

The speech from the throne is a unique document in that there is no reference in it to any specific legislation. The whole speech centres upon the Canadian war effort, and ends with a pledge for the prosecution of the war to the utmost of our strength. This is singularly appropriate at this session; for nothing must be allowed to detract our attention from our war effort. There is no country in the world more fortunately situated than Canada is to-day. I wonder how many people in Canada really appreciate the blessings that we enjoy. But Canada must be prepared to pay the price for its continued security. We must ensure the continuance of the personal security that we enjoy, and there is no premium of insurance within our power that is too high to pay.

There is one other note I should like to sound, and that is the need for the highest degree of national unity. Canada will need the aid of all Canadians, not only those of British origin, but also those of French origin and those whose origin is neither British nor French. Mr. Speaker, may I remind you of the fact that approximately half the people of Canada are not of British origin? Those people are not tied to Great Britain by ties of blood, but rather because of the principles for which Great Britain stands—personal freedom, liberty, and regard for the sacred rights of human personality; indeed these are the rights for which we fight. All of us are proud, regardless of our origin, to be associated with Great Britain in her heroic struggle, and we must not fail.

I should like to associate myself with the eloquent pleas made by the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Claxton) and the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Jutras) for a sympathetic understanding and appreciation of the different points of view that exist in Canada, knowing that the people of Canada can be and are bound all together in one unity by the common tie of Canada.

In the special war session of 1939 I had no hesitation in urging Canada's participation in the war to the utmost of her capacity. I felt it my duty to speak on that occasion by reason of certain views that I had previously strongly expressed. I spoke in the course of that debate as one who has sometimes been described as a "pacifist," and some of my friends have twitted me on what they have described as a change of heart. No change of heart has taken place. There is still honour in the term "pacifist," as I understand it. A great pacifist has passed away in Great Britain. He believed that it was his solemn duty, as the leader of his nation, to keep his people free from war and to hold them on the

path of peace as long as peace was possible; that the maintenance of peace was his sacred responsibility, unless some issue greater than peace itself was involved. Perhaps history will be kinder to him than we have been during the past few months, and will honour him for the nobility of his purpose, in spite of the fact that his efforts met with failure. I am still a pacifist, in the sense that I have described, but love of peace must give way when an issue greater than peace is involved. Therefore I had no hesitation in voting for Canadian participation in the war, in the special war session of 1939; for an issue greater than peace had emerged. Indeed, the cause of humanity itself was in grave peril.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, with one other note. I spoke in the special war session as a Canadian. I do so again. During a long period of schooling both in this country and in England, and both as a student and as a teacher, I have watched with pride the growth of Canada as a nation. When I was privileged to enter this house first, some fourteen years ago, it was my hope that I might be able to make some contribution to the development of the great country that has been kind to me, and has given to me the great opportunities that I have been privileged to enjoy.

I have always been an ardent admirer of the institutions and traditions that we have inherited from Great Britain, with their emphasis on freedom, and liberty, and the right and duty of self-determination and self-development. Perhaps I come by that admiration naturally, by reason of the fact that I inherit by racial origin, a longer tradition of personal liberty and freedom than is enjoyed by any other member in this house.

I have often spoken in this house on Canadian matters, relating to the development of Canadian nationality, on our equality of status with other nations of the British commonwealth, of the desirability of separate representation of Canada abroad, of our right and of our duty to determine all issues of policy, whether domestic or external, for ourselves—even the supreme issue of peace or war.

We have now seen Canada emerge from her former colonial status to that of full nationhood. When we entered this war, independently as we did and of our own free will as a free nation, we passed the greatest milestone in our history as a nation. I have always believed in the development of Canada as a nation. I have always shared the views—and I have never hesitated to express them—that were put forward by Sir Robert Borden when he said that Canada could not truly fulfil her destiny short of sovereignty. When we entered the war we assumed great