

and this is the place for me to get the information I want to prove my case, not out on the hustings where the ministers will simply deny that the facts are there.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Then my hon. friend is making his assertions without any proof?

Mr. MANION: I have plenty of proof. If the right hon. gentleman will allow the session to go over until next week; if he will go back to his early affirmations of fair dealing and democratic principles which he used to talk so much about all across this country, and will live up to them this session, I will give him evidence in support of all the statements I have made.

I have nothing more to say. If it is the decision of the Prime Minister to dissolve the house to-night, we shall leave it in the mouths of the people to say which party they want to govern them and to carry on Canada's war effort. I venture to make this prophecy. In view of the unpreparedness of the government, in view of its weak war effort, and in view of the attempt of this government to put over this piece of trickery on a snap decision—I beg pardon, Mr. Speaker, for using the word "trickery," but I cannot think of any other word to express my opinion—in view of the government's act to-day in trying to bring about a snap decision without the members of this house being given a fair opportunity to get the information they seek and to discuss that information here in this house, I am convinced that not only the Prime Minister but his government will be swept out of power and some other group will be put in power to carry on the affairs of this country and Canada's war effort.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Speaker,—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would draw the attention of the hon. member and of the house to the fact that the motion before the house is not debatable, and the hon. member can proceed only with the unanimous consent of the house. Has the hon. member the unanimous consent of the house?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on the point of order I submit that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) was out of order in making his statement, as was also the leader of the opposition (Mr. Manion), but I urge

that it does not require the unanimous consent of the house to give a member of parliament the right to speak in a situation of this kind.

Almost for the first time in my political life I find myself very nearly in complete agreement with the leader of the opposition, not because he is a Conservative, but because I believe that in this regard he is standing for the fundamental rights of parliament and the fundamental principles of democracy. No word is more frequently in the mouth of the Prime Minister than that phrase of his, "parliament will decide", the words, "the rights of the people", and "democracy"; and yet to-day, in my humble judgment at any rate, he is violating the fundamental principles of both. It is not a question whether we are to have an election or not; under our constitution it is for him to decide; but it is a question as to the manner in which it shall be done, and the time.

The Prime Minister suddenly springs upon us the proposal of an election within a few weeks. We do not know whether this means that the voice of this parliament will be absolutely stifled. At the moment we do not know. We do know, however, that the Prime Minister has made a first-class political speech. He has thrown out the general idea of unemployment insurance. Some of us in this corner have been talking about unemployment insurance for years and have been unable to get the government to move. They have raised all sorts of constitutional objections. But now the suggestion is made that it may possibly come to pass—fine political propaganda but no legislation whatever.

We are told that we may have after-war problems to discuss and the government must have time to consider that question. The time to consider after-war problems is now, in this parliament, instead of giving a blank cheque to a government that has not shown itself particularly in favour of the common people of the country. I wonder whether the government has been so long in office and has got so far away from the people that it does not understand the hardships that are being endured by many Canadians to-day. When you come into the city of Ottawa, as I did yesterday morning, you meet soldiers and officials of every kind at every turn, and where you do not find officials you find people hunting for jobs. Does the government quite realize the position of the ordinary people of the country?

I do not say that under the circumstances under which an election is to be carried on this government is bound to be defeated, but