

Just one further word concerning Mr. St. Laurent before I conclude what I have to say.

Mr. St. Laurent's response to many calls.

When, in December 1941, Mr. St. Laurent yielded to my earnest appeal to him to enter the Ministry, he promised to do so, only because of the war, and for the duration of the war. Hostilities, at the time, had already lasted for more than two and a quarter years. It was not then generally believed the war would last for more than four years. It lasted, in fact, for six years. Within less than a fortnight, it will be five years since Mr. St. Laurent became a member of the government.

When the war in Europe ended, Mr. St. Laurent reminded me of what had been said between us at the time he entered the government. But the party was then facing a general election. Mr. St. Laurent would have been the last to seek retirement at such a moment. He said he wished to be with the party through the campaign, but he hoped that soon thereafter it might be possible for him to retire. Since the elections, he has spoken to me at different times of considerations of which he felt he should be taking account. With characteristic chivalry, he has, on each occasion, met my request to carry on. Not only that, but in addition to the onerous duties of the