

*The Address—Mr. Mackenzie King*

Mr. Speaker, this reviews in brief some of the details of the action the government has taken to meet the critical needs of the hour. The national interest prevents my disclosing some further details in connection with these items or from referring to other developments the government has already begun.

May I pause here for a moment to say to hon. members that I am sure the review I have already made will be sufficient to indicate the force of what I am about to say. With a world situation such as our own and other countries must face to-day, it is necessary for the government to take account not only of the happenings of the immediate moment but of possible happenings during the period through which this war may run. The situation is vastly different from what it has been heretofore. As I said in my remarks at the outset, during the last war we had Japan as an ally, we had Russia as an ally, we had Italy as an ally and we had practically no problem on the Pacific coast. For some considerable time the United States also was an active ally and, as I have said, there was no problem to be considered in connection with the Pacific ocean.

In connection with the Atlantic coast there was very little to be considered. At that time the British navy undertook the protection of our Atlantic coast and we were actually being protected by the British navy in our immediate coastal waters. Our navy was a tiny affair, I believe of two ships, the *Rainbow* and the *Niobe*. These ships were taken over by the British navy and became part of that navy. In this war our navy is a unit which is serving actively on the Atlantic coast and it is rendering most valuable assistance to the British navy itself.

We know the developments in the war up to date, but we do not know what they are going to be to-morrow. We do not know what they are going to be a week or a month or a year hence. We have, therefore, to consider not only what we can do in the way of cooperation overseas but also the possible happenings with respect to Canada itself. This is one of the things that I hope hon. members will keep in mind. We have to see around all the sides of this situation and view it in relation not only to the Canada that we knew in the last war but to the Canada that is a nation to-day.

One hardly dares to suggest the thought, but should our enemy triumph in this particular struggle it is not France, it is not England, it is not Holland, it is not Belgium, it is not Norway, it is not Poland and it is not Czechoslovakia that they would seek

as a prize of war; what the enemy are looking for is great new areas of development. That is what underlies this struggle for world domination and we cannot afford to ignore at this time every conceivable possibility with relation to each part of the British commonwealth of nations.

The urgent appropriations with which this house will be called upon to deal, the various measures to be introduced by the government, many of which are on the order paper, will command the earnest attention of each one of us. I appeal to all members to avoid time-wasting procedure and to purge the order paper of items which cannot by any stretch of the imagination be considered a contribution to the solution of our problems. Above all, I know I shall not ask in vain that the time of hard pressed ministers of the crown and of hard working civil servants should not be diverted from their many tasks to deal with matters which are not essential.

It is the opinion of the government that the circumstances of the hour require that the urgent matter of the prosecution of the war and of Canada's part therein calls for the most immediate and thorough discussion. We do not desire to remove and do not propose to curtail unduly any of the privileges of hon. members, but the government believes that in the present emergency government business should have the right of way over the debate on the address. It is therefore suggested that the debate on the address be shortened by arrangement between the whips. If such an arrangement is not found to be possible, I may propose that the debate be adjourned.

In making statements of that kind I shall have to ask hon. members to realize that they are not made with any view of enabling the government to avoid criticism or to take away from any hon. member a privilege which should be his, but rather because something is known of how exceedingly grave the situation is at this very time. I believe that all hon. members will feel as I do, that the more quickly we can begin consideration of the bill of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ralston) which has to do with war appropriations, and which measure will enable the fullest discussion of everything pertaining to the war and the war effort of Canada, the better it will be in all respects and the more action of that kind will be approved by the country. So I am going to suggest that a step of that kind be taken and I hope that the house will give its approval.

As I have said, it appears to my colleagues and myself that all matters pertaining to the war can be more appropriately discussed dur-