

Mr. MAXIME RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, to-night we are called upon to pass judgment on a motion of confidence moved by the Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in support of the direct enforcement of the conscription act for overseas service. After all, it is purely and simply a vote for or against conscription.

Many amendments and subamendments have been moved. This afternoon, we have voted on the progressive-conservative party's amendment which involved conscription for overseas service and, together, with the members of our group, I voted against that amendment because we are opposed to conscription.

We have also had to vote on a subamendment moved by the hon. member for Montreal-Mercier (Mr. Jean). I voted for that subamendment although I did not like its wording and I did not agree with its full purport; I supported it only because it expressed some blame against the government for having resorted to conscription for overseas service. That is the sole meaning of the vote cast by myself and the members of our group on that subamendment; it was a vote against conscription. But it seems to me that, at this stage of the proceedings, it would be advisable to put an end to the moving of amendments and subamendments, because the house has had several opportunities to vote for or against conscription on an amendment and a subamendment and it should now have an opportunity to vote on the motion of confidence moved by the right hon. the Prime Minister, which also implies a vote for or against conscription. Further amendments can but create confusion in the mind of the public and, for my part, I would agree to all amendments and subamendments which will be introduced from now on being set aside by the Speaker.

I wish to reply to a statement made by the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Dorion) in his speech of last Monday. He declared that the only two members who had voted against participation in the war—he said voted mind you—were Mr. Liguori Lacombe, member for Laval-Two-Mountains, and Mr. Wilfrid LaCroix, member for Quebec-Montmorency. Not only is this statement at variance with the facts, but it may unfairly lead the public to believe that only the member for Laval-Two-Mountains and the member for Quebec-Montmorency have opposed Canada's participation in the war. I do not intend to deal at length with that matter, but I shall

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merely report the facts as published in *Hansard*, the official record of the debates of the house.

In September, 1939, after England had declared war, a special session of Parliament was called. On September 7, the speech from the throne was read to the house and the debate was adjourned until the next day. On that very next day, as soon as the house had met, I took the first formal step against Canada's participation in military operations abroad by tabling a petition signed by thousands of people opposed to Canadian participation in any extra-territorial war; I refer to page 6 of *Hansard* where the following petition is recorded:

Petition

Opposition to participation by Canada in any extraterritorial war

Mr. Maxime Raymond (Beauharnois-Laprairie): I desire to lay on the table a petition signed by thousands of citizens against participation by Canada in any extraterritorial war.

The public can judge whether the hon. member for Beauharnois-Laprairie opposed Canada's participation in the war.

The following day, September 9, when the discussion was resumed, I continued to protest against Canada's participation in a European war, and the text of my speech can be found on page 58 of *Hansard*. I was the first member from the province of Quebec to speak in the house against Canada's participation in the present war.

The debate on the speech from the throne ended the evening of September 9. Shortly before ten o'clock, after having ascertained the number of members who wished to take part in the debate and having made sure that the discussion was to last until midnight, I went to the editor of *Hansard* to check up the English translation of a speech I had made in the afternoon.

At about 10.15, or rather, between 10.15 and 10.30, I heard the bell ring and bolted for the house. On my way there, I met members who were coming out and who told me that the debate had abruptly come to an end. Certain hon. members who were listed to speak had decided not to and the debate had suddenly ended without the vote being registered. Now every member of this house is aware that, when a vote is called, the bell rings to summon the members who want to register their vote.

Let us refer to *Hansard*. We find the following on page 88:

Mr. Speaker: The question is on the main motion. Those in favour of the main motion will please say "aye".

Some hon. Members: Aye.