

Sinister Motives Behind Campaign

I do not doubt that many Canadians sincerely and honestly believe conscription for overseas service is desirable; I respect their views, although I do not agree with them. In what I have now to say I am not referring to them or to their attitude.

There is, however, another small but very vociferous minority who have other motives for advocating conscription for overseas service. They are the very people who accuse the present administration and myself in particular of "playing politics". And before I discuss them, let me dispose of that charge. Canada is a democratic country. In a democratic country, the will of the majority must prevail in the end. These people pretend that the majority of the people want conscription. Let me ask this question: What course would a man take who wished to "play politics" in that situation? There is only one answer. He would take up the popular course in order to get the support of the majority. Now let me carry the argument one stage further. If I am in fact "playing politics" that means the majority of the people do not want conscription and the government of a democratic country would not be justified in introducing it. If the majority does in fact want conscription and the government is thwarting the will of the people by keeping its pledge, that can hardly be called "playing politics" very intelligently.