

As hon. members know, the resolution under debate precedes an appropriation bill which will provide \$1,300,000,000 for war purposes during the next fiscal year which ends March 31, 1942, and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) stated that even this sum might not be sufficient. This amounts to over three and one-half million dollars a day. But the minister went on to warn us that he would require \$400,000,000 for the repatriation of Canadian government securities held in the United Kingdom, the money to be spent in financing United Kingdom purchases in Canada. This means more than an additional one million dollars a day for the period of the next fiscal year. Then the minister went on to warn us further—and he was quite right in doing so—that we would require \$433,000,000 for dominion non-war expenditures, which again means over one million dollars a day. This makes a total of over five and one-half million dollars a day to be paid by way of taxes or loans to the Canadian government by the Canadian people. Then, as a final blow, the minister said that the provinces and municipalities will require from the Canadian people another \$575,000,000. All this constitutes a very, very severe test for the Canadian people. It means sacrifices, great sacrifices; it means a lowering, and probably a drastic lowering, of the standard of living of our people.

So much for the situation here at home. Now let us look abroad. A few weeks ago Hitler and Mussolini held a conference; they seem to be holding more conferences now that things are not going quite so well for them. From this conference there came to the peoples of the world, and in particular to the people of the British empire, this message: "The world stands on the brink of historic events. We will bring the British empire to destruction in 1941." Let there be no mistake about what we face, we who belong to the British empire. Just four days ago, when the house reassembled, our own Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) warned us most clearly and quite properly of probable German and Japanese attacks. Then he used these words, which appear at page 809 of *Hansard*:

In the present circumstances it is more than ever necessary to steel our hearts and minds to the magnitude of the effort, and of the sacrifice, that will be demanded of us over a considerable period of time and, in a special measure, throughout the next few months.

There can be no doubt whatever that the Canadian people are about to go through a very, very severe testing time, probably the most severe in the history of Canada. I hasten to say that I believe Canada will come safely through that test and will emerge

[Mr. Green.]

a finer nation, principally because of the courage, the faith and the good sense of Canadian men and women. But nothing would be of greater help to the Canadian people than that we, their representatives, chosen less than a year ago, should so carry on that they may have the utmost confidence in the Canadian parliament. Far more confidence in parliament is necessary now than in peace time. Our problem in this House of Commons, and the problem of the ministry, is to gain the complete confidence of the Canadian people.

We have just returned from our constituencies. I have just returned from the Pacific coast. We have been in touch with the people we represent; we have been in touch with the nation, and I doubt whether any member of this house would deny that at the moment neither the House of Commons nor the ministry enjoys the complete confidence of the people. Certainly they do not enjoy any more than the confidence which normally would be felt in a peace-time government; and that, Mr. Speaker, is not enough under present conditions.

Mr. MUTCH: It is not true, either.

Mr. GREEN: It may not be in your riding, but I am doubtful.

Mr. BRADETTE: It is not in mine, either.

Mr. GREEN: Why should that be? I believe that the private members who, after all, are the back-bone of this house, are striving to give the type of leadership required, and I know they are capable of doing it. But we are so organized here, we have been handed down such a parliamentary organization, that it is very difficult to gain the complete confidence of our people at this time. They, the Canadian people, realize the awful crisis facing them. The Minister of Finance put it clearly when he said on Tuesday, as reported at page 824 of *Hansard*:

We are asking the house for this appropriation because we recognize the fact that probably this will be the most critical year in the history of civilization.

Yes, "in the history of civilization"—and he is quite correct. Our people realize the situation; they realize they are facing a crisis. They know it, because they are sending away their sons, their husbands, their brothers and sweethearts. And, saddest of all, children are sending away their fathers.

The Canadian people have always been somewhat distrustful of political parties, as such—and of all shades. That includes the Conservative party, to which I belong, as well as the other parties represented in the house.