

Parliament. I prophesy that six of the constituencies in that province will give a majority in favour of releasing the Government from its commitments, and that the other eleven will vote the other way. Furthermore, I am persuaded that those six seats will give an overriding majority in favour of releasing the Government. To whom is the Prime Minister going to listen when the legislation is brought into Parliament? Is it reasonable to suppose that the eleven elected representatives are going to vote to release the Prime Minister from his pledge? I think we ought to know what is to be the effect of the release, and by what standard the Prime Minister will decide whether he is released or not. I think we are entitled to that information.

Further, let us assume for the moment that I am the Conservative member for Souris in the House of Commons, and that the east half of that constituency gives me a majority of five hundred, whereas the west half registers an adverse majority of four hundred. Suppose the people in the part of the constituency that gave me my majority voted to say, "No, we will not release the Prime Minister," and the majority of those in the other part were in favour of releasing him. To whom is he going to listen? Surely the people are entitled to know by what method the Government is going to decide whether that vote is affirmative or negative.

Suppose—I am not suggesting for a moment that this will be the case—but suppose the Maritime Provinces and Quebec vote solidly against releasing the Government, and Ontario and the Western Provinces vote solidly in favour of releasing it, and that in the total there is a small majority of the people who are in favour of release, what is the Government going to do? When the Government brings down the bill we should have that information. We are entitled to it. Then the people will know how they are voting.

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE: Why can we not have the information now?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I do not know whether the right honourable the leader can give us that information. I doubt that he has it himself.

To continue: What will happen to the man in the street or the man on the farm when he comes to vote? Some people tell me, and I imagine it is true, that every honourable senator on the other side and every Government member in the other Chamber will go out to the highways and by-ways and tell the people what they are voting for. I think that while telling the people they are voting on the question of releasing the Government, they should also tell them what to expect if the

Hon. Mr. HAIG.

Government is released. I do not believe anybody appearing before a public meeting can get away without answering the question: "If we vote in favour of releasing the Government from its pledge, what is Mr. King going to do?"

If I were in favour of conscription I would vote in favour of releasing the Government; if I were opposed to conscription I would vote against releasing the Government; and I suggest to honourable members that the man in the street and the man on the farm will do likewise. They will not make any fine distinction. You cannot mislead the ordinary people of this country. They are not going to listen to Mr. Godbout's promises. They are going to ask, "If Mr. King does not want to bring in conscription, why does he hold a plebiscite now?" I think that if you go to the man on the land and talk with him, the conversation will be somewhat like this: You will ask him, "Are you going to vote?" He will reply, "I think I will." If you ask, "Are you in favour of releasing the Government?" he will say, "What does that mean?" When you tell him, "That means that you leave it to the Government," he will inquire, "Does that mean the Government will give us conscription or not?" You may then say: "I don't know, but in the past Mr. King has never given you conscription. Can you not depend on that?" His reply will be: "No, sir. I have a big farm and I have only one boy to help me work it. I am going to vote against releasing the Government." Do you think that the people who are against conscription are going to vote for release? No, they are not; it is those who are in favour of conscription who are going to vote to release the Government.

Someone said the other day that the vote on the plebiscite would be a vote of confidence in the Government. If I am in favour of conscription I am going to vote in favour of release; if I am not, I am going to vote against it; but whichever way my vote goes it will not be a vote of confidence. I am persuaded that the men and women of Canada who will vote "Yes" believe the Government should have the power to enact conscription, and that those who do not believe it should have that power will vote "No." Furthermore, I believe that all the arguments of distinguished men on either side will not change the fundamental issue. It is my experience of politics that the people know pretty well what the issue is. In an election you can sometimes have a platform of five or ten planks, some of which will be objected to in one part and approved in another; but on this occasion there will be only one issue. The men to