

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, to the suggestion with respect to adjournment I believe the Prime Minister will have the unanimous consent of this House. May I be permitted to associate His Majesty's Loyal Opposition with the tribute paid by the Prime Minister, and to say that the news of the great President's tragic passing has left the members of this House filled with dismay and weak with sorrow. The real significance of his death at one of the world's most critical hours must be left in some degree for future times to assess. Measured by every yardstick President Roosevelt's name will echo and re-echo down through the world's hallways of fame as one of the most dynamic, powerful and successful leaders that democracy has ever given to the service of humanity.

He was enshrined in the hearts of every freedom-loving man and woman the world over. Millions of families to-night will feel the same bitter twinge of sorrow they would feel at the passing of one in their own family. President Roosevelt was a fearless, courageous and happy warrior. Whether he was battling against the dread ravages of his paralyzing affliction or fighting the good fight against political, economic and social wrongs, he never flinched, he never faltered, he never wavered.

When it became his task to throw his nation's weight against the temporarily victorious aggressor nations in this global conflict, he threw into that struggle every ounce of energy, effort and determination he possessed. Likewise in preparation for the equally compelling objective of preserving and maintaining permanent peace and security in the world, the late President was at the time of his death engaged in the same vigorous and resolute march to victory which had characterized his course of action through these many years.

I witnessed the inaugural ceremonies three months ago at the White House when Mr. Roosevelt was sworn in for his fourth term of office as President of that great republic. Seldom in my lifetime have I seen such genuine demonstrations and such touching scenes as when I looked over those many thousands who had gathered to do homage to their wartime President. One could feel that that great mass of humanity was leaning heavily upon their fellow citizen and President, with the profoundest conviction and confidence that the immediate future of their nation was in the best hands they knew.

This world can ill afford to lose President Roosevelt as it emerges from this armed holocaust and enters the threshold of one of its most critical periods. As he throws the torch to other hands, let us pray that the relentless pursuit of lasting peace shall be undertaken with the same grim resolution and fortitude which characterized every move he made.

Canada mourns to-night the loss of a great friend and a good neighbour. Seldom has a president of our neighbouring republic to the south been so close to the people of this nation. Nowhere in the world will the sense of personal loss be felt in a deeper way than in the homes of the people of this Dominion. We are thinking of Mrs. Roosevelt and the family as they walk to-night through the valley of the shadow of death. Canada desires to share their grief.

Language seems so weak and inadequate to reveal one's feelings at a time like this I summon to my help those immortal words:

Lives of great man all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time.

Those footprints will never be erased so long as humanity reveres brave men who, in peace and in war, are prepared to die that others may live.

BUSINESS OF PARLIAMENT

STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Hon. Mr. KING: Honourable senators, I have been handed a statement which only a few moments ago the Prime Minister made in the other Chamber, and as it affects Parliament as a whole, I think it well to read it to you. It is in these words:

This week, on Wednesday (April 11), I reminded the House that if the business of Parliament were not concluded before midnight on Monday of next week, this Parliament would be automatically dissolved. I stated that at no time had I any thought or intention of recommending dissolution with a view to shutting off discussion in the House. I added that, as honourable members well knew, the sole reason the Government had waited up to the last or almost the last day of the term of Parliament before going to the people had been our desire to avoid a general election while the war in Europe was still in progress. I have stated, over and over again, that the intention of the Government was not to dissolve Parliament if that could be avoided before the decisive battles were fought in Europe. That position was subject only to the limitation that the people should not be denied the right guaranteed to them by the Constitution of electing a new Parliament at least every five years.

In a nation-wide broadcast on March 2, I said: "Once the war in Europe is over, we feel there should be a general election as soon as possible."

On Monday (April 9) I gave to the House an outline of the minimum time which would be required for a general election, and placed on Hansard an official memorandum on that subject which had been given me by the Chief Electoral Officer. That statement made it apparent that the earliest date at which a general election could be held, following upon the expiration of the parliamentary term, would be June 11.

It rests with honourable members on the Opposition benches, and here I am not referring to any particular party or group but to all honourable members opposed to the Government, whether the war appropriations and supply bills will be ready for Royal Assent on Monday next.

My honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has said that so far as members of the Progressive-Conservative party are concerned, they are prepared to conclude the debates in this Chamber at 6 o'clock this afternoon. Intimations have also been given by the leaders of the C.C.F. and of the Social Credit groups that they and their followers are prepared to assist the Government in speedily completing the business for which this session has been specially called.

Were it possible to have the bills reach the other House this evening, that would permit of