

~~Draft~~ <sup>10/2</sup>

D29299

Parliament prorogued in June at a time when the Canadian people, by the universal warmth of their reception of the King and Queen, were giving a striking demonstration of national unity. At that time we still hoped that peace might be preserved. The world was still in a troubled state and we were all aware that, at any moment, our nation might be called upon to face the greatest of all tests - the terrific test of war.

The time of testing has come. All efforts to maintain peace in the world have failed and the representatives of the Canadian people are assembled today in Parliament to determine Canada's course in the hour of crisis.

I shall not detain the House long with a review of the efforts which have been made to preserve the peace or with an account of the measures which it has been necessary to take to prepare us to meet the risk of failure in the task of maintaining peace. I need not remind Honourable Members that the shadow of impending conflict has, in recent years, never completely lifted.

When the present government took office, Canada had already been committed to the imposition of economic sanctions against Italy. The government realized the