

163051

320 Bay Street, Toronto,  
September 12, 1941.

5/

Mr. R. A. Stapells,  
159 Bay Street,  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Mr. Stapells:

I have just received and read yours of 11th. It was not at all in my mind that the letter I wrote you on 2nd September should become the basis of a controversy with you personally. Its object was merely to set out the facts as they occurred, and with my relation of what did take place I am pleased to see you do not disagree. I am, however, sorry to note that you defend the conduct of the Empire Club.

You mention first the season of the year as being inconvenient, but this becomes irrelevant in view of the last paragraph of your letter.

In this last paragraph you state that inasmuch as the purpose of the Empire Club is to promote the idea of "Canada and a United Empire", "the Speakers Committee decided that it could not provide a forum for the encouragement of political controversy such as your letter states would be the purpose of your address."

You take issue with my statement that the Empire Club allows itself to be used as a forum "for the purposes of government speakers and no others in so far as subjects of crucial moment to the Canadian people are concerned."

The address to which I desired to reply was made by the Hon. Mr. Howe. The purpose of Mr. Howe's address, as clearly revealed throughout its entire length, was to uphold the adequacy of the Federal Government's war effort. It was indeed the second time Mr. Howe had spoken on the same subject, and for the same purpose, before the Empire Club. No one will deny that the adequacy of the Government's war effort is a subject of political controversy, and has been the main subject of political controversy in Canada for more than a year and a half. To these addresses the Empire Club refuses the privilege of reply to those who take a definitely opposite view. It, therefore, has, beyond all possibility of denial, allowed itself to be used as a forum for exactly the purpose stated in my letter as quoted above.

This is one way all right to avoid controversy.

Yours very truly,

AM/E.

Meighen Papers Series 6 (MG 26 I Vol. 243)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA

