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JOHN H. PRICE,
QUEBEC,
CANADA.

June 5, 1940.

My dear Senator,

I have been away for the last ten days and so have had no opportunity to answer your kind letter of May 27th.

My own conception of the service I might render is in more of a military way than anything else. We had hoped very much at the beginning of the war that we would have been allowed to mobilize our local English-speaking regiment, The Royal Rifles of Canada, which is one of the oldest regiments in Canada, with a fine history. However, the policy of the Government seems to have been to raise purely French-Canadian units in this district, outside of a couple of anti-tank batteries which are small affairs, and, consequently, many of our young English boys have been left in the air with nothing to do, which displeases them very much.

Many of us have been to Ottawa, assuring the authorities that we will be prepared to stand behind the mobilization of such a regiment and see that it is amply supplied with recruits and properly officered.

In the meantime, in company with others, I have been instrumental in organizing voluntary courses for reserve officers to brush up in their military information and, at the moment, some of us are engaged in studying the possibility of the promotion of a voluntary body of men who would train at their own expense so that at least they would be available for defence or other purposes should any necessity arise.

5/ One of the problems is how to secure arms for such a body and we are about to talk to the military authorities with a view to securing a supply of Ross rifles which we understand are stored in thousands at the Lindsay Armoury. It would be helpful to have some assurance as to whether our information is correct about these Ross rifles and I would be grateful to you if you could secure this information for me.

In my own job, I have considerable responsibilities in the production of various wood products for the British Government and, to that extent, it could be said that I am doing some kind of national service. However, my own urge, being an old soldier, is to become connected with the military effort but it would not be quite fair of me, with my present responsibilities, to leave this job unless I was to proceed overseas. In other words, I see no purpose to be served in being sent to some military job in Canada which could be filled by other people who would be as fully qualified as I am to administer internal military affairs.

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