

I desire to pay a tribute to the British people, who have brought to mankind the vision of a better world. The blood, the tears, the toil, the stout determination of the men, women and children of Great Britain have opened an era of heroism and restored to the world the common ideals of free people. Their sacrifices will spare us many of their sufferings. They have shown us that a democracy can survive, that it can secure from its citizens a supreme and constant devotion, and that it can also create a world better than any system wherein the cost of material progress is the degradation of human mind. And the intrepid leader of that people, Winston Churchill, is the living symbol of the unity of the democracies, a unity which constitutes the strongest hope of mankind. All praise to that people so fiercely proud of its traditions and of its liberty! All praise as well to those Frenchmen who have so proudly shed their blood in defence of their freedom! Their country, their noble country, has fallen, but we refuse to believe that their soul is dead. I shall simply repeat to them the words of the right hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe): "You have not only our affection, but our support", and those of that great Frenchman, Gambetta, regarding the future of France: "Think of it always, speak of it never."

I am not one of those who, gulled by nazi propaganda, believe that the totalitarian system is necessarily more efficient and can easily dominate the democratic regimes. It would be foolish to deny the extraordinary power of the German military machine, but its ruthless efficiency is no proof of the strength of the totalitarian regimes or of the weakness of the democracies. Let the latter never forget the resistance opposed by one small nation against more than a hundred million aggressors prepared by twenty-two years of totalitarianism. The sole effect of the totalitarian system is to stamp out all sense of humanity. The triumphant barbarism which brought Germany within an ace of victory will assuredly lead it to a defeat from which it will never recover.

I also wish to say a word about the agreement concluded between Great Britain and the United States. This agreement is the most significant and noteworthy event in Anglo-American history. It constitutes a tangible proof that these two nations are living on good terms with each other and are working out together in brotherly fashion the solution of the military and naval problems of their common defence. May I express my gratitude to my leader who has always wholeheartedly sought to cultivate and

develop this spirit of cooperation and good understanding with our neighbours to the south. Canada has become an indissoluble link of better understanding and cordiality between the British Empire and the United States. The noble task of consolidating between the British and the Americans the strongest and most durable friendship in the history of nations is an ideal, a summit which we shall reach through unwavering loyalty to Great Britain and acts of respectful friendship towards the United States. It goes without saying that when countries have common interests to defend their first act is to study their common interests and problems together and to divide the responsibilities between them. The speeches delivered during the recent presidential election campaign in the United States have clearly shown us that the soul of the American people is with us in the struggle we have undertaken for freedom and independence. Though we are neighbours, we live in the same house. The agreement in question assures us that all the doors of our house will be closed to the plunderers of nations.

I still have a tribute to pay, a tribute owed to the citizens of Canada, to the members of this house and to the Government for the wonderful *esprit de corps* and the complete cooperation which they manifested on the occasion of the national registration. This same spirit of Christian and patriotic abnegation has showed itself every day in the application of the National Mobilization Act. Canada is marching loyally with its sister nations. No nation with so generous a soul can perish, however hard the trial.

(Text) As we enter upon this new session, Mr. Speaker, every one realizes that it will be one of the most momentous in the whole history of the Dominion of Canada, and no one is more conscious of the tremendous responsibility that rests upon his shoulders than the private member. It would be idle for me to take up the time of this house in an effort to review the events which have taken place in Europe and their significance to Canada.

Since the fall of France, when the whole world seemed on the verge of collapse, a new world has arisen stronger and more determined than ever. It is our foremost duty to keep it as such and never to relax our efforts. We are fully confident that the Canadian people are doing all that is possible, but our enthusiasm has led us to wonder if we should not now attempt the impossible. Before Dunkirk it was thought impossible to evacuate in a few days from a half shattered harbour more than 30,000 men. The optimists said that 50,000 might be evacuated.