

Floods

may be under way, and when the type of assistance that is to be given can be determined by the governments of Great Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium it will then be possible to proceed with the utmost speed.

I think that that might be worth while, considering the encouragement that would come from the knowledge that positive action had been taken along that line. It might well be that a non-partisan committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Speaker could proceed to lay down general plans and indicate to mayors and reeves throughout Canada that preliminary arrangements might be undertaken to meet whatever situation does arise as a result of the decisions of these governments.

This storm and the floods accompanying it are stated to be the worst in 500 years and I do feel that our attitude in regard to it might well be measured by the extent of the tragedy which has visited the countries which have been named by the Prime Minister in this motion.

Mr. Angus MacInnis (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, this group would like to join with the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) in supporting the motion which has just been made. We appreciate the prompt action taken by the Prime Minister because we realize the many disturbing and perplexing problems that must come to his desk in these strenuous days. Yet he finds time to take this most humane and friendly action.

This motion this afternoon is just another indication of how small the western world is becoming. We think of extending aid to countries on the other side of the Atlantic as we would of extending aid to a neighbouring province or a nearby country. I am glad indeed that the Prime Minister mentioned material aid because after all that is what will be of the greatest assistance to the people concerned as soon as help of that kind can be properly measured and extended.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, we have no hesitation in giving our unanimous support to the motion which has been moved by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent). We think it is only right that we in Canada, who have been the recipients of assistance from the various countries that are now stricken, should do everything we can to help these people in return. Even if they had not helped us I am sure the Prime Minister would have brought forward a motion of this kind. In addition to sending our expressions of sympathy and all the moral support we can at this time, we feel that out of the blessings we have received

[Mr. Drew.]

from Providence we should be prepared to assist these people in a material way. We will back the Prime Minister and the government in whatever they want to do.

Mr. L. A. Mutch (Winnipeg South): Mr. Speaker, representing as I do the area in the Red River valley which suffered perhaps the major loss in the recent flood, I should like to say that having returned from there only yesterday I have had communications from that area expressing the hope and desire of those who benefited so materially from the kindness of those who are now afflicted that they be associated completely with any attempts that might be made to make a return for the sympathy and the material assistance given, and to show their appreciation at such a time.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Unanimously.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

THE BUDGET

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESENTATION ON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, subject to the usual reservations as to unforeseen contingencies, I want to announce that I intend to bring down the budget on Thursday, February 19, at the usual hour of eight o'clock.

→ **CRIMINAL CODE**

PERSONNEL OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. W. G. Weir (Portage-Neepawa): In compliance with the motion of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) on Friday, January 23, I move:

That the following members form the special committee on the criminal law: Messrs. Brown (Essex West), Browne (St. John's West), Cameron, Cannon, Carroll, Churchill, Diefenbaker, Garson, Henderson, Laing, MacInnis, MacNaught, Macnaughton, Noseworthy, Pinard, Robichaud, and Shaw.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS

TELEVISION SETS—SALES AND TAXES

Mr. Hellyer:

What revenue has the government received from sales and excise taxes on television receiving sets, each month for the last five years?

Mr. McCann:

No segregation of sales tax revenue is made according to commodities.

The Excise Tax Act applies the excise tax to "phonographs, record playing devices,