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374 Piccadilly Avenue,  
Ottawa, December 16, 1942.

The Editor,  
The Journal,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Sir:-

Your answer to my letter on Mr. Meighen's Hamilton speech suggests that you have read neither my letter nor the Hamilton speech. Mr. Meighen never "advocated . . . asking the people to tell him what to do". What he proposed was precisely what you admit to be perfectly proper and constitutional: "dissolving Parliament to submit a declared policy by which the Government could stand or fall".

The text of the Hamilton speech on this point reads: "I believe it would be best, not only that Parliament should be called, but that the decision of the Government, which of course would have to be given promptly, should be submitted to the judgment of the people at a general election before troops should leave our shores."

Or, as Mr. Meighen put it in his defense of the Hamilton speech at Winnipeg in 1927 (a defense which no one to this hour, as far as I am aware, has even tried to answer): "What was proposed was not a plebiscite in any sense whatever, but an appeal to the people in the British way by a Conservative Government in a General Election to ratify its course in lending a hand to the Empire and to return it to power. . . . If a plebiscite had been proposed with a Conservative Government looking indifferently on, . . . I would justly have been condemned. No such thing was suggested. What was pronounced was this: that a Conservative Government would stake its life on a contract to carry the country on its program."

Incidentally, I should be interested to know how a Government could appeal to the people in a general election on the question of whether troops should leave our shores, without stating what its policy was on the question at issue. To me the thing seems a sheer impossibility.

Yours truly,

*Eugene Forsey*  
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