

The soundness of the Prime Minister's position is incontrovertible. To invoke conscription without consulting the people would be indecent and dishonourable and disruptive of every ideal for which we are fighting.

If you do have an appeal by the people it must be an election or a referendum. In either event, it will be a campaign of two months' duration. The machinery for taking a vote cannot be organized in less than that.

In the course of that campaign, in the heat of argument bitter things would be said. The time and attention of our people would be diverted from the conflict against our common enemy to a conflict within our own country. Bitter feelings engendered in such a campaign would not subside quickly.

There is every prospect that the result might be very close. If that were so and the majority were in favour of conscription it is doubtful whether that would constitute a mandate for a measure which interferes with the liberty of the subject in so vital a manner.