

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 25th June, 1952

The House met at a quarter Past Ten
of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-20 A.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

BOMBING OF YALU RIVER ELECTRIC
PLANTS BY AMERICAN PLANES.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri Gopalan which runs as under:

"The definite matter of urgent public importance is the danger of extension of war to China and throughout the world by the deliberate bombing by American planes of the Yalu river electric plants which supply power to China."

From the frequent notices of adjournment motions that are coming to me and the subjects to which they relate, it appears that there is a good deal of misconception about the scope of adjournment motions and the occasions or the subjects in respect of which they could be brought. It is not that any and every subject could be the subject of a motion for adjournment. I need not however go into that general aspect. I would only request the hon. Members to read the rules on this question carefully and then table motions. That is one point.

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Now in this, the principal objection seems to be that the matter is not specific. It may be urgent. It may be important—the danger of extension of war to China and throughout the world. Well, in a sense the position may be said to be specific under the ordinary meaning of the language. But it is not specific at all in the sense in which an adjournment motion could be admitted. The other difficulty which I feel is: What are the facts on which this motion is based? We are not yet in the know of it. I therefore advise hon. Members that whenever they have any important question which they want to discuss, the best course is to table a Short Notice Question and get from the Government such information as they can and as the Government have, so that there is some material on which we can proceed with our discussions.

An Hon. Member: Urgency may be anything?

Mr. Speaker: Even if the heavens are falling, you cannot discuss a thing without knowing the facts. So we do not know what happened? Let us know what the Government have to say. What information they have? How the situation is developing? It cannot be that anything that is flashed in the columns of morning papers or evening papers could be taken up as a subject of discussion in this House. There must be some material. So again I would say here that if it is permissible, possibly he may table a question on this point as to what the Government of India propose to do in the light of this situation as reported in the press or otherwise. If the question is admissible I will certainly see that it is admitted. If there is some substance in it and if Government are inclined to accept short notice, I am sure they will not keep any information back from this House. So I do not see how this particular motion could be admitted as an adjournment motion.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): I want, Sir, to seek some elucidation from you. You say that we should seek facts from the Government. Is the information published in the Press not reliable and can we not take that information as tantamount to facts, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: No, definitely not. There are many newspaper reports and it is generally the parliamentary practice that questions or motions based on mere newspaper reports are not admissible. That is the convention. That is the rule. That is the practice. It is necessary that the hon. Member tabling a question or a motion must satisfy himself in the first instance and must be in a position to say about the facts on his own knowledge or on the information which he considers to be reliable and then only he can table that question. (Interruption). Order, order. A newspaper report is not necessarily a true statement of facts. It is an everyday experience that papers are reporting, giving forecasts, and sometimes giving some kind of sensational information and if we were to go upon them as a basis, I do not know what else can be discussed in this House excepting the newspaper reports from day to day.

Shri S. S. More: May I know what is the practice in the House of Commons?

Mr. Speaker: The same as I said. A question was put there and I think Mr. Attlee made some protests. If he puts a question he will get the reply.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): That question can be put only after a day's notice. We cannot do it immediately.

Mr. Speaker: That is no argument. He can put any Short Notice questions any time—that is the procedure.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): Would you not take judicial notice of a fact reported reliably in the Press and also discussed in such a forum as the House of Commons?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot take judicial notice of whatever appears in the Press. Even when it is based on the Press report of the discussion in the House of Commons, unless I see the Hansard, it is not possible to take judicial notice. The hon. Member is

talking of judicial notice but he understands as a lawyer what a judicial notice means.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform hon. Members that I have received the following letter.....

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj (Sholapur—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Sir, I want to point out.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Not when I am on my legs and addressing the House—no interference unless on a point of order, and even then there could be no point of order when the Speaker is on his legs.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: Excuse me, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

I have to inform hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Rt. Rev. John Richardson:

"I shall be very grateful if you as Speaker will kindly move the House to grant me leave of absence from the House with effect from Monday, June the 23rd, 1952 for the remainder of the present session. My work as Bishop makes it necessary for me to take leave. I shall not be able to be present in the House after that date."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Rt. Rev. John Richardson for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during this Session, with effect from the 25th June, 1952?

Leave was granted.

Mr. Speaker: We will now take up the Demands. Before doing so, what is the point which Mr. Rajabhoj wanted to make?

श्री पी० एन० राज भोज : मैंने एक शार्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन (short notice question) पूछा था। आपने कहा था कि एडजर्नमेंट मोशन (adjournment motion) नहीं होना चाहिये, शार्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन होना चाहिये। आज तक मुझे उस शार्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन काजवाब नहीं मिला है इसका क्या कारण है ?