

A Message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentlemen Usher of the Black Rod:—

Mr. Speaker,

His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Chamber of the Honourable the Senate.

The House attended accordingly;

And being returned,

Mr. Mackenzie King introduced a Bill, No. 1, An Act respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office, which was read the first time.

Mr. Speaker reported, That when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament, and to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy which he read to the House as follows:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

The war is now in its fifth year. The coming months will witness decisive battles. They will demand a supreme effort on the part of all nations united in the cause of freedom.

It is true that the military situation is better than it was a year ago, and that co-operation among the United Nations is closer than at any time in the past. At Washington, at Quebec, at Moscow, at Cairo and at Teheran, military plans for the coming campaigns were fully co-ordinated. Foundations were also laid for a united approach to the problems of transition from war to peace. The improved military situation does not, however, necessarily mean an early end of the war. Hostilities may continue for a long time in Europe, as well as in the Far East. The German army is still very strong. There are no indications of any general deterioration of German resistance. Germany herself is protected by a vast outwork of conquered territory. She has been fortifying herself against invasion since the beginning of the war. Until the German army has been defeated, the Allied nations cannot count upon an assured victory in Europe. Until the Allied naval forces have grappled successfully with the main Japanese fleet there can be no assurance of an end to the war against Japan. Future operations will involve bitter fighting and heavy losses.

The winning of the war clearly remains the first of all objectives. My ministers believe it is their duty to see that Canada's war effort is firmly maintained until the enemy is defeated in Europe and in Asia. They believe the government's primary task, and the primary duty of the Canadian people is to concentrate on the prosecution of the war. Our fighting men must be assured that there will be no diversion from this vital task and no relaxation of Canada's war effort. Till the war is won, the policies of my government will continue to be shaped to that end.

Our armed forces at sea, on land and in the air have added lustre to the name of Canada. The armed might of the United Nations has been strengthened by Canadian mutual aid. In the combined Allied assault upon the Nazi fortress, all branches of the armed forces will have still heavier responsibilities.