

aspects of the war as it affects us. I hope that what may be said in the way of a nation-wide broadcast will be regarded as equally important as if the same pronouncement were made in this chamber.

Mr. GRAYDON: Will the speech of the Prime Minister on that occasion be broadcast?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I understand it will, but I may be mistaken. I hope that if it is not broadcast but should be printed, or both, hon. members will not by any chance feel that the government has been over extravagant in having spent the money necessary for that purpose.

I have tried from time to time as important announcements have to be made affecting Canada in particular to make them in this house. I shall continue so to do, and so far as my limited abilities and time and strength will permit I shall be only too happy to give such reviews from time to time as I think hon. members may wish to have.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I think what my hon. leader had in view was brief statements from time to time on the opening of the parliamentary period. We have been in session now for eleven weeks and we have not had anything from the ministry on the state of the war.

Mr. HOWE: We have not been able to get to it.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Oh, yes, there has been ample time. The ministry has so shaped things to suit its own purposes—I am not saying that in any critical way—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that we are far from having shaped things as we wished ourselves. We consulted with the different leaders and had general agreement in regard to what should be done.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Yes, I am not saying that in any critical way at all; the right hon. gentleman has misapprehended what was in my mind. We have been here since January 27 and have not had a word from the government as to the progress of the war. The Prime Minister has correctly stated that when he did speak with regard to the attitude of the nation toward the war he did emphasize on every occasion—and I give him full credit for it—the critical position of the war and made it clear that he did not want that position to be clouded by discussion of less urgent matters. I tell him that I also have had that in mind. Whenever I have made what might be termed a major address in this house I have emphasized that position,

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

and I think the message has got across to the people of Canada. Nevertheless I do feel that in recent months the people of Canada and their elected representatives have not been taken fully into the confidence of the government as to the progress of this great world event. That is all we mean and we think we ought to have it often.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Inasmuch as the Prime Minister has referred by implication directly to my group I think it is fitting that I should say a word or two. With respect to the discussion of a speech given by Mr. Sandwell the other day, I would point out to the Prime Minister that that question was raised on Wednesday afternoon, and if he will look over *Hansard* he will find that the proceedings of this house on that afternoon occupied twenty-nine pages, and that the discussion of this speech occupied six pages. The question was raised by two members of my group and we occupied altogether one page of *Hansard*. In the light of that I think the Prime Minister is rather overstating the case.

A word with respect to this matter of cooperating. I was one of those who conferred with the Prime Minister to lay down a plan, and up to this moment this group has cooperated with the Prime Minister as no other group has done. For the Prime Minister to make any criticism as regards the raising of this question, which to us is one of vital concern, I think is not quite fair.

There is a good deal of loose talk in this house as to what chiefly bears upon the prosecution of the war. Perhaps it would be a good thing for a committee of this house to meet and decide what matters do pertain primarily to the conduct of the war. I find that everyone who speaks thinks that what the other man is talking about has nothing to do with the war but what he thinks important has all to do with the war. In the interests of clear thought both in the house and in the country I think it would be well for us to draft a list of subjects that we consider of vital import in respect to the conduct of the war.

With regard to the matter that was raised, if I am at all able to judge of the significance of things I would say that the speech which was delivered the other day by Mr. Sandwell advocated the accomplishment of an object which is diametrically opposed to the object for which the united nations are fighting. If he gains his objective, all is lost; this war will have been fought in vain. If there is anything that will deaden the enthusiasm of the people