

For those two reasons, it is with pleasure that I approve the request that has been sent to you.

Believe me yours truly,  
(Signed) Alcide Béland, o.m.i.,  
Parish Priest.

But I was not content with obtaining an expression of opinion from my archbishop and my parish priest, I also sought the views of the Conservative member for Hull at Quebec.

An hon. MEMBER: National?

Mr. FOURNIER: Not the National, but the Conservative party. Here is his letter:

Hull, P.Q., February 1, 1937.

Mr. Alphonse Fournier, C.R., M.P.,  
Hull, P.Q.

Dear Sir:

I take the liberty of writing you to state that I heartily endorse the plan for a drill hall in the city of Hull. I understand that the larger cities in the province of Quebec have a drill hall and I trust the federal government will think of Hull this year.

I invite attention from the ministers on this point.

This drill hall meets a real need and I trust your efforts will be crowned with success.

I will find it a pleasure and make it my duty to join at any time any delegation calling on the Minister of National Defence.

Cordially yours,  
Alexandre Taché, M.P.P.

I will go a step further: L'Association Catholique des Voyageurs de Commerce in my home town goes the length of adopting a resolution and writes me the following letter:

Hull, January 30, 1937.

Mr. Alphonse Fournier, M.P.,  
Hull, P.Q.

Dear Sir:

The O.V.C. of Notre-Dame de Hull was pleased to learn of your efforts in an endeavour to obtain a drill hall for our city.

Commendable efforts on the part of all our associations failed a few years ago to obtain such a favour from the government. We venture to believe that we will be fortunate in our present endeavour.

Although opposed to any militaristic idea or imperialistic tendency, the A.V.C. is glad to give its support that the city of Hull may obtain a drill hall such as other cities have enjoyed for long years past.

You will recall the date on which the National Defence estimates were brought down.

A resolution to that effect was adopted last evening, January 29, at our regular meeting.

Assuring you, sir, of our deep consideration, we beg to remain

Faithfully yours,  
L'A.C.V. de Notre-Dame-de-Hull,  
Georges-H. Grondin,  
President.

Mr. LAPOINTE: January of this year?

Mr. FOURNIER: Yes, January 30, 1937.

Mr. DUPUIS: They have changed their minds.

Mr. FOURNIER: Now, so as to obtain adequate support for my argument before the house, I also approached l'A.C.J.C., my home town branch being the Groupe Reboul, and they also wrote supporting the plan. Only, as young men, I admire their perspicacity: foreseeing the discussion which was to take place in this house, they wrote:

Hull, P.Q., January 28, 1937.

Mr. Alphonse Fournier, M.P.,  
Main St.,  
Hull, P.Q.

Dear Sir:

We have recently learned from the press that the question of constructing a drill hall in our city was being seriously considered. Some influential people in this city as well as a particular association have looked favourably upon the projected execution of this work.

May we be allowed in turn to request your support for this purpose? It is true that in these markedly unsettled times, when everyone talks only of conflicts, this might seem, in the eyes of some people, to be of bad omen, but as it does not appear to us to be the opportune moment for passing judgment on the various opinions which may be entertained—which we have been satisfied to do amongst ourselves—we will limit ourselves simply to request your support for this plan because it will be a source of employment for several unemployed and it will endow our city with a beautiful building.

We trust you will give consideration to this request and thanking you in anticipation of your usual kind attention, we beg to remain

Faithfully yours,  
Le Groupe Reboul de Hull,  
Aurèle Cousineau,  
President.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Hear, hear.

Mr. FOURNIER: But I went a bit further, I approached the still younger group, I called on the Jocistes:

Hull, January 30, 1937.

To Mr. Alphonse Fournier, M.P.,  
Hull, P.Q.

La Jeunesse Ouvrière, Section Notre-Dame, endorses the proposed drill hall for the city of Hull.

Louis Raymond Cousineau.

Having previously had to deal with the young people, I endeavoured to see the older ones, and a resolution was passed by the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society in my own city, requesting that a drill hall be built in our locality. I shall not read the whole letter, but in it is contained a restriction to the effect that they are not imperialists, that they do