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Resolution of House of Commons a direction - ~~not~~ to the Government
not to the Sovereign

I need not remind this House that, under a system of Responsible Government, ministerial responsibility means responsibility of Ministers to ~~Parliament~~, and through ~~parliament to the people~~. ^{to more explicitly} I might go a step further and say ~~that ministerial responsibility means~~ responsibility of the Executive to the House of Commons, since without the confidence of the House of Commons, the Ministry, no matter what confidence it may enjoy elsewhere, can no longer continue to exist. Once a Ministry ceases to enjoy the confidence of the House of Commons, its day is done, its constitutional duty is to resign.

And that brings me to the significance of any resolution of this House of Commons. It is not a question of the Sovereign's rights. A resolution of the House of Commons ^{may not} ~~cannot~~ add or subtract from the royal prerogative; it ^{may not} ~~cannot~~ add or subtract from any law; its relation is not to the ^{Sovereign} ~~Ministry~~, it is a direction to the Ministry as to how it is to act with respect to the matters to which it may refer, ^{a direction} from those to whom the Ministry is responsible. It is beside the mark altogether to say that it is not the equivalent of a statute, that it cannot bind the Sovereign, that it is not law. The Sovereign is bound by the advice of his Ministers, and Ministers are responsible to the House of Commons for the advice they tender, and so long as a resolution of the House of Commons specifically directs the Ministry how it is or is not to act, until that direction is changed, by a rescinding or amending of the resolution, the