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CANADA AND THE WAR

## Canada's War Effort—How Best Promoted

### "NATIONAL" VERSUS "UNION" GOVERNMENT

The third of a series of radio addresses delivered by Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King from Ottawa; 23rd February, 1940.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In his opening broadcast on February the 16th, the Leader of the Opposition set before you two objectives. The first was to defeat the present government because of its war record. The second was to allow him to form, in its stead, what he calls, a "national" government. On Wednesday evening, I met his challenge with respect to our war record. I propose, tonight, to meet his challenge with respect to his so-called "national" government.

In his broadcast, Dr. Manion stated it as his fixed conviction that "only through national government could we do that service to our country, to our Empire, and to civilization, which is demanded of us, now that we are in this war beside Britain and France."

This, fortunately for you, but unfortunately for the Leader of the Opposition, is not the only occasion on which Dr. Manion has expressed his views upon national government.

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### Leader of Opposition Holds Opposite Views.

As recently as July the 26th, less than six weeks before the outbreak of war, he expressed convictions no less definite, even if opposite. I will read you a report of what he said.

"National Conservative Leader, Robert J. Manion today refused to recognize "national government" as a cure for Canada's present-day ills, arguing that such a set-up would inevitably lead to a Socialist regime dictated by a combination of the C.C.F., Social Credit and "all other Cave of Adullam parties."

"Every Government," said he, "starts to die soon after it is elected. A National Government would be the same in this respect as any other. Therefore after a period of time the Opposition would come into power."

"But the Opposition to a National Government, presumably made up of Liberals and Conservatives, would be the Social Credit, C.C.F., and other Socialist groups that cared to join with them. It would be these parties that would take over the reins of power when the National Government had outlived its usefulness."

What I have just read, you will find in the Toronto Globe and Mail of July the 27th.

### Merits of Union Government More Apparent Than Real.

I would gladly let the matter rest where Dr. Manion left it on July 26th, if I did not know that the idea of a government where all party differences are submerged in a time of stress undoubtedly makes a strong appeal. Unfortunately, its attractiveness is more apparent than real.

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W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1940-1950,  
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