

more particularly whether they represent the branches of our armed forces, may be proud of the proceedings of the chamber. This is more important now than it has ever been.

I have a feeling that in many instances people do not go away with that thought in their minds. If democracy is to approach perfection, I think we must go a long way yet. There never was a time in the history of Canada when the people watched this chamber more carefully and with more interest. Everything we do, everything we say is recorded in the minds and in the thoughts of great sections of our people. I ask the Prime Minister and you, Mr. Speaker: Can this chamber meet that test at the present time? If it cannot, then we must see that it does meet that test no matter what reorientation or changes may be necessary. It is essential for the strengthening of the democratic state in this dominion.

There are many reforms which members of this house could suggest. I cannot agree with the answer given to me last Friday by the Prime Minister when I asked for a modernization of the rules and procedure of the house. He said that we should not do it in time of war; but it does not make any difference whether we are at war or at peace, the obligation faces us. We cannot delay in bringing this chamber to the point where it will be an exact and perfect reflection of the men and women across Canada whom we represent. I am so completely convinced of this that I hope you will accept my apologies for being so vehemently insistent. This chamber should be the reflection of a great dominion, but is it the true reflection that we would want it to be? That is a challenge which we have to meet. We are anxious to contribute wherever we can to creating a condition whereby this chamber will be a more exact reflection of what the ordinary man and woman across Canada expect in their representative body. Therefore I say to the Prime Minister and the government, let us be very careful how we conduct ourselves in this house. All of us make mistakes. Perhaps, being an amateur as leader of the opposition, I shall make more mistakes than a good many others. But whatever mistakes we make, let them be honest mistakes. The people of this country do not mind mistakes, but they want to know that when they are made, they are made with good intentions.

In Great Britain the prestige of parliament is high, because the leaders have kept it high. Perhaps there is no closer relationship anywhere in the world between parliament and people than in Britain to-day. I do not wish to make comparisons between our own house and the British House of Commons, but we have an example over there which we should try to emulate. I should like to see the Prime

Minister and all members of this house make every possible effort to measure up to what is expected of the parliaments of the British commonwealth of nations.

I like to think of that peerless leader of Britain in this period of war. I like to think of the prestige he has given to the British house, and of what he has done for public morale in his own country and others which are fighting along with it. I recall the closing words of the British Prime Minister's speech in the spring of 1940 when he assumed the leadership of that great nation, at a time when it looked as though the whole world were collapsing, when it seemed as though democracy were about to perish from the face of the earth, when Britain seemed in imminent danger of invasion. With the thunder of battle overhead, without a shudder, without a shiver, with the grim determination and courage for which he is noted, he lifted the British people, yes, he lifted the world, and he uttered a challenge which will go down through the halls of time and should, I believe, find an echo here:

We shall never surrender. . . .

We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. . . . We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and streets and in the hills. . . . We shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island, or even part of it, is subjugated and starving, then our empire across the seas, armed and guarded by the British fleet, will carry on the struggle, until in God's good time, the new world, in all its strength and might, sets forth to the rescue and liberation of the old. . . .

That, Mr. Speaker, is the challenge I leave with this parliament—with the Prime Minister and all of us—to see to it that the kind of leadership which produced that statement and built the morale of Britain shall be given by members and leaders alike in this House of Commons. I ask every hon. member to think carefully and seriously of our duty and our obligation as the people's representatives.

I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green) in amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne, that the following words be added to the address:

"We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that this house regrets that Your Excellency's advisers have failed:

(a) to provide an adequate plan for the effective use of Canada's man and woman power:

(b) to adopt and carry through a rational labour policy which will ensure maximum production and give to labour its rightful position as one of the major partners in our Canadian democracy: and

(c) to provide adequate measures whereby Canadian agriculture can make its maximum war contribution and receive a fair share of the national income."