

*Mobilization Act—Mr. Diefenbaker*

Mr. DUPUIS: We invite you.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I shall be glad to come. That is the attitude of tolerance. I ask them to place before their compatriots the situation as it is. Let those who misled them admit that the teachings of twenty-five years have been wrong. I suggest that Canada's motto to-day should be, "Everything mobilized to prevent everything being lost." Place men where they are needed in the army. Why was the army expanded from four divisions to eight? It improved the rank of the higher-up officers, but it made reinforcement more difficult. Now is the time to prepare to train reinforcements, to the end that when casualties come and sacrifices are made, we in Canada shall not be placed in the position of having the government saying "too late." We need men now, and we will now bring in selective service.

So far as labour is concerned, surveys have been made, but little has been done to assure an adequate supply. Labour has cooperated, but its cooperation could be secured in increasing measure by the establishment of a shop steward system similar to that employed in Great Britain, giving to the labouring man who is doing his part an opportunity to suggest means whereby production can be speeded up and the worker given a reward therefor. As for agriculture, utilize the services of the aliens and conscientious objectors in order to assist in supplying the needs of agricultural labour. Give them an opportunity to serve, and at the same time assure agriculture of a proper supply of labour through the mobilization of a land army.

Mr. Speaker, something must be done and done now by this parliament.

Mr. MARTIN: What does the hon. member suggest?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I suggest the immediate promise by this government that there will be action.

Mr. MARTIN: What kind of action?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Action that will ensure proper and complete mobilization of the man-power of this nation.

Mr. MARTIN: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I have answered the question. I suggest that the time has now come, and I hope the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin), who has just interrupted, is not one of those who does not believe in the complete mobilization of the nation at this time.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Mr. MARTIN: Will the hon. member permit a question now?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Yes.

Mr. MARTIN: I have been following the hon. gentleman very carefully, and I should like to know whether he believes it is desirable at this moment to have conscription for overseas service.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I answer that question in this way—

Mr. DUPUIS: Yes or no.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: The hon. gentleman is too good a lawyer to think that such an answer would be adequate. I say that the time has come when there is only one mobilization that will assure equality, and fairness, and unity in Canada, so that each province will know that all are properly contributing and that all within each province are contributing, and that is by establishing selective service for overseas immediately. There is no qualification about that. Although I may not have the opportunity to ask him that question, I hope he will answer it when he speaks.

Mr. MARTIN: I will state it unequivocally.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: The challenge to us to-day as Canadians, without regard to race or creed, is to unite in a common dedication to our way of life, and our national life itself. If there is one thing that has done more to undermine this dominion and its unity—I do not know whether it is an outgrowth of our history—it is the fact that we as Canadians are too prone to hyphenate our citizenship. In the United States they do not think of Roosevelt as a Dutch-American, or of Willkie as a German-American; they think of those men as great Americans. We in Canada have something to learn from that. We in this country should build up a Canadianism that knows no hyphenate. Let us be proud of the racial strains from which we spring, but at the same time not separate this country on the basis of a hyphenated Canadianism. It has been my hope to see the day when that will come to pass. Coming from western Canada let me say that if there is one thing more hopeful of Canada's future it is the fact that men, the second generation from continental Europe, from enemy countries, are to-day enlisting not as hyphenates but as Canadians. I know of one family of which the father served against this country in the last war and to-day four of his sons serve in the armed forces of this country. The day I hope for is the day when we can be united as Canadians, when