

come from His Majesty's advisers, the government, the Crown in reality. You will find the matter much discussed in the speeches that took place in the time of Palmerston. It is the Crown's policy. The Crown no longer speaks as the sovereign; the Crown speaks on the advice of the ministers of the Crown, and the policy is the policy of the government of the day. . .

You cannot escape the responsibilities of government whether you would or not. For the Crown must take the action and the Crown is advised by the government. The government places its life at stake in the House of Commons of the day. . .

Let us recall what happened in 1914. At the time the government of the day took appropriate steps to offer to defend this country abroad and to raise a contingent for this purpose. Parliament had not assembled when Sir Robert Borden sent that cable. He thereupon called Parliament to meet at once. Parliament met and many of those who were present will never forget the unanimity which parliament approved of the action taken by the government. (1)

The view of the executive responsibility in matters of high policy in foreign affairs and defence, adumbrated by Mr. Bennett in 1930, seems to have been accepted and reiterated by Mr. Mackenzie King and Mr. L.B. Pearson, both Liberal Leaders.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King told the House of Commons in February 1941 that by means of contact through modern communications rather than by an imperial war council,

the Prime Minister of each of the dominions is afforded an opportunity of discussing immediately with his colleagues in his own cabinet all aspects of every question raised. This expression of view, when given, is not his alone - it is the expression of view of the cabinet of which he is the head. It is an expression of view given by the cabinet in the light of its responsibility to parliament. It is, moreover, an expression of view given in the atmosphere not of London, but of the dominion itself. (2)

(1) H. of C. Debates, May 24, 1938, pp.3196-3197.

(2) Ibid. February 17, 1941, p.812.