

our sovereign independent status, in which is included the right, and the fullest right, of neutrality. That has always been my view, and it still is. Now the hon. member said that that was a declaration of policy. The way in which my hon. friend argues is this. He said that the declaration was a declaration of policy of a position which might arise--a declaration of policy on a position which might arise. Eventually he came to this, that it means that it was a policy seeing that eventually we shall have to decide when the time comes. I would like to know whether there is any other country anywhere in the world which has any other policy, which decides beforehand that if war breaks out between two parties, it is going to take part.

Mr. COULTER: We are part of the Empire.

The PRIME MINISTER: This interruption only shows the amount of prejudice which lies at the bottom of this whole thing. "We are part of the Empire". I thought that it would convey to a legal mind when the question is put, and the question should arise, what authority is there, where is that Empire authority--is there an empire state anywhere, and if there is no empire state with empire authority, then please tell me how can we deal with it?

Mr. COULTER: There is a British Empire left.

The PRIME MINISTER: Do not let us play with words. I am speaking now about an empire which is a state authority or entity. Where is that entity, where is that authority by mouth of whom or through whom it will declare its desires?

Mr. COULTER: We are represented by one King.

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