

valuable cooperation is maintained between all the races found in the armed forces. I want to mention this fact because it seems to be ignored by some of my compatriots. In my estimation, it is no overstatement to say that owing to the direct influence of the Minister of National Defence, the problem of the French-speaking minority has become practically non-existent in the Canadian army. I wish to thank him therefor publicly. He may be assured that this new measure of unity will have a strengthening influence upon our army.

I have spoken so far on behalf of my electors, who, I know, share the views of Canadian citizens in every other section of Canada. I have also spoken as a soldier—and here again I am convinced that both the soldier and the civilian have but one object in view—victory. Before bringing my remarks to a close, I wish to say how gratified we felt upon hearing that immediate provision is to be made, in order that the post-war period may be one of well-controlled readjustment, because both the members of our armed forces and the civilian population are somewhat apprehensive, and justly so, at the thought of the difficulties they will have to face.

We do not need any inside information, Mr. Speaker, since the Casablanca meeting, to realize that the war is coming to a climax. Our Russian allies are hurling back to the border the German armoured legions. Rommel has been driven out of Egypt and Libya. Tunisia has become one of the world's most important battlefields. Japan is ready to pounce again in the Pacific. In western Europe the rumble of approaching battle is in the air. The Dieppe raid was a double warning, a warning not only to the enemy but also to us; for the breaking into the occupied continent will exact a heavy price from us, no less than it will inflict punishment on them. In Great Britain our Canadians who have until now been playing a defensive role are being transformed rapidly into an army of assault. In Canada the people are being told to brace themselves for less food and more work. I have shown that they are ready for this. On every side and in every way we are turning out for the fight to a finish. As this climax draws nearer it is well to ask ourselves this most important question: Is our present leadership equal to the task? Speaking for my constituents and for myself, speaking as a soldier in the Canadian army, I say to the government: Go on with the good work. We

[Mr. Hallé.]

feel that every single minister in the cabinet is doing a great job and doing it in the right way.

I have only this to add. Many of us in Canada and overseas have as yet done little or nothing for victory. Some of us are better off than we were before; some of us are even working less than we used to and being better paid for it. It is unlikely that we shall be lucky enough to get off, in the end, as lightly as we have done so far. We have a lot of slack to take up, not only in rations and privileges and money, but in physical sacrifice as well.

It is well to remind ourselves, as the climax of the battle of freedom approaches, that this government will demand from us greater endurance and sacrifices than most of us have hitherto suffered, or even contemplated. Unless we count that cost, we are paying less than our share of the heavy price of victory. But we are all ready to accept it. All we need is for this government to go on telling us what to do.

On motion of Mr. Graydon the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 4.45 p.m.

Monday, February 1, 1943

The house met at three o'clock.

JOINT DEFENCE PROJECTS

EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES AS TO POST-WAR DISPOSITION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, in English and French, an exchange of notes between Canada and the United States, dated January 27, 1943, relating to the post-war disposition of certain defence projects, installations and facilities constructed in Canada by the United States.

To carry out joint plans for the defence of this continent, and to facilitate the transportation of war materials to fighting fronts, the Canadian government has agreed to the stationing of United States military units at certain places on Canadian territory. This is part of the same programme of war-time cooperation which has resulted in units of the Royal Canadian Air Force operating from Alaskan bases.

In carrying out the defence programme, moreover, arrangements have been made whereby the United States government has supplied materials for, or has defrayed the