

*War Effort—Government Policy*

zie King) that this house will aid the government in its policy of maintaining a vigorous war effort, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Coldwell.

Mr. FAIR: Mr. Speaker, before the Prime Minister made his motion I was setting out some reason why more N.R.M.A. men are not joining up. I have only a few minutes left in which to speak, and I hope the house will be patient in listening to me, so that this matter may be given serious consideration. It is long overdue.

My argument has been that the government would actually save money and at the same time ensure the success of the Veterans Land Act. I have given those as two reasons why clear title should be given, and I am going to make a further request this evening, one which I have made on other occasions. It is that the present administrator or director of the Veterans Land Act be removed from office, and that some man sympathetic to the old veterans be placed in charge.

I am very glad that this matter has been taken from the control of the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar) and placed under the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie). I believe that for the past number of years the Minister of Mines and Resources has lain down on the job, so far as the administration of the soldier settlement board is concerned. He has allowed the present director to have full sway, and in having that full sway he has persecuted, or caused to be persecuted men who must come under the Veterans Land Act.

I am also glad to see that the Minister of Mines and Resources is retiring. If he gets to that old men's home I hope before going there he will bring about a change in the treasury board, so that clear titles may be granted in these cases. I ask that these titles be granted immediately. While this whole matter was placed before the Prime Minister for the first time about a month ago, I would suggest that he take up with his ministers the question of seeing to it that these titles are granted, and that they be given as Christmas presents to the veterans of the first great war.

Hon. P. J. ARTHUR CARDIN (Richelieu-Verchères): Mr. Speaker, at the outset I desire to repeat what I stated at the beginning of my speech the other day, when I spoke against the main motion and the amendment.

We have now before us in a practical manner, one which nobody can dispute, an example of the futility of all the amendments that have been proposed to the main motion.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

We were called here to approve the policy of the government in maintaining a vigorous war effort. We have all been witnessing the changes of heart and disposition and policies on the part of the government, since the session has been called together. The amendments which have been proposed up to the present time to a large extent had only for their object, or, at least, as their result, the beclouding the issue, confusing the people of Canada as to what is really under consideration. We are witnessing an attempt to obtain a verdict in a circuitous way—a crooked way—instead of coming frankly and openly before the representatives of the people of Canada.

That game has been played on all sides of the house in order to avoid the issue, to prevent the Canadian public from understanding exactly what the position is, and to keep them blind as to what is going on in this House of Commons, and as to what has been going on for a certain time in connection with the policies of the government.

The leader of the C.C.F. party has been useful to the government at the present time by coming up at the last moment with a relief motion, in order to help the government to shelter itself under a resolution which has been modified, but which in reality means exactly the same thing. There is not a single particle of difference between the motion as it was before the amendment proposed by the hon. member who leads the C.C.F. party, and the one we have now.

Look at it. He wants to do away with the words "in its policy", and wants to have the resolution now read: "that this house will aid the government in maintaining a vigorous war effort." How is the government going to maintain a vigorous war effort if it has no policy to direct a war effort? The word "policy" is implied in the motion by the leader of the C.C.F. party, who has been so generous in his move to help the government out of the difficult situation in which it finds itself at the present time.

The main motion as amended means the same thing, because nobody can conceive of a vigorous war effort without a policy upon which that vigorous war effort is based. And, Mr. Speaker, while wishing to insult no one, and respecting the views of all, I say it is mere camouflage, and a movement made with a view to protecting one's party's interests.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not all. Let us suppose that the motion made so conveniently by the leader of the C.C.F. party, so as to