

House of Commons Debates
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March 31, 1939, pp.2469-2471

used
Hans
Nov. 27/44
p. 6616

C245031

a realistic statement

MR. LAPOINTE: ...Canada is part of the world, and this planet unfortunately cannot be considered today as an earthly paradise inhabited only by benevolent and rational beings of an altruistic turn of mind. It is not an oasis rich in natural resources used only to benefit mankind but never to excite the covetousness of predatory powers. The seven thousand mile flight from Egypt to Australia of three British service bombers is fresh in the memory of everyone. It is quite evident that Canada is now ^{all} within the possible sphere of action of any military power of the first rank, should that power deem the action worth while. In this troubled period of history Canadians cannot be mere spectators; they are vitally interested in the outcome of the tragedies enacted before their very eyes. Much of the bloodshed and misery that history records has been the direct result of honest, idealistic but impractical wishful thinking. There is no reason on earth why pious aspirations, unsupported by anything more substantial, should be more effective protection for us than they proved to be for Abyssinia or China; and we must remember that even the excellent Czech army proved inadequate when left without support. So I say this, and I want my colleagues to hear and understand me: if there is one chance in a thousand that what our experts say could happen may occur, I should be a traitor to Canada, to my own people, if I would not help to provide against it.

.....

..... We should be ready to show the world upon which side this country stands in the international fight for freedom and liberty. I shall continue to try to impress upon my fellow countrymen the necessity of working for peace. I shall continue to try to see that our great country has those opportunities for development which she must have to fulfill her great destiny.

must

*Closed. He
I had not said, in 1939, by the British and most devoted
friend I have had in
my life that I had
such high and great purposes*

*only a few months before
I had not said (Feb 24, 1941 p. 961)*

... and I feel his words today