime Minister; that is the appeal which this government confidently makes to the civil service of Canada. The right hon. gentleman has but one object in making the statements he has, that of trying to annoy and embarrass the government. I venture this statement, that his interest in the civil service, as far as this cut in salary is concerned, has not caused him one moment of sleeplessness; his one desire and object is to stir up a spirit of resentment against the government. All this talk and nonsense about the unconstitutionality of this and that and the statement that we are flaunting the Senate and disregarding His Excellency is the merest piffle. I repeat that what we have done is to present to this house a resolution as has been done from time immemorial; we are asking the house to consider a resolution for the granting of certain sums of supply for specific purposes, and we state frankly what those purposes are. This resolution will be followed by a statute which will not be effective until it has been passed by both branches of parliament and signed by His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am quite prepared to make every allowance for my hon. friend's excited frame of mind, but I would point out that I am speaking of something much larger and more important than

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