

help the government, is adopted. I cannot accept it, and I cannot vote for it. Why? Because the main motion so amended calls for a vigorous war effort and the word "vigorous" was qualified on the 23rd day of this month by an order in council which was placed on the table of the House of Commons. We know now just what is the vigorous policy that the government is asked to put into effect. It is a policy which provides for the conscription of all N.R.M.A. men. There is an immediate call for 16,000, but later on, without coming before the House of Commons, the total number of N.R.M.A. men can be sent overseas without, as the Prime Minister said in the House of Commons, in very clear terms, again coming before parliament, and without informing the members, but by cabinet action, or the privy council, purely and simply, without informing the people. That is the position in which we are to be placed at the present time. That is the position in which we are placed to-day by the main motion, and the amendment does not change anything in it.

Do not forget, Mr. Speaker, that the vigorous war effort called for by the order in council means conscription for overseas, whatever any one may say in an effort to escape his responsibility or to shelter from the anger, of the electors of his constituency. That is the position. I cannot become a party to it.

We have been told by the Prime Minister in part of his speech, that the house would not be voting on the order in council passed on November 23, that the house would not be voting on the question of conscription. Why, Mr. Speaker, the house has been discussing nothing but conscription for the last eight or ten days, the Prime Minister included, and my learned friend the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent) included when he addressed the house only yesterday. Now at the last moment we see the splitting of hairs over procedure; and because the leader of a group has seen his own amendment ruled out of order, he offers another one facilitating, in appearance at least, the task of the government. Declarations are being made against the government policy, but, nevertheless the same government is being helped in putting into effect that same policy. I cannot be a party to that move. I am not going to vote for the amendment of the hon. gentleman. If it is the only thing we have to vote against I am going to vote against it. If the main motion is so amended with the consent and approval of the Prime Minister, thus preventing that amendment from being ruled out of order by the Speaker as the other amendments have been ruled out, I shall vote against it.

I see no justification for that amendment being accepted by the government. The other amendments which have been ruled out of order might just as well have been accepted.

So far as I am concerned I am not going to go back on those who have placed their confidence in me. I am capable of speaking for them and of expressing their will, without fear or favour, real, present or expected. I am going to be true to myself and true to the policy I have espoused in this house since the beginning of this debate. I am going to vote against the motion of confidence now adorned with a few flowers that have been strewn over it by the leader of the C.C.F. party.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I had originally intended to expand my remarks on this amendment, but the hour is late and I shall make only a few skeleton remarks in reply to my hon. friend the member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell), the leader of the C.C.F. party in this house.

First of all may I say, in reply to the assertion he made a few moments ago, that the amendment which was moved by myself and seconded by the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker), and which was voted on earlier to-day, is an amendment which is on all fours with the terms in which I outlined it to the house when it was proposed. On November 23 last, after the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) had read the order in council to the house I made these remarks which will be found at page 6517 of *Hansard*, to which my hon. friend referred a moment ago. I said:

We intend to move a motion along the general line . . .

The hon. member did not mention that in his remarks a moment ago.

We intend to move a motion along the general line that this house no longer has confidence in the present Prime Minister, and that the interests of our troops in Europe and the honour of Canada call for the immediate application of the full provisions of the mobilization act, and that another government should be formed without delay under leadership known to favour and pledged to take that course.

The amendment which I subsequently moved, without departing from that general line—and it will readily be seen that this is an important point—read, in order to bring it within the rules of the house:

this house is of the opinion that the government has not made certain of adequate and continuous trained reinforcements by requiring all N.R.M.A. personnel whether now or hereafter enrolled to serve in any theatre of war—