

Re: Responsibility to Parliament
Revised by Prime Minister
July 6, 1942

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When, however, hon. members speak of coming again to parliament, some appear to have one thing in mind; and others quite another.

All are agreed that the present bill, if enacted, will give to the government the power to make conscription applicable to service ^{outside Canada} ~~overseas~~, but only whenever ^{and to whatever extent} in the judgment of the government ~~that it~~ is necessary and advisable. Some contend that should the government decide

that conscription for overseas service has become necessary and advisable, the government should ^{before any action is taken} ~~then introduce~~ further legislation making mandatory the introduction of conscription, ^{announce its decision to parliament, and at that time by further legislation} ~~thereby~~ ^{define the terms and conditions of such service, or at least} permit a second debate on the question of its

immediate application. ^{There are} Others do not advocate a second debate on conscription, ^{with less further legislation} but maintain that a due recognition of the Ministry's responsibility to parliament demands that, as soon as possible after the government's decision has been reached, it should be communicated to parliament, and before effect is given thereto, that opportunity should be given hon. members for an expression of their views.

In setting forth the reasons why, in removing the limitation in the Mobilization Act with respect to service outside Canada, the government had not proceeded by stages, I made the statement that such a course would not have met the purposes of the plebiscite as outlined in the Speech from