

In my speech of September 8, 1939, as recorded on page 48 of *Hansard*, I warned the government that to conscript man-power without first conscripting finance and industry, or to conscript any one of the three without conscripting the other two, would bring about injustices, discrimination and class distinction which would result in "inequality, disaster and chaos." I had the impression that cabinet ministers and members of parliament generally disregarded my warning; treated it lightly.

Well, now the troubles are here and the end is not yet. Not yet has the full impact of Canada's colossal war debt been realized by Canadians. Not yet has it been borne in upon them how onerous will be the taxation structure once war expenditures cease. Not yet have many realized how destructive of Canadian freedom will be found the degree of centralization and bureaucratic control which have resulted from the government's financial and industrial policies. Not yet have Canadians even dimly visualized the intensity of the bitterness of disillusionment which our boys will experience when, after their return from the war zones, they will find how helpless the government, using the present system, will be to give them fitting rewards for their services rendered. When these dreadful things, looming in the future, become realities, then will be discovered the ominous portent of the words I used in my speech of September 8, 1939.

By conscription of finance I did not mean taking over the banks of the country by the government, or the seizing of the savings of the people. I meant that the dominion government should conscript or take away from the banking fraternity the power and function of creating the money, rendered possible by Canada's capacity to produce and to deliver goods and services to the extent of which she is capable. Exercising this power the government could have dealt with our debt problem without injury to Canada's economy, and could have mobilized industry far more effectively than it has now been mobilized, could have left that industry in the hands of private enterprise, and could have had that industry strong to sustain the shocks of the aftermath of war. Wielding the power of finance, the government could have guaranteed our boys, in return for their services, such rewards as would have impelled every eligible man or woman to seek enrolment in the armed services of Canada. Thus could conscription of man-power have been arrived at by an indirect method—the method of inducement by rewards—far more effectively and happily than it has been accomplished by the government's

[Mr. Blackmore.]

indirect method, the method of coercion through the use of law, restriction, and economic pressure.

This picture, of which I have endeavoured to give a faint glimpse, could have been realized if wisdom had prevailed in high places in Canada in 1939. When I reflect upon the happiness, the unity, the hope, which could have filled the hearts of Canadians, even through these days of universal mourning, I find it exceedingly difficult to be calm. I find it exceedingly difficult to vote confidence in an administration consisting of men who callously and stubbornly refused even to consider the possibilities of a better way of life for our Canadian people. In fact, I cannot and will not at the present time vote confidence in this government. Nevertheless, for reasons which I have already indicated, I must vote for the government's resolution to support the use of compulsion, if necessary, in sending overseas 16,000 men of the N.R.M.A.

Mr. DANIEL McIVOR (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I think we have had enough speeches to-day to last us for a long time. I believe the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) should be allowed to close this debate. It is not our business to have to sit here and listen to men read at least part of their speeches. We have not had very much that is new to-night, and I think it would be in order at this sweet hour of the morning for the Prime Minister now to close the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mackenzie King moves, seconded by Mr. Crerar:

That this house will aid the government in its policy of maintaining a vigorous war effort.

To which Mr. Coldwell moves, seconded by Mr. Gillis:

That the motion be amended by deleting the words "its policy of".

So that the motion as amended will read:

That this house will aid the government in maintaining a vigorous war effort.

The house is voting on the amendment. If the amendment carries it will then be added to the motion and then the debate will follow on the motion as amended, upon which a vote may be recorded. The question therefore is on the amendment.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried. Carried.

Mr. FOURNIER (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): No, no. Mr. Speaker, we should follow the regular procedure, and you should continue on, saying, "Those opposed will say 'nay', and then we will see what is to happen.