

crisis in the world's history, the administration, subject only to its responsibility to parliament, should possess complete freedom to act in accordance with its judgment of the needs of the situation as they may arise.

As to the importance to be attached to the words "subject only to its responsibility to parliament" as they appear in the Speech from the Throne, there may well be differences of view. The responsibility of the Ministry to parliament would be the same whether these words were there or not. Their presence in the Speech would seem, however, to endow them with special significance.

How important may be the significance to be attached to them, each hon. member will necessarily decide for himself. For myself, and in this I speak only for myself, holding the views I do, and the views I have always held concerning the responsibility of the Executive to parliament, I do not believe that this House of Commons would feel it had been shown the degree of confidence it had a right to expect from the Ministry, if, in a matter of so great concern to the whole of Canada, the government <sup>were to</sup> act before so important a decision had been made known to the House.

While it is true that if the present bill becomes law, the administration will possess complete freedom to act in accordance with its judgment of the needs of the situation as they may arise subject only to its responsibility to parliament,