

involvement in war. The only decision to be reached was the question of degree and form of participation.

In the face of this crisis, Mr. King and his advisers were confronted with a grave decision; and it is alleged that the Prime Minister and Dr. Skelton for once did not see eye to eye. The United States Minister to Canada, Mr. John Pierrepont Moffat, wrote in his memoirs: "For better or worse the other members of the Canadian Government took little interest in foreign affairs, which thus came under the almost exclusive purview of Mr. King and his North American-minded Under-Secretary, Dr. Skelton. Both men recoiled from Canadian participation in a second world war...The war, when it came, marked the crumbling of their hopes and plans. But being realists, they did not waste a moment's time in regret for the collapse of their policies; they made an about-face and as a team are still guiding Canada's foreign policy." (1)

Nevertheless, Dr. Skelton seems to have yielded to the government's decision only after a most intense mental struggle. Bruce Hutchison, at that time an Ottawa journalist in the close confidence of Mr. King, relates that "Skelton, his most trusted adviser on foreign affairs from the beginning, insisted with all the power of his experience and integrity that

(1) The Moffat Papers. p.342.