

trying to oppose the government by moving an amendment, and the Prime Minister holds out his arms and catches the ball and says, "It is mine too." That is the situation. No wonder we find it more and more difficult to see the difference between these two parties. Throughout this session, on the matter of secret sessions and other questions as well, the C.C.F. party may be justifiably suspected as regards their relationship with the government and the party in power.

I should have liked to go farther and say more, but I will make only one further observation before I sit down. In so far as the government accepting the amendment and adopting it as their policy, that this house will aid the government in maintaining a vigorous war effort, I believe the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart stands indicted before the public to-day by virtue of this fact, if for nothing else, he is admitting that the government has had a vigorous war effort and that we should maintain it from now on. We do not subscribe to the statement that it is sufficiently or all-out. More than that, we have not confidence in the government to carry it out, nor have the people of Canada. I say to the Prime Minister in no vindictive or bitter spirit, for after all these are not days for that sort of thing—

An hon. MEMBER: Do not forget that this is your birthday.

Mr. GRAYDON: That is true; and perhaps it may change things a little. But I say to the Prime Minister, calmly and with all the sincerity I can command, that while he may be able to command a vote of confidence from the mechanical majority of the House of Commons—

An hon. MEMBER: Order.

Mr. GRAYDON: Surely there is nothing wrong with that; I am using the exact words the Prime Minister used when the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett was in power, so that I do not think I can be criticized for that expression. May I proceed?

Even with a mechanical majority behind him, the Prime Minister has had to call this parliament together, not to get our party to vote confidence in him, not to get a vote of confidence from the C.C.F. or the Social Credit or any other party on this side of the house, for the Prime Minister made it very clear in his speech that, as he said in effect, "unless I can get a substantial support from my own people in this parliament I do not feel as though I want to carry on." There, I think, is the kernel of the truth. This parliament was actually brought together for the purpose

of getting the Liberal party together in order that there should be a prosecution of the war effort on this basis.

I shall not say anything further on that subject at the present time. I only desire to add this, to make clear our position as a party, that we have not confidence in the Prime Minister nor have the people of Canada confidence in him. Having regard to that, we cannot support an amendment such as this, because it is tantamount to a government amendment moved by the Prime Minister through the lips of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart.

Mr. COLDWELL: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. GRAYDON: I do not suggest that it was intentionally so.

Mr. COLDWELL: I am glad of that.

Mr. GRAYDON: I am not suggesting that, but I ask not to be interrupted until I get through. I say to the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart that it was not in my mind that I should accuse him of having conspired with the Prime Minister to move that amendment. As a matter of fact, he has gotten now so close to the government that he does not have to conspire; they just work together. The position in which we find ourselves now is that we must vote against this amendment because it has now been adopted by the government and in effect it is the same as the Prime Minister's motion. We cannot vote confidence in a government which, if I may say so, has lost the confidence of the people—perhaps not of this house, with its mechanical majority which does not reflect the opinions of the people of Canada. But we cannot vote confidence in a government or a Prime Minister who has lost the confidence of the Canadian people.

Mr. S. H. KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): I desire to make a few remarks in reply to the hon. member for Richelieu-Verchères (Mr. Cardin) and the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon). First of all, may I remind the house of what we of this group have endeavoured to do since the main motion was made by the Prime Minister on November 27. We took the view then, and still hold the view, that the motion as placed on the order paper by the Prime Minister was—to be polite—meaningless. We think it was perhaps something else, and what we have in mind was pretty well characterized earlier this evening by the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Hansell).

Feeling that the motion was not a fair one to ask this house to vote upon after having been called together from all over the country,