

Mr. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Kamouraska): I would support the request of the leader of the Opposition. The ratification of this Treaty is a matter of grave importance and we must be given an opportunity to consider it in all its bearings. By Article 10 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, if we ratify the Treaty we assume an obligation to guarantee the territorial integrity of thirty-two nations, and it is essential that we should know just what this obligation implies in respect of each nation. We cannot bind Canadian lives and Canadian money for many years to come without a clear knowledge of what we are doing. Having had this Treaty and all these papers in our possession only two days, it is but fair that we should be afforded some time adequately to consider the subject.

Mr. WILLIAM FINDLAY MACLEAN (York South): This very question which is raised by my hon. friend (Mr. Lapointe) is the question over which great discussion is now taking place in the United States, namely, our commitment under Article 10 for all time to certain obligations. As a nation on the American continent, we do commit ourselves for all time to embark upon wars waged in Europe to maintain the integrity of all other nations that are parties to the League of Nations. I think, therefore, that the question is entitled to the fullest consideration in this House, and that the people of Canada ought to know what we are committing ourselves to in regard to practically all the future wars of the world.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I might remind hon. gentlemen that the Covenant of the League of Nations was printed and distributed in this Parliament, I believe, last session. Hon. members ought therefore to be fairly familiar with it by this time if they are ever going to be familiar with it.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Was it not amended?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Not in any material way.

Sir SAM HUGHES: It was amended.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I do not think it was materially amended. Does my hon. friend (Mr. McKenzie) suggest that we should adjourn the House altogether or proceed with the debate on the Address?

Mr. McKENZIE: My suggestion is that we adjourn the House altogether so that members may devote their entire attention to the consideration of the Treaty.

Mr. LUCIEN CANNON (Dorchester): May I ask the Prime Minister if the [Mr. McKenzie.]

original text of the Treaty is in English or French?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Both texts are authentic.

Mr. CANNON: If the original was in both languages, does not the Prime Minister think it fair that every member of the House should have a copy of both originals? Whether my information is correct or not, I learn from the papers that at the time of the signing of the Peace Treaty the delegates discovered that there had been big mistakes and that the two texts, English and French, were not absolutely identical. As a result of that discovery there was delay, and experts had to revise the texts to make them correspond. In this House, where there are both French and English members, it would be only fair, before we are called upon to decide whether or not we should ratify the Treaty, that we should be provided with both versions in order that we might be in the best position to understand exactly what we have to consider.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I do not think my hon. friend will have any difficulty in comprehending the Treaty in either language. I should have had it printed in French if it had been available earlier, but the French text arrived only two days ago, and therefore there has been no opportunity to print it, and indeed there is now only one copy available. I thought that it might be utilized on the table of the House for the purpose of reference in case any hon. gentleman desired to assure himself of the exact terms of the Treaty in both languages, and that with that safeguard we might proceed with the Treaty without waiting for it to be printed.

Mr. McKENZIE: How long will it take to have copies made of the authentic document which we have? We do not run any risk in making copies of the authentic text, and that should not take very long.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am not sure about that. It contains over two hundred pages and I do not think it could be completed without considerable delay. There are copies in English available for all members, and one copy in French available for reference.

Mr. CANNON: I wish the Prime Minister to bear in mind that, according to our Constitution, members of this House cannot be called upon to vote on any measure unless it is submitted in both languages. When a Bill is before the House it is presented in both languages; otherwise it cannot be read