

Jaques	Nicholson
Johnston (Bow River)	Noseworthy
Knowles	Perley
Kuhl	Quelch
Lockhart	Ross (Souris)
McGregor	Shaw
MacInnis	Wright—33.
Marshall	

Mr. L. PHILIPPE PICARD (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I made my position clear on this issue when I spoke on November 30, and I do not need to explain it to-night. Nor do I intend to answer the criticism of the stand which some of us have taken that was made by the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Dorion), because I am willing to let the matter stand and have the people judge on the record of my votes and speeches in this house.

At another stage of these proceedings, however, I moved a subamendment, which was declared out of order. Later on, one was moved by the hon. member for Mercier (Mr. Jean), and in the discussion which followed arguments were made by certain hon. members that the subamendment proposed by the hon. member for Mercier might not be as clear as they wanted it. Other statements were made to the effect that the wording of the amendment might becloud the issue. Therefore, to clarify the position of those who have supported all the war effort excepting bill 80 and order in council 8891 I now move, seconded by the hon. member for Rosthern (Mr. Tucker).

That all the words of the motion after the word "in" in the first line thereof be struck out and the following words substituted therefor:

"a policy of maintaining an efficient war effort but does not approve of compulsory service overseas."

Mr. SPEAKER: This amendment is like those I have already ruled out.

Mr. TUCKER: Mr. Speaker, may I speak before you give your decision?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. TUCKER: I suggest to Your Honour that the official opposition have been permitted to place their views in the form of an amendment before the house and the country and to vote on it, on a stand of total conscription. The government's policy, as I understand it, is one of limited conscription. If to the main motion of the government, possibly a policy of limited conscription, an amendment advocating total conscription is in order, surely an amendment which opposes conscription altogether should be equally in order; because, once all amendments have been disposed of, surely we have as many rights in this house as the

official opposition or Progressive Conservative party. I submit to Your Honour that all we are advocating here is so to modify the declared policy of the government in this resolution as to say that we are not favourable to approving compulsory service overseas.

With regard to Your Honour's suggestion that you cannot approve and reprobate at the same time; as I have always understood amendments, if they were a complete negative they would not be good amendments. To be a good amendment, an amendment must accept part of the motion and modify it by adding to it or subtracting from it in some way. That, I submit, is in a sense approbating and reprobating at the same time. I submit, as regards this amendment, that this is the first time anyone in this house has had a chance to commit himself definitely on the question whether he is against conscription or for conscription for overseas service. It might be said that the amendment of the hon. member for Mercier (Mr. Jean) gave that opportunity. That subamendment was based upon the premise of the Progressive Conservatives that the voluntary system had broken down, because it reads like this: "That this house is of the opinion that the government has not made certain of adequate and continuous reinforcements" by doing so-and-so and so-and-so. That subamendment, therefore, was based upon the thesis that the voluntary system had not provided adequate and continuous trained reinforcements. Now, not believing that the voluntary system as handled by this government has failed to provide adequate and continuous trained reinforcements, I could not vote for that subamendment because, had I done so, I would have been voting for something which I did not believe.

I do not believe that the voluntary system did break down, and that is why this amendment to the main motion has been moved. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I appeal to this house. It was definitely laid before the people of the country that before this policy of conscription for overseas service should be imposed there would be a chance for this parliament to pronounce upon it, and I say that if this amendment is ruled out of order no opportunity will have been given for the house to pronounce unequivocally whether it is in favour of compulsory service for overseas or not, because the only time that compulsory service for overseas was mentioned it was introduced as an addition to something which the official opposition moved and which stated a position which I did not believe in and which I do not think the majority of the house believed in, namely, that this government had failed to provide