

It is watching and scrutinizing what we do, because the public is not merely interested but vitally concerned with every move we make. But more important than the public in Canada; more important, if I may say it to you, Mr. Speaker, than any member of this house, is that audience which to-day is so many hundreds and in many instances thousands of miles away. I make no apology for calling it that great unseen audience, made up of Canada's preferred number one citizens, those who are doing more than we who simply debate a great issue, those who are making it possible for us to be here even to debate that issue. Therefore I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this nation, and particularly those gallant men of ours overseas, are anxious that this house from the very moment of its meeting shall sit through mornings, afternoons, nights, and Saturdays, until the issue that is before the Canadian people shall have been decided—and decided, may I say, sir, so that the reinforcements for our troops overseas will be on their way.

Parliament stands in the testing crucible of public opinion as it never stood before. In this session there must be action; there must be the minimum of talk, if I may say so. On an occasion such as this we should tackle the one problem that the people of Canada want us to tackle. And we must tackle it not tomorrow, not the next day, not the day after, but now. Public concern dictates that course as it never did before.

I take the position I do, Mr. Speaker, largely because the issue is so important, so vital, and carries such a tremendous weight of judgment of the Canadian people as a whole. We feel that immediately—and I call upon the Prime Minister to take this action—we should begin the debate which will bring before this parliament the real issue that the Canadian people want brought before it. In my opinion that issue is that the full provisions of the National Resources Mobilization Act should be put into effect at once and that all trained troops in the Canadian home defence army should immediately be dispatched for reinforcements overseas. That is the issue that faces this parliament. All other issues are fads and frills and will be so regarded by a boiled-up public opinion throughout Canada which is so conscious of the issues which face this house.

Therefore in view of the fact that I understand the Prime Minister is not going to bring before this house to-day a confidence motion or any other kind of government motion with respect to this matter, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to allow me to move, seconded by the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker):

That this house is of the opinion that the full provisions of the National Resources Mobilization Act should be put into effect forthwith;

And that all trained troops in the Canadian home defence army should immediately be dispatched for reinforcements overseas.

Mr. SPEAKER: The leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) understands, I think, that there is nothing before the house at the moment.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): He is trying to get something there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Did I understand the hon. member for York-Sunbury to say, "He is trying to get something there"? There are certain rules which must be observed before that can be done. No notice has been given of this motion.

Mr. GRAYDON: No notice could have been given.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot decide that. All I can decide is that forty-eight hours' notice must be given and the rules so provide. Under the rules I have no authority to submit this motion to the house and therefore I must rule it out of order.

Mr. GRAYDON: I understand Your Honour has ruled that this motion may not be debated at this time.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I am only stating what the rule is. There is no point of order involved.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to obtain the unanimous consent of the house to permit me to introduce this motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am vested with the authority to interpret the rules of the house. I have already stated the rule and the leader of the opposition is well aware of the rule. There must be at least forty-eight hours' notice before a motion such as this can be presented to the house. If there had been any intention—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow a discussion on my ruling. If there had been a desire or an intention to have such a motion presented there has been time since the last adjournment of the house to the present moment whereby the orders of the day could have been printed and brought before the house; but in the meantime I am discussing only the power of the Chair to accept the motion that is now submitted. In interpret-