

On the same day I telephoned to the leaders of the other parties. My hon. friend the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (Mr. Woodsworth) was away in Vancouver at the time. He will recall the conversation we had. I wish to thank him at once for the manner in which he immediately expressed his sympathy with myself and my colleagues in the great responsibility we were facing. I did not attempt to convey to him at Vancouver all the details, but since his return here we have had conversations, just as I have had several conferences with my hon. friend in the last little while.

I also telephoned my hon. friend, the leader of the Social Credit group (Mr. Blackmore), and no one could have been more cordial than he was in the assurances he gave me at that time that whatever the government might do he would be with us, having due regard of course to his right to criticism of those policies with which he might not agree. He wanted me to feel that so far as he and his party were concerned there would not, as regards cooperation, be much question as to where they would stand. My hon. friend the member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) was kind enough to come to my office, where he informed me that unfortunately his leader was far away but that he himself wished at once to express his appreciation of the situation. He asked me to realize that when cooperation was necessary in so great a cause I would find the members of his party ready to do their part. There was no commitment so far as any of these gentlemen were concerned with respect to any particular policies. All I wish to convey at the moment is that there was on their part a very sincere expression of appreciation of the government's position, and of their desire and the desire of their parties to see that, when parliament assembled, what in their minds would be most effective as a national effort should be undertaken.

My hon. friend opposite has expressed in no uncertain way his views as to the immediate causes of this war. He has expressed them in very strong terms. I think perhaps I am inclined to be less emphatic than my hon. friend, not quite as strong in some of the words I use. May I say I agree with every word he has said of the fundamental, basic facts concerning this issue. He has described the issue as one which raises the whole question of the future of civilization itself. I do not think that is too strong a phrase to use. Before I conclude this speech, I shall give, if I have the opportunity, words from the lips of the man who himself has brought the world into this state of turmoil, sufficient to prove the truth of this assertion. Hitler himself has

said: "Whoever lights the torch of war in Europe can wish for nothing but chaos." "Nothing but chaos"; that is what the leader of the nazi party in Germany is seeking to bring upon the world to-day. And it is to prevent chaos becoming the fate of this as it may be of other lands that it becomes our duty as citizens of Canada to stand to a man in the defence of this country and at the side of Great Britain in the defence of freedom her citizens are making with their lives.

I was surprised when I heard my hon. friend say that the speech from the throne lacked an assertion of government policy. I certainly did not intend to water down anything I had said on a previous occasion. The responsibility for the words that were expressed by his excellency rests of course upon me; these words seem to me to be fairly emphatic:

You have been summoned at the earliest moment in order that the government may seek authority for the measures necessary for the defence of Canada, and for cooperation in the determined effort which is being made to resist further aggression, and to prevent the appeal to force instead of to pacific means in the settlement of international disputes.

If the leaving out of the words "with Great Britain," used in an earlier statement by myself, has any significance, it is to widen the duty of this country, and have it cooperate not only with Great Britain but with France and with every country that is prepared to stand and defend its liberties in this great world conflict. That at least was the intention. However I intend this afternoon, as hon. members will see when I come to refer to some notes I have prepared, to give as a statement of the government's policy what I said over the radio in a broadcast on Sunday last, and what I have given in other statements to the country already, so that there can be no mistake. I have felt right along that the most effective way in which to present the government's position was to make it known as early as possible to the country and then to make it known to hon. members in more detail when parliament assembled. My hon. friend knows that the speech from the throne does not necessarily set forth the different measures that are to be introduced; it contains a general statement of policy. Parliament has been summoned to hear the government's policy, and I am here to-day to expound it. Following the rules of parliament this is the first moment I have had in which to speak in the course of this debate. I shall seek to leave no doubt in the mind of anyone, if there is any doubt existing even now, as to what this government's policy is. We stand for the defence of Canada; we stand for the cooperation of this country at the side of