

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The Prime Minister did not make that clear in the statement he made. I am not saying it to be critical. I know that anyone in his position must speak with great care. Now I think we have had some clarification of the position.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: When I say we have, I do not say we have pressed for it at this very moment, because we realize that there have been situations in England which require our point of view to be given there rather than in the United States. But we have made it sure that we expect to be represented on the council in the United States if it is finally decided that the council is to continue there.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I would expect that to be about as frank a statement as the Prime Minister could make at the moment, and I have no doubt that in due course, if, as and when it is set up in Washington, Canada will be represented. I should be astonished if it were otherwise, notwithstanding what other people in other countries might say. So much for that. I refer to it in opening because it is the last topic to which the Prime Minister referred.

I hope the people of Canada will give heed to the earlier part of the Prime Minister's address, because I am afraid that even right down to this minute the people of Canada are not awake to the perils of the international situation. I have never felt, all through these two and a half years of war, that the people of Canada realized the immense gravity of this whole terrible situation. As somebody said the other day, the great mass of our people are still movie-minded; and if what the Prime Minister has said, if whatever small amount of power I can get behind whatever I have to say to-day, will bring to the minds of the Canadian people the intense gravity of the situation, then the time spent this afternoon in holding up the item of the Minister of Finance, which I know he is so anxious to get through, will be well worth while.

I will say this. If the speech which the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green) made on Monday evening, and if the request which I made just at the close had the effect of bringing forth the latter part of the Prime Minister's statement, that was worth while too.

I do not have to be convinced about the gravity of the situation. I have tried to urge, with all the power at my command, upon all the Canadian people how grave the situation is. Hon. gentlemen on this side do not have to be sold the idea. I do not think hon. gentlemen on the other side have to be sold the idea of the gravity of the situation. There

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

may be some exceptions; I will not make them this afternoon. But a great many of the Canadian people do not know that there is a war on in the true sense of that term, and if what the Prime Minister said in the early part of his remarks brings home to them just how serious the whole situation is, it is all to the good.

What is the position? Ever since the fall of France the international position has steadily deteriorated until day by day, week by week, month by month the war has been brought nearer to our doors. To-day we are witnessing the spectacle of submarines on the Atlantic coast within sight of land. I am glad the Prime Minister made the statement he did with regard to that—submarines within sight of our own nations blowing up merchant ships. And that might well have happened on the banks of the St. Lawrence. If that be so, I wonder if the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) and other hon. gentlemen I could name will continue in the attitude which they have adopted from time to time in this house. While the actual theatres of war are still far from our shores, the fact of the matter is that the war is coming day by day, week by week, month by month, nearer and nearer to us. That is a truth which I should like to see instilled into the Canadian people this afternoon. I welcome that part of the statement of the Prime Minister if it will have the effect of bringing home to the people that we must have, in truth and in fact, total war preparation in this country, which we have not got to-day.

I am not going to jibe the Prime Minister at this moment, and say that while this is so and while we are all agreed about it, we are pausing to hold a plebiscite. I have said all I want to say about that. Let me add this about the plebiscite, however. If it fails to carry, then a crisis will be precipitated in this country, and God help this country!

I welcome the announcement of the establishment of two new mobile divisions. I welcome and the country will welcome the announcement of the extension of the home war establishment of the air force, because we who have studied the situation have known for a long time of the tragic trend of events in the various theatres of war. We have known for a long time that you cannot win, you cannot defend, you cannot do anything with success unless you have air equipment to fight with. This has been demonstrated so many times. Singapore! Oh, if they had had air defence at Singapore the story might have been different. The more we can get, whether of domestic manufacture or imported it matters not, so long as we can get them, the better. They

must be had. I am wondering if the production of aircraft in Canada is what it ought to be. I should like to see the director of aircraft production in Canada brought before, I will not say the whole parliament, in secret session, but before a select committee of members of this house, and asked to give us the true picture about aeroplane production in the dominion, without let or hindrance. I do not know what he would say. But I do know that certain factories in this country have not been operating on full time, or anything like full time, in aeroplane production. I do not know whose fault it is. I do not know where the lack of coordination is. I have heard stories, and as a lawyer I must characterize them as hearsay, that there is lack of coordination in those corporations which have been set up to supply certain essential parts for our aeroplane production; that there has not been coordination in production in order that the assembly plants may operate on full time. I do not know how much truth there is in it—members of the ministry will know much better than I do—but that is the nasty story that is going around the country and reaches me. I merely mention it in order that the Prime Minister and those around him may give it consideration. I do know that some aeroplane factories in this country are not running full time. They ought to be running twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, because I believe that is the best source of defence material for the allied nations and for Canada as well.

The Prime Minister said a word on reconstruction. He issued a solemn warning to the people of Canada about the conduct of the war. I suspect that the topic of reconstruction was, I will not say an excuse, but an opportunity for him to make the important statement he has made this afternoon. Be that as it may, the question of reconstruction has occupied the attention of this house in recent days, and there are people in this country who are devoting to it a good deal of time and thought. It is a popular topic among the intelligentsia; I understand the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Claxton) journeyed away down to Williams-town the other day, and he gave us some results of his trip down there relating to this matter. I do not want to throw cold water on the enthusiasm of those who are talking of post-war reconstruction; I do not think it is too soon to begin to talk about reconstruction. But what type of blueprint for reconstruction, either at this time or in the immediate future, can this country set up when we do not even know whether we are going to have a country or a constitution to operate?

Mr. RALSTON: Or a post-war period.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Or even a post-war period. After all, when you come down to the final analysis of this whole situation the winning of the war is the only thing that matters now. It is popular among certain classes in this country to cry out, "Oh, you must plan for a new world order." We have all given lip-service to that theory, but what kind of world are we going to have if we do not win this war?

Mr. BRUCE: Slavery.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): If we do not win this war, if Britain falls, if we cannot defend ourselves, if the United States cannot defend us, what kind of order are we going to have in Canada? There is only one answer to that; the Canadian people, irrespective of class, race or creed, must get right behind any and every effort that it is possible to make to win this war. And the government must give the leadership. I think the government is trying to give some leadership. I do not want anyone to believe that I am indulging in carping criticism. But I am glad to have the opportunity to unbosom my soul this afternoon on this matter, because it is borne in upon my conscience that this war situation as it affects Canada, as it affects the united nations certainly, has grown steadily worse. I was almost going to use the language used by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) the other day, that only a miracle can win this war. I do not say that, I say that the united will and purpose of the united nations can win this war if they and we will face the situation realistically. It would be all very well to set up committees on rehabilitation and talk about planned economies for the future if you knew that there was to be a future. But from the bottom of my heart I say to hon. members all over this house, let us win the war, and then see what kind of blueprint the best minds of this country can produce for the post-war period. Let us not be too sure that our opinions of to-day are the best opinions. We may all have to change our views. No nation, none of the united nations, were ever confronted with a situation which seems to change so rapidly, almost overnight. Economic changes will come, but who can say what they will be when the time comes that we can give practical effect to our ideas based on conditions that may then obtain?

When I came into the chamber this afternoon I had no idea of making the statements I have just uttered. I intended to rise to call the attention of the Minister of National War Services (Mr. Thorson) to some changes which I think should be made in the national war regulations. But I have no apology to make to this house or to the Canadian people