

Thursday, November 23rd

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CANADIAN FORCES

PETITIONS WITH RESPECT TO APPLICATION OF  
N.R.M.A. ACT

Hon. H. A. BRUCE (Parkdale): I desire to present a petition to this House of Commons from my constituency of Parkdale: The undersigned citizens of the Dominion of Canada—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the petition was presented to him?

Mr. BRUCE: No, Mr. Speaker; this is a petition to parliament, signed by 139 men and women of my constituency.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it addressed to the houses of parliament?

Mr. BRUCE: It is addressed to the houses of parliament. I think it is perfectly in order.

That whereas the Prime Minister of Canada has pledged on behalf of his government to the House of Commons that if "circumstances should arise which would render the use of compulsion imperative, such for example as the maintenance of the necessary reinforcements for Canada's army overseas", the compulsory provisions of Bill 80 would become effective by order in council;

And whereas such circumstances have arisen; And whereas your humble petitioners are of the belief that a grave emergency—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member may read the prayer of the petition, but not the whole petition.

Mr. BRUCE:

It is, therefore, the earnest prayer of your humble petitioners that this force shall be at once dispatched overseas to the aid of our men now fighting at the front;

And it is their further prayer that, since speedy victory can be gained at least cost of life only by a steady and adequate flow of reinforcements, and without such reinforcements lives must be needlessly lost, the policy of total conscription of man-power for overseas service to ensure support to our fighting forces now, and until victory is won, be made effective forthwith as provided by Bill 80, and approved by the great majority of the people of Canada recording their vote in the plebiscite of 1942.