

advice I should tender his excellency I went to the trouble of looking up the speech from the throne which was delivered in the United Kingdom at the session held after war was declared. I found it so admirable that I thought I could not do better than repeat as nearly as possible the language of that speech. Perhaps I should give hon. members quotations from the speech from the throne delivered in Britain on November 28. I hold in my hand one page which contains the entire speech. I should like to direct the attention of my hon. friend particularly to the first paragraph. He has said a good deal this afternoon which has been critical of Canada's war effort. I feel that he has been giving us a picture of what is in his own mind, arising out of his conception of his duty as leader of the opposition. I do not believe, however, that the point of view which he has expressed in regard to Canada's war effort reflects the opinion either of the people of Canada, or of the people of the great republic to the south to which he has referred also, or of the people of Great Britain. He will find in the opening sentence of the speech from the throne delivered in Britain on November 28 words which will be a complete answer to much that he has said by way of criticism of Canada's war effort. The king's speech was as follows:

My lords and members of the House of Commons,

The prosecution of the war commands the energies of all my subjects. My dominions overseas are participating wholeheartedly and with an effectiveness which is most gratifying to me.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That was a year ago.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This was delivered on November 28, 1939. I quote again:

Throughout the world my navies, together with the merchant navy and fishing fleets, are keeping free and open the highways of the sea. At home, in France and in all stations overseas, my armies and air forces are fulfilling their tasks. I am well assured that they will be equal to any efforts and sacrifices to which they may be called.

Members of the House of Commons,

You will be asked to make further financial provision for the conduct of the war.

My lords and members of the House of Commons,

Grave responsibilities rest upon you at this time. You will, I am convinced, express the resolution of the nation.

The measures which will be submitted to you are such as seem necessary to my advisers for the welfare of my people and the attainment of the purpose upon which all our efforts are set.

I pray that Almighty God will give His blessing to your counsels.

I wish to draw particular attention to the reference to the legislative programme, because it was to that aspect of the speech that my hon. friend referred especially. It was that reference which caused him to say that "the speech from the throne falls short in everything else" — meaning brevity — "by which we measure what a speech from the throne should be." The legislative programme of the parliament of the United Kingdom relates to all its responsibilities, both domestic and imperial. That parliament has to deal with matters similar to those dealt with by our provincial legislatures, in addition to those matters with which this parliament has to deal. The parliament of the United Kingdom has also to do with a vast colonial empire scattered over many parts of the world. Yet the legislative programme as related to all this, as outlined in the speech from the throne, reads:

The measures which will be submitted to you are such as seem necessary to my advisers for the welfare of my people and the attainment of the purpose upon which all our efforts are set.

This resembles fairly closely what His Excellency was kind enough to say at my suggestion:

The measures which will be submitted to you are such as seem necessary to my advisers for the welfare of the country, and for the prosecution of the war to the utmost of our strength.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, before the recess I had occasion to refer to the comment which my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) made upon the speech from the throne. In the course of my hon. friend's remarks he referred not only to the speech of his excellency at the opening of the present parliament, but also to the speech which was delivered by the deputy to the Governor General at the closing of the last session of parliament, which took place two days previously. My hon. friend's comment in reference to that speech was that it indicated a change of point of view on the part of the government; he said that he had been urging all along that the emphasis in all matters of war effort should be placed upon the defence of Britain, whereas the administration seemed to have had in view as its first obligation the defence of Canada. My hon. friend cited as evidence of the