

hon. friend had offered his motion upon the address, or upon the motion of the Minister of Finance, that motion then might have been subjected to amendment. I do not find fault with the principles involved in the motion of my hon. friend. I am not prepared, however, to accept the whole language of it, neither am I prepared to accept the opportunity of it, and if my hon. friend had moved his motion, as I suggested to him, as an amendment to the address, or as an amendment to the resolution providing for the South African expenditure, it would have been possible for me to offer an amendment to his amendment, embodying this principle invoked by him, but embodying it in my own language or in language which would have been more suited to the House, language less harsh, if my hon. friend will permit me to say so, in language which I believe would have rallied around the amendment the unanimous opinion of this House. (Cheers.) My hon. friend, in the exercise of his own judgment, and in the exercise of his right, chose, on the contrary, to select his own language and to import into the House his resolution in the manner in which he has. The hon. gentlemen must not be surprised that, although I agree with him in many things, I must tell him at once that I cannot adopt his motion. If I have come to this conclusion it is not because I find fault with the principles enunciated in this amendment, but I challenge altogether the opportunity or the *raison d'être* of this motion. It is not sufficient that the principles involved in a motion submitted to the House should be incontrovertible, for the House to adopt that motion. There must be an opportunity and a reason for it. If my hon. friend, or any member of this House, were to propose as an amendment to supply that two and two make four, or that there are twelve months in a year, or that it is the duty of a good Christian to observe the ten commandments, no one would be disposed to controvert any of his propositions, but no one would feel disposed, on the other hand, to place any of these propositions on the records of the House. (Hear, hear.)

**The
Argument
Challenged.**

The reason why I felt bound to oppose the amendment is not so much because of the terms of the motion itself as because of the arguments with which he has supported it. My hon. friend asserted in his argument that because of the action the Government took we have practically violated the terms which the constitution lays down. Let me repeat to the House the first