

that might be instituted. This suggestion, together with others, will be referred to the committee of this house to be set up for the purpose of considering the Defence of Canada regulations.

The constitutional responsibility for the internment of enemy aliens rests with the dominion authorities, and the procedure adopted with respect thereto is not applicable to prosecution for subversive activities. The constitutional responsibility for the administration of justice, which includes the enforcement of the present regulations dealing with subversive activities, rests with the provincial authorities, and I feel confident that they will continue to carry out their responsibilities in this respect as they have in the past.

I may say, in view of the fact that a committee of this house is to be set up for the purpose of considering the defence of Canada regulations, that it is my intention to suggest to the committee that it consider, amongst other things, the whole question of the enforcement of the regulations and the procedure therefor.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): I am in receipt of a communication from the mayor of Vancouver which states that there is considerable feeling in that city against enemy aliens and enemy sympathizers. The communication further expresses the fear that unless there is an assurance from the federal government that adequate measures are being taken to cope with subversive activities of such people, citizens may organize for that purpose. Under the circumstances I think a statement from the minister would be useful.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I think, Mr. Speaker, that the statement I have just made largely answers my hon. friend's question. However, I may assure him that the government, through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other agencies, is keeping close supervision on the persons referred to in the telegram from Vancouver. May I note, however, that until a few days ago all the criticisms which I received on behalf of the government as Minister of Justice were to the effect that the defence of Canada regulations were much too arbitrary and severe, and that they should be altered in that respect. Apparently there has been a change in public opinion, and now the criticism is the other way. The whole matter, I am pleased to say, will be considered by a committee of the house. The original intention in appointing the committee was to give an opportunity of expression to those who criticized the regulations because they were too drastic. Apparently now the committee will hear instead those who find the regulations not drastic enough.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Friday, May 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lapointe (Lotbinière) for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am deeply conscious of the responsibilities that devolve upon me at this time. In approaching a discussion of the resolution now before the house I cannot disguise from you, sir, or the members of this house, that my mind, and I hope and trust the mind of each of us, is filled with anxiety over what has taken place on the other side of the ocean during the past few days. I intend to go quite fully into the question of Canada's war effort at a later stage of my remarks; at the moment I desire only to say that I believe we are engaged in a just war. If ever in the history of mankind there was a righteous war it is my firm belief that Canada is now participating in a war of high spiritual values, a war for the preservation of the maximum of individual liberty and indeed for the preservation of our Christian civilization. Because the background and the objects of the war in which we are engaged are of such importance it occurs to me that it is time for clear thinking on the part of each of us; and may I say it is time for reasonably straight talking. This afternoon I shall approach this question from no partisan point of view but rather, I hope, from the point of view of a Canadian national whose country, together with that of our gallant allies, is confronted with one of the greatest problems of our time.

First, however, there are some things which it is customary to say on this occasion. Already, Mr. Speaker, reference has been made to your election, and you will pardon me if I do not repeat now what I said previously. We all wish you well in the discharge of your public duties.

I come now to a brief consideration of the speeches we heard on Friday last. I am sure the two young gentlemen who distinguished themselves on that occasion will pardon me if I do not follow all the ramifications of their addresses. I want to congratulate them both, particularly on the composure they displayed in addressing this house for the first time. I confess to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members of this house, that it was a long time before I caught the atmosphere of this chamber to an equal degree, if I ever did, and I have heard other hon. members, some of whom have taken prominent parts in the