

reflected increasingly in the views we may express in the house in respect of the prosecution of the war.

Mr. Speaker, I should like also to congratulate my hon. friend the leader of the opposition on the presentation of his address to the house. I thought his remarks presented the position of his party very fairly. I am sure I shall not be expected to agree with some of the things he has said, but with much of what he said I can agree with him most cordially. I believe it would have been better for this country if some of the controversy which has taken place with such acrimony and violence in a section of the press of the country had awaited the more reasonable and reasoned form of discussion, which I hope will be followed in this parliament.

With regard to what my hon. friend has said concerning the necessity of a total war effort, I believe it will be found that he and I hold similar views. What I take exception to in his remarks, and with respect to the controversy which has taken place outside the house, is that most of what has been said has related exclusively to only one aspect of the war effort. That aspect, I believe I shall be able to show, is a much narrower aspect than is generally assumed. All that Canada has done in addition has been more or less completely ignored.

I must say that I am surprised to find that, after having spent so large a portion of his time telling myself and the house that the government should have brought forward a policy of conscription for service in the military forces overseas, my hon. friend has not had a single word to say about conscription for military service overseas in the amendment he has just moved to the address in reply to the speech from the throne—no, Mr. Speaker, not a single word. My hon. friend is now so concerned about it that he is looking at his amendment to see if that is really so—to see if there is anything in the amendment which will give him sufficient ground to stand on in any reply to what I have just said.

The amendment is in the nature of a want of confidence motion in this administration. I had not expected my hon. friend to extend congratulations to the administration on all of its effort, but I had expected him to stand up for the policy which he led us at all events to assume is the policy of his party at the present time.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It is right there, in paragraph (a). Read it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend will have every chance to read his own policy later. But on a matter of so great importance

as the one we are now discussing I do not think one should be obliged to search with the aid of a microscope to discover the purport of an amendment which has been moved at a time like the present.

As I have already said, there has been a little too much controversy in the press concerning this matter, prior to the discussion in parliament itself. That controversy has gone very far to confuse in the public mind the real significance of many matters which should receive more careful consideration and discussion in this House of Commons. I believe, as I proceed with what I intend to say this afternoon, it will be seen that with respect to some of the matters on which there is an impression throughout the country that the government and the opposition differ, that not only are we closer together than the public has been led to assume, but that on many matters our views with respect to policies which should prevail are very, very much the same. I believe that is true with respect to the views of all parties in the house. I am speaking now of views concerning an effort for total war, with respect to selective service, and with respect to compulsion where it is necessary, in the application of selective service, and in connection with other points to which I shall make reference later.

But what I do wish at once emphatically to suggest is that hon. members seek to get the true picture of Canada's war effort as a whole, and not be misled into misjudging that effort or misjudging the ministry by singling out one particular aspect and seeking by controversy to obscure the larger and really magnificent effort of the country as a whole.

I cannot agree with my hon. friend, either, in his views with respect to what in the truest sense of the word constitutes responsible representative government. To my mind responsible representative government is related very closely to the will of the people, and particularly to the will of the people as expressed at the time of a general election. If I were to accept what my hon. friend has said, and what some of his followers have applauded him in saying, then I should be obliged to ignore altogether the will of the people as expressed at the last general election. And not only that; but after its having been given also the interpretation which my hon. friend time and again has placed upon it, namely that this government was returned to power with the vast majority it has, in virtue of the fact that it was so often stated that if this government were returned to power, conscription for overseas would not be applied. Notwithstanding that he has said such was a