

Governor General's Speech

to parliament, should in this connection and irrespective of any previous commitments, possess complete freedom to act in accordance with its judgment of the needs of the situation as they may arise.

My ministers accordingly will seek, from the people, by means of a plebiscite, release from any obligation arising out of any past commitments restricting the methods of raising men for military service.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make financial provision on an unprecedented scale for the expansion and maintenance of Canada's armed forces and for war production.

You will be asked to make financial provision for implementing agreements with the provinces to facilitate the orderly and equitable mobilization of the financial resources of the country to the utmost limit of its capacity.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I am confident that in no particular will the Canadian people fail in the full discharge of any of their great responsibilities. At this time, when vision and wisdom are so greatly needed in the affairs of the world, I pray that Almighty God may guide and bless your deliberations.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration on Friday next, and that this order have precedence over all other business, except the introduction of bills, government notices of motion and government orders, until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the standing committees of this house, under standing order 63, said committee to be composed of Messrs. Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre), Michaud, Casselman (Grenville-Dundas), Taylor, and Coldwell.

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Honourable T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources, the Honourable J. L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, the Honourable J. E. Michaud, Minister of Fisheries, and the Honourable J. A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled An Act Respecting the House of Commons.

[Mr. Speaker.]

THE WAR

DECLARATION BY UNITED NATIONS AT WASHINGTON, JANUARY 1, 1942, AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I should like to table a copy of the declaration by United Nations, done at Washington, January 1, 1942, and the following related documents: Declaration of principles, known as the Atlantic Charter, by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the President of the United States of America, August 14, 1941; resolutions approving the Atlantic Charter and providing for the reprovisioning of Europe after the war, adopted at the inter-allied meeting held in London, September 24, 1941, and with reference to these, the tripartite pact signed at Berlin, September 27, 1940, and referred to in the above declaration by the United Nations.

Mr. COLDWELL: Will the document tabled by the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) be printed as part of the *Votes and Proceedings* so that we may all have it?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: They are printed in both English and French in pamphlet form and will be distributed in that form to all hon. members.

LEGATIONS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): At the last sitting of the last session my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) spoke to me about my having omitted to answer a question which was upon the order paper with reference to the French legation at Ottawa, and also one with reference to Canadian representation in Eire. Unfortunately I did not have with me at the moment the answers which had been prepared in the department, but I have them with me now and I should like to have them recorded on *Hansard* in to-day's proceedings.

REPRESENTATION OF VICHY GOVERNMENT IN CANADA

Mr. CHURCH:

1. Has the Vichy government of France an ambassador or envoy in Canada?
2. If so, where is he located, who are the members of his staff; is there any inspection of the same, or regulation of the embassy?
3. Is it intended to close this legation?
4. Has the government received any request from His Majesty's government of Great Britain to keep it open? If so, from whom?
5. Does this Vichy office in Ottawa conduct any dominion or empire business with Vichy?
6. If so, what is the amount of such business and of what nature is it?