

adequate and continuous trained reinforcements. I suggest, therefore, that in order to provide an opportunity for parliament and the country to say whether they approve or disapprove conscription the amendment should be ruled in order. It merely modifies the resolution of the government. It does not negative it entirely; it merely states that we support the government in an efficient war effort but do not approve compulsory service overseas.

If we are deprived of the chance of voting for that amendment, I submit that I for one have had no opportunity to give a clean-cut vote on the question whether or not I am in favour of compulsory service overseas. The only chance I had was provided I was willing to condemn at the same time the voluntary system and say that it had broken down.

Mr. COLDWELL: Before the ruling is given, Mr. Speaker, while I do not agree with the subject matter of the amendment, I submit that the argument put forward by the member for Rosthern (Mr. Tucker) ought to be taken into consideration. I do not believe that any opportunity has been given in this house for members who hold views which are not those of the government to express them in the manner in which we are usually able to express such views, namely by way of motion. I think the argument which the hon. member made in support of the amendment, although I am not in favour of the amendment, is one that is in accordance with the rules of procedure which have been followed in this and in other parliaments for many years, and I submit that, before you give your decision, very careful consideration ought to be given to the representations made by the hon. member for Rosthern.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have listened very carefully to the remarks made by the hon. member for Rosthern, to which I have given due consideration, but I am faced with this fact, that this amendment, substantially if not in exact terms, embodies what was contained in the subamendment moved by Mr. Jean and seconded by Mr. Fauteux and which were as follows:

That all the words of the amendment, after the word reinforcements, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"by using to the best advantage the general service personnel in Canada and the volunteers overseas without resorting to conscription for service overseas."

The gravamen of that amendment is contained in the last seven words: "without resorting to conscription for service overseas."

[Mr. Tucker.]

I have now an amendment which also contains, as I have said, the gravamen of the amendment moved by Mr. Jean, which states "a policy of maintaining an efficient war effort, but does not approve of compulsory service overseas." That amendment was before the house and was discussed by many members including the hon. member for Rosthern. The house decided against the amendment and it did not carry.

I must state to the hon. member for Rosthern that I cannot approve the amendment now moved. I am bound by and must conform to the will of the house as expressed in the vote which it gave on the subamendment of Mr. Jean, a subamendment which embodied almost in exact terms the amendment now moved. For that reason I must rule the amendment out of order, the house having already decided the question.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggar): I wish in a very few words to place before the house an amendment which in my opinion is in order. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has placed on the order paper, and we are discussing to-night, a motion which, as the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Hansell) says, involves the approval by this house of the policies of the government. Now, the Prime Minister in his address to this house on November 27, as reported at page 6608 of *Hansard*, said:

What the government is seeking to-day is not an expression of confidence in all of its policies, but we are asking the house to support the administration in giving effect to what has been decided.

The Prime Minister, however, worded the motion in such a way as to give approval to the policies of the government, and while many of us in this house are in complete accord that we should give all the support we can to any government in power for the successful and vigorous prosecution of this war, we are not in support of all the policies of the government involved in this particular resolution.

The Prime Minister made it very clear that, as far as he was concerned, he was thinking only of this particular matter. But, Mr. Speaker, while members of this house may understand that, and the people of Canada even may understand it at the present time, people in the future will take the wording of the resolution; and, as we have been so frequently told in this house, and quite properly, the written word prevails. So that we shall find that in no far-distant future, as I believe, those of us who might vote for this motion because we believe that we should sup-