

ADDRESS  
OF  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PETER FRASER, P.C.  
*Prime Minister of New Zealand*  
TO  
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
IN THE  
HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER, OTTAWA  
ON  
FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1944

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*Mr. Fraser was welcomed by Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, and Mr. Gordon Graydon, Leader of the Opposition, and thanked by Hon. Thomas Vien, Speaker of the Senate, and Hon. James Allison Glen, Speaker of the House of Commons.*

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Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister of Canada): Your Royal Highness, members of the Senate and of the House of Commons, ladies and gentlemen: We are delighted to have as a guest of Canada to-day the Right Honourable Peter Fraser, the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

I desire, Mr. Fraser, to extend to you the warmest of welcomes on behalf of the people of Canada; and on this occasion more particularly to welcome you on behalf of all the members of both houses of Canada's parliament, members of all political parties, and, perhaps I should add, one or two who for reasons best known to themselves claim they are not members of any party.

I am sure I may also be allowed to express a word of personal welcome.

During the years of war you and I have shared like responsibilities, and recently have been closely associated in the meetings of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London. I have greatly looked forward to the honour of introducing you, as I did quite recently Mr. Curtin, the Prime Minister of Australia, to my fellow parliamentarians. That great pleasure and honour I have to-day.

You will be interested in knowing that Mr. Churchill, who presided over our meetings in London, also spoke from this table to members of our parliament on a visit he paid to

Ottawa in December, 1941. Ottawa has also had the honour of a visit from Field Marshal Smuts. That, however, was as long ago as 1930. I regret it has not thus far been possible for the Prime Minister of South Africa to pay us another visit. We shall hope to welcome him at some time in the near future. The welcome will be all the greater should the defeat of our common enemies have been accomplished meanwhile.

This is Mr. Fraser's third visit to Canada during the present war. It is, however, the first time he has been in Ottawa when our parliament was in session. We are delighted that he has consented to address us this afternoon, and I wish to thank him at once for his kindness in so doing. Our interest is redoubled by the knowledge that he has recently visited the battlefield in Italy where fighting men of New Zealand and Canada have been in action side by side.

Before I ask Mr. Fraser to speak to us, I should like to say a few words intended not only for the Prime Minister, but equally for the parliament and people of New Zealand.

When Mr. Fraser visited Canada in the late summer of 1941, the war might well have seemed to his countrymen remote and distant. In miles, no country was farther from the battlefronts than New Zealand. Yet no country had entered more whole-heartedly into the