

King) and the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) as to who suggested this strange method of procedure I would remind them both that this is still a free parliament and not a fascist grand council or nazi reichstag, to be assembled and dismissed at the will of any member of the house, no matter how high the office he may hold. The members of this house decided to adjourn until November 5, and neither the Prime Minister nor the leader of the opposition had any right to suggest that some members need not attend or that there would be no discussion. Fortunately the press and public opinion prevented the attempted usurpation of the rights and privileges of the people's representatives. We at least are determined that in a war fought for freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and democratic institutions, parliament, not the Prime Minister or the leader of the opposition or any other person, shall be supreme. Parliament may be a nuisance to some people; it always has been, and many attempts have been made to get rid of it. Methods were cruder three hundred years ago when, on another November 5, Guy Fawkes proposed to blow it up with gunpowder. This November 5 the Canadian parliament was not to be blown up; it was to be blown out. Well, both plans fortunately were frustrated, and parliaments continue to be symbols and instruments of an age old and still to be completed struggle for freedom and self-government. Surely it is the duty of members of this house to meet frequently during this period of grave crisis.

Since we rose in August events have occurred which have profoundly affected the future of the world. The Prime Minister reviewed them to-night. The war has continued to spread, and we have watched with admiration the truly magnificent effort of the British people in defence of their homeland. Meantime France has fallen more completely under the domination of the dictators. Pierre Laval, the long time friend of fascism, now is vice-premier of that stricken country, guiding Marshal Petain, who is old and tired, just as Hindenburg was old and tired when Hitler began his rise to power. What then is to be our relationship to the Vichy government? No longer can it be regarded as a free government representing the will of the French people. Its decrees obviously are dictated by its nazi masters.

This tragic situation at once raises the question of the position of its legation in Ottawa. Is it wise and proper, in the light of everything that has happened in France and in Europe, that representatives of any pro-fascist governments under the control of

Hitler and Mussolini should continue to enjoy all the privileges and immunities of the diplomatic corps? It seems to us that while representatives of foreign states and powers should be treated always with the utmost consideration, yet now we should remember that we are engaged in a new kind of war, no longer a struggle between nations in the old sense of the phrase but, as the Prime Minister said earlier this evening, ideological. Ideological wars cut across boundaries, just as the religious wars cut across boundaries and across nations centuries ago. This leads me to say that our government might make it known to neutral powers that it is the wish of this country that accredited diplomatic representatives from abroad shall be persons who in the recent past have shown no satisfaction with the successes of Mussolini or Hitler in Ethiopia, Spain, Czechoslovakia or any other place where the menace of dictatorship has raised its ugly head. This precaution we owe not only to the people of Canada but to our good neighbours to the south to whom since we adjourned in early August the government has linked us closer.

We agree with the mover of the address in expressing our deepest satisfaction with the agreement that has been reached with the United States for the joint defence of this continent. Indeed last session we urged that attempts should be made by Canada to discuss such a proposal. At that time our suggestion met with a very cool reception by this house, but I am glad that President Roosevelt invited the Prime Minister to meet him at Ogdensburg. The press and public generally approved wholeheartedly the meeting and all its happy results. Indeed, it is our hope that the friendly relationship existing among the peoples of Canada, the British commonwealth and the United States may be even more firmly cemented as the days go by. Meantime the Prime Minister has been wise to inform the house regarding the agreement, and I would suggest that further information can be obtained later in the session regarding the extent and scope of the agreement perhaps in greater detail. Should this or other matters require a closed session of this house, then I think the government should facilitate its being held.

From the United States agreement it seems to me two facts emerge. First, it is another recognition by our populous, rich, and powerful neighbour to the south that she has no security apart and distinct from the collective security of her neighbours as well as herself. And, second, Canada recognizes her position as a part of the north American continent, and undertakes new obligations in regard to it.