

an abomination! The Prime Minister is not alone in the valley of humiliation to-night; we are all in it.

This is responsible government! We have been summoned here but what is the policy of the government? As the hon. member for Richelieu-Verchères (Mr. Cardin) has so aptly said, there is none. I can understand our being called on April 1 as April fools, but we are now in December; we are on the eve of Christmas.

There are fourteen vacant seats in the senate. I checked the names at the door of the senate, and I noticed that out of thirty-three appointments which had been made by this government, only fourteen were former members of this house. According to that well-established precedent, hon. gentlemen opposite who may have legitimate claims to promotion for services rendered in this chamber will be very lucky if they get a place, because out of the fourteen candidates there will be only four chosen.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not been able to follow very closely the remarks of the hon. member for Temiscouata, but I do not think the matter of replacements in the senate would be relevant to the present motion before the house. I would ask him to keep within the motion.

MR. POULIOT: I presume it is part of the policy of the government to fill senate vacancies until they get what they want from the members. That is my point and I condemn them very strongly. We are discussing a policy which has not been enunciated. We do not know what it is about; it may be about the man in the moon or anything else. I am not the man in the moon, but perhaps the Prime Minister is. It is vague; it is incoherent, and from the Liberal point of view it contains the grease spot of the C.C.F.

I do not say that in any offensive way, but I speak as a true and straight Liberal. I referred to something yesterday which I will elaborate to-day. I decided some time ago to leave the party led by the Prime Minister, and on August 19 I told him personally that if I ran again I would not run as one of his candidates. To be sure to be elected I will run as Jean-Francois Pouliot; and until then the hon. member for Richelieu-Verchères (Mr. Cardin), the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Lapointe), the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Picard), the hon. member for Quebec West and South (Mr. Parent), the hon. member for Levis (Mr. Bourget), my humble self, and all other hon. members who have voted against him here this afternoon—

each one of us will be a living remorse to the Prime Minister. We will remind him of promises broken; and we may tell him that we may go back to our constituencies and enjoy the respect of our people. We wonder if he will be able to get the same respect when he goes back to Prince Albert, at the time of his next defeat, when he will lose his deposit in the province of Saskatchewan?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

MR. POULIOT: That is all.

MR. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, during the last hour or two I believe we have had added to our deliberations much more heat than light. Perhaps it would be well to try to orientate ourselves correctly by reflecting upon one or two serious matters.

In the first place, every vote cast to-night either for or against this resolution will be carefully noted overseas. It will be noted in the office of Hitler; it will be noted by the soldiers on the battle line; it will be noted in Washington and London; it will be noted in the camps of our N.R.M.A. men. I believe it would be well for hon. members to ask themselves this question: How will every vote against this resolution be interpreted by each and every one of the agencies I have mentioned? That is the question I have been endeavouring to answer for myself, ever since we came together.

We are living in a time of great confusion. It is very difficult for men to keep their feet on the ground and their heads cool. To most people there appear to be two issues before the house: first, shall the House of Commons do all in its power to supply reinforcements for Canada's hard-pressed soldiers overseas and, second, shall the present government in Canada be defeated, or shall it be supported so as to carry on across the stream of war time?

Having two issues before him, any person might find it hard to avoid confusion of thought. He might find it difficult to determine which is the main issue. It should be remembered, I think, that the present crisis developed over conscription, or the sending of reinforcements overseas. It did not develop over the question of whether or not the Liberal government was satisfactorily administering the affairs of the country, or whether that government was leading Canada in an acceptable war effort.

Consequently the matter of confidence hardly entered into the cause of calling the house together, if we are to believe the reports we have heard, and to take at face value the