

misfortune to be led by men who appear to have no regard for these sacred principles. The existence of Great Britain and France as free nations is involved. From that life or death struggle we in Canada cannot possibly stand aside and say that it is no concern of ours.

Last session I stated that I would not approve going to war on an issue that centred on purely national prestige or economic advantage, or one that was engaged in merely for the purpose of teaching the totalitarian states a lesson. I also stated, however, that we in Canada would be greatly concerned if the life or liberty of Great Britain should be involved; and I expressed the view that if the existence of Great Britain should be involved Canada would not hesitate to come to her assistance. In my opinion the existence of Great Britain is now involved in the great struggle that is taking place. This is a matter of vital concern to Canada and to all Canadians, and Canada will come to the assistance of Great Britain.

While I am confident that Great Britain and France will ultimately defeat their enemies, I believe that no free nation anywhere in the world can afford to take the risk of any possibility of the destruction of these two great nations. Certainly Canada cannot afford to take that risk, bound as she is to Great Britain by ties of deep affection and, more than that, community of regard for the sacred rights of individual human personality. Indeed I am firmly convinced that our great neighbour to the south, the United States of America, will be on our side in this conflict before very long. Let a great disaster threaten the existence of Great Britain and France, and the United States will be in the conflict.

This war, Mr. Speaker, will not be a short one. It is the view of many that it will not be won on the battlefield by troops, though they will be needed in large numbers, nor by bombardment from the air, with all its horrors, but that it will be won by that group of nations which for the longest period of time can command an adequate supply of food and materials. If that view is sound the war will be a very long one; it will be a war of attrition and the aid of Canada, though her population may be small, will be of vital importance to the success of Great Britain and her allies. Under the circumstances it is unthinkable that such aid should be withheld. Canada should therefore join with Great Britain and France, as a free nation, and I am confident that Canada will give her full support to them.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I commend without reservation the steps that have been taken by the government, and, as a Canadian, I pledge my unqualified support to the

government in any steps that may be necessary for the fullest cooperation of Canada with Great Britain and her allies. The vital interests of Canada in this life or death struggle in which Great Britain is now engaged are bound up inextricably with those of Great Britain. In speaking as I have done I am sure I express the view of many thousands of Canadians, of British, French and non-British origin, who have felt and now feel as I do. There can be only one decision for Canada to make. Canada must not, and will not, fail in the task of assisting Great Britain and France to the full extent of her power. We must and will stand shoulder to shoulder with Great Britain and France in the long and terrible conflict in which we shall be all engaged.

I agree with everything that has been said during the course of this debate on the subject of war profiteering. That should be made a crime, and every person who seeks to profiteer by reason of the war should be regarded as a public enemy.

War will impose heavy burdens upon our nation, and it will be our duty to see to it that there is equality of sacrifice. The wealth of this country, as well as its man power, must share the burden. While it may be said in favour of conscription that it is the fairest system to apply and that it will prove the most efficient, it must be remembered that in many portions of Canada—not in one province alone—there is a strong sentiment against conscription. That sentiment must not be disregarded; for what we might gain by efficiency we might more than lose through disunity. National unity in this country is of supreme importance. It will not be too easy to maintain it when the burdens of war begin to be felt. In the prosecution of this war it is essential that willing support should be given. It cannot be enforced against the will of many substantial sections of the country. If it should happen that conscription must come, then it must come as the result of the general will that it should come.

There is one other matter to which I should like to refer. Our participation in this war is on the basis of the need for preserving liberty throughout the world. Let us make sure that in the measures that we pass in this parliament we do not lose liberty in Canada. The civil authority in Canada must always remain supreme.

This war will be a long war. It will be a war of attrition, and the processes of attrition are slow. Great fortitude on the part of our people will be required. Cool-headed and efficient leadership will be needed, not only to bring about such action as may be necessary,