

In the first place I think hon. members will agree that while I have made a statement as to the attitude which should be assumed generally towards critical situations in other countries, I have, as far as I can recollect, made no statement referring particularly to the hostilities now going on in China, as suggested in the words attributed to the Japanese minister. My statements from time to time have been that in dealing with critical situations that exist in other parts of the world we in Canada, which is a neutral country, should be particularly careful in our discussions in this house, or over the radio or in the press or elsewhere, to be guarded in our utterances and not say things which may unnecessarily embarrass those who have to deal with these situations. That is the kind of statement I have made, and I think it is what the minister from Japan must have had in mind, because I see in another paper, the *Ottawa Citizen* of yesterday, the minister is quoted as follows:

When asked about the situation in China, the minister quoted Prime Minister Mackenzie King's remark made recently in the House of Commons that it was misleading and caused "a suspicion of our neutrality" for Canadians to comment on the foreign policies of other nations.

Evidently the same thought was in the mind of the minister when speaking in the one case at Niagara Falls and in the other at Ottawa. What doubtless the minister had in mind has been some statement that in relation to these two countries which are at war we are neutral; Canada is not at war with Japan; Canada is not at war with China; and our position of neutrality should be respected.

I want to say at once that I think the Japanese minister, if, as reported, he went beyond that statement and began to speak of the hostilities as between China and Japan, and indicated what he thought would be the outcome of the war, and referred to China in the course of his remarks, was forgetting the very attitude and policy which I had suggested here should be followed.

Mr. BENNETT: And which he himself had taken.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, quite so, which he himself had taken. In that I think he was entirely wrong; I do not for a moment hesitate to say that. Perhaps I might add that an almost humorous aspect is given to what is perhaps a very serious matter, by the fact that when the new Chinese consul arrived in the city some little time ago he made some remarks at a luncheon reflecting pretty strongly on his country's

enemy, and it was thought at the time that those remarks should not have been made.

Mr. BENNETT: He was only a consul.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes. I think, however, that they have now had a sufficient round of controversy in our country, and I hope no further reference will be made by any foreign representative in this country reflecting upon other lands with respect to which we are trying to preserve as impartial an attitude as possible.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sure every hon. member will be pleased to think that the interruption of my remarks has afforded an opportunity for the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) to make the observations he has made. I found it a little difficult to accommodate my mind to the thought that we in this country were to listen to a statement of the war aims of a country which had signed with us a document at Washington agreeing that it would protect the integrity of the country with which it is now waging war. That is my trouble; and I deny the right of any man, whose nation has signed a document guaranteeing with the Dominion of Canada the integrity of China, to come here and talk about the defeat of China in a war which was not declared and for which there is no justification. That is the reason I made the statement I did. The Prime Minister is right when he assumes that I was not criticizing him for not having complained of the action of the minister from Japan in pointing out that he agreed with the Prime Minister, although frankly I would not feel at all complimented by having one who represents a country which has violated every international obligation it has entered into saying how much he appreciated my attitude of mind towards anything. I desire to make that observation as strong as it is possible for me to make it. I am not one of those who believe that you serve any useful purpose by forgetting your own dignity and the honour of your own country in order to placate any power, however powerful it may be. As I was sitting here I could not but recall the words of a great Englishman who was attacked in Germany by von Bulow. He said, "I am answerable to my sovereign, and not to the citizens of a foreign country." I feel perfectly certain that in our desire to maintain neutrality the Canadian people have no desire, in the interest of trade expansion or otherwise, to sacrifice their sense of national honour and of the decencies of international relations.