

sane conception of compulsory service for this country. Given these things, I have enough faith in the attachment of all my fellow-citizens to their country to think that as, if and when the time comes for extending the present procedure for defending Canada anywhere in the world, that will be done to the utmost of our ability.

It is, however, with respect to the state of public opinion concerning our national status that I wish particularly to speak to-day. Two distinct aspects of our position in this war are presented to us by the Bill. One of them has to do with the question of man-power and the more effective technical prosecution of the war; in short, with the whole practical job of administration in the field of war. The other is related, broadly speaking, to the political situation in this country underlying all activities pertaining to the war. It is the second of these aspects I wish to discuss this afternoon.

Dealing with this phase of our subject in support of Bill 80, I am actuated by the feeling that the amendment of the Act as proposed is in effect an admission of mistakes that have been made in the past in the name of partisan politics. I am glad to notice that headlines in the paper this morning proclaimed the news that our debate has cut directly across party lines. The mistakes which are being tacitly admitted in this Bill are not the legacy of any one party, and I do not intend to pursue the long, futile and barren trail of party recrimination at this time in an attempt to fix responsibility for the beginning of these mistakes. The fact is, I am sure, that in the mind of every member of this House there is a distinct conviction that mistakes covering the past thirty-five years have been made in connection with statements and pledges uttered in the province of Quebec during the course of election campaigns, and that they are not the responsibility of any one party or any one individual.

The unfortunate result of these sins of partisanship is that their effect upon public opinion, not only in Quebec, but in other provinces as well, has been cumulative, and now, in this hour of dire need, we have in Canada a measure of disunity and are dissipating energy and spirit which should be directed to our common national task.

I say this by way of introduction to my subject, because I should like to see an end to this era of self-destructive partisanship, and a period of decent political thinking and talking reintroduced in Canada. No finer national memorial could be established in this anniversary year of Confederation than to mark the memorable occasion of this debate in Parliament with the beginning of such a

period in our history. Let us resolve, for one thing, that never again shall Quebec be used as a pawn on the great international chess-board of war and peace in order to serve political ends in this country.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: To those whose strong and bitter feelings at this time are inclined to find expression in acrimonious words—and one is glad to observe that few of them have been uttered in this debate in Parliament—the imperishable lines from one of St. Paul's epistles should make good reading. I should like to recite them:

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But, if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

I am grateful to my honourable friend and colleague from Ottawa for having placed on the record yesterday quotations from the utterances of the honourable the Minister of Justice and the late Lord Tweedsmuir, because they contain the central thought and idea of what I want to say. Indeed, I might quite appropriately take the memorable declaration of Lord Tweedsmuir as the text for my remarks to-day.

For a long time much serious and patriotic thought has been devoted by an increasing number of Canadians to the subject of their national status; but they have not been articulate enough, they have not been militant enough; consequently their point of view has not been adequately represented in Parliament or in the government of Canada.

May I say at this point, with all deference to my fellow-Canadian friends of the province of Quebec, that I am quite willing to concede to them their historic position of long establishment on the soil of this country, even to the point of designating them as an aristocracy in the Canadian family. But I should deprecate on that account any tendency towards an aloofness or a kind of class distinction in relation to those resident in the other provinces, who, like myself, also have a very definite attachment to the soil of this country. We want only one standard of loyalty and attachment to Canada, regardless of geography, race, or anything else.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: Just here I should like to pay tribute, in words which I know are inadequate, to the great contribution which has been made to the life of this Dominion by the people of Quebec. To our relatively small but precious store of art, literature and music they have given much