

of Parliament. I do not believe there is any other political party in Canada, or any combination of political parties, in which, from the very beginning of the war, the people of this country have had a comparable degree of confidence. Were I to announce tonight that I had asked for an immediate dissolution of Parliament, to decide the question of confidence in the administration, there would be, throughout Canada, not rejoicing, but consternation.

Parallel of political situation with that of 1940.

In 1939, the war had scarcely begun before we were told that our administration, which had been in office since 1935, no longer enjoyed the confidence of the Canadian people. We were told that a so-called national government, not a party government, was what the country required at a time of war. We were told that our war effort was not adequate. Of myself, it was said that, while I might be all right as a leader of the government, in times of peace, I was not the one to lead a government at a time of war. That was what our political opponents said. What did the Canadian people say? What was the national verdict when the appeal was made to the electorate in March of 1940? Not only was the government returned to office, but every member of the administration was re-elected.