

I can imagine what would be said by some hon. members opposite, and indeed by many hon. members on this side of the House as well, if, with Parliament in session, and before acquainting hon. members ~~of this House of Commons~~ with the decision of the government, I were to sign an order-in-council putting into effect conscription for service overseas, and immediately thereafter were to come to this House and inform hon. members of the action the government had already taken.

*sh*

I intend, therefore, if the time should come when the government, acting in accordance with its judgment of the needs of the situation, decides that it has become necessary to send overseas men ~~raised by the compulsory method~~ who have not volunteered for general service, and I should be in office at the time, to ask my colleagues to join me in seeing that parliament is immediately informed of the government's decision. If parliament is not in session, I <sup>would</sup> ~~should~~ <sup>do</sup> ~~xxx~~ whatever lies within my power, to see that parliament is informed as soon as possible after the decision has been reached. ] [ I intend, at the same time, to see that, before the administration assumes the additional responsibility of enforcing its decision, honourable members are given an opportunity, not for any second debate on the question of ~~a~~ conscription, but of expressing their confidence or want of confidence in the administration.