

times exercise the utmost tolerance towards those who do not always think as we do. I should like to see this question approached, as I am sure it will be, in a spirit of tolerance, which is becoming not only in time of war but to us as a great people in time of peace as well. I make this plea to the House of Commons because it is my heartfelt view that if there is one thing we need more than another at this time, it is not the presupposition of differences but emphasis laid upon tolerance and upon the fact that all of us are Canadians.

And so I come to this point. We have not won this war yet. The spirit of optimism which seems to have gripped the united nations may become a dangerous optimism unless we as a people understand how to deal with the present situation. While there is every reason perhaps to feel optimistic, nevertheless the fiercest challenge, so far as bloody hostilities are concerned, still lies before us. I have this feeling, and it has become more pronounced since I have sat in this seat as leader of the opposition during this session. I feel that the less we deal in national differences, in partisan differences and all those things that might perhaps divide us and divert our attention from the great object of winning the war the better, and we should frown upon them as members of parliament no matter to what party we may belong. There should be no narrow views and no narrow partisanship in time of war. I do not say that lightly, because, Mr. Speaker, and this house must recognize it, in the performance of its duty as a critic of the government His Majesty's Loyal Opposition sometimes finds it difficult, as an opposition in war time does, to know when to praise and when to strike. But whether it be praise or whether it be criticism, so far as His Majesty's Loyal Opposition is concerned, the praise is praise in the national interest and the criticism is criticism in the national interest, and no other factor must be involved. That is carrying out, as I see it, our duties as members of a war-time parliament. True, we are all prone to err. As someone has said, to err is human, to forgive divine. But it does seem to me that in a war-time period such as this we have a bounden duty to the Canadian people to make sure that whatever utterances we make and whatever action we take in this house shall be directed to the one supreme objective of the better and more comprehensive prosecution of our part in winning this war. So I say to the government and to Your Honour that there have been many times when criticism from these benches has been

[Mr. Graydon.]

severe. It has been severe for the purpose of trying to effect necessary reforms in the government's policy. We have endeavoured as much as possible not to criticize for criticism's sake alone.

Having stated our position in this regard, it seems to me that despite the arguments of the minister in developing his reasons for bringing forward this amendment of the British North America Act, we must keep one thing closely in mind in connection with a matter of this kind, namely that we are experiencing war-time conditions of a strange and abnormal character. The resolution includes these paragraphs:

And whereas the effect of enlistment in the armed forces of Canada and of employment in the production of munitions of war has been to remove large numbers of the population from their homes to serve in and with such armed forces either in other parts of Canada or overseas or to reside temporarily in other parts of Canada;

And whereas experience has shown that such readjustment may give rise to sharp differences of opinion as to the appropriate delimitation of electoral divisions, which differences it is most desirable to avoid while Canada continues at war;

And whereas in these circumstances it does not now seem desirable that readjustment of representation on the basis of the census of 1941 should have to be made during the continuance of the hostilities in which Canada is now engaged, . . .

Herein is contained, I think, the main argument for the measure which is proposed. Had it not been that the minister has inserted in his remarks matters which I regard as totally irrelevant, I would have made my remarks on behalf of the Progressive Conservative party very much briefer than I have been able to do. We recognize the vast changes which have taken place and the abnormal movements of population throughout Canada. We are anxious as a party that no provinces shall have any just grievance in respect to redistribution. Having that in mind, we base our support of this resolution upon the one ground that this is a war-time period when abnormal conditions exist. Because of the war and because of these conditions we feel that it is part of our duty to the nation at large to support the present resolution.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): I rise to support the resolution of the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent). It is a time when every attempt should be made to prevent the raising of questions which may lead to bitter controversies between various parts of Canada. The Minister of Justice in his first remarks made what I thought to be an accurate and able analysis of the situation