

command. I have made it the supreme endeavour of my public life to let no hasty or premature decision create mistrust and division between the different elements that compose the population of our vast country. Constantly before me has been the determination that, as far as it lay in my power, our national effort should be marked by unity of purpose, of heart and of endeavour. Canada cannot fail to assume her share in defending the freedom of humanity. I am confident and the government are unanimous in sharing my conviction that the Canadian people will face the national sacrifice with the courage and mutual understanding which has preserved our unity in the past, and that our voluntary effort as a free people will strengthen the bonds which unite us.

I come now to a review of the steps which have already been taken by the government in advance of the meeting of Parliament. The paramount duty of the government is to insure the defence of the people of Canada and the integrity of Canadian territory. As I stated in my radio address on Sunday last, "to be helpful to others, we must ourselves be strong, secure, and united". The obligation to put our defences in readiness could not await the meeting of Parliament.