

In order to meet a sudden grave emergency, which would threaten our very shores, it might be necessary for the government, at any time, to act in advance of a reference to parliament. Apart from such an emergency, if the government comes to feel that changes should be made in any statute to permit of a wider application of its provisions, this step will be taken by act of parliament. It will not be taken by an order-in-council under the War Measures Act. The government's action will have to meet with the approval of parliament.

Let me return for a moment to what I was saying about the storm of protest which arose at the time the plebiscite was announced. It so happened that four by-elections were pending at that time. Elections sometime help to confuse rather than to clarify issues. You may have noticed that, once the by-elections were over, argument about the plebiscite did not last long. The principle of the plebiscite bill was adopted in the House of Commons without division.

What perhaps occasioned most in the way of protest ^{when the plebiscite was announced} was that many persons thought the government would not be holding a plebiscite unless we had reason to believe that there was some immediate need for conscription for