

unity? I leave to public opinion the answer to that query. I know what the answer is among the loyal people of this country, who feel nothing but humiliation and disgust at this lack of leadership. For, mark you well, you cannot have national unity without leadership, leadership of a type which only a Churchill and a Roosevelt are giving to the democracies. National unity will come to Canada only when we have in this country a truly national government representative of all the people and backed by all the people. Then you will have national unity; then you will achieve a total war effort. You will never achieve it under a party government.

I am done, Mr. Speaker. I and those who think as I do cannot accept the government's proposal of a plebiscite as a solution of the problems confronting this nation at a time of gravest crisis in the world's history. It is not even a palliative. It is a subterfuge to help the Prime Minister out of an impossible position, created by himself, and with the sole desire to perpetuate his political power.

The people have asked this government, this parliament, for real leadership. In this proposal they have been given nothing. They have asked for bread; they have been given a stone. Frankly, it leaves the country with a feeling of frustration. Verily, never were so many people humiliated by so few!

I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the hon. member for Yale (Mr. Stirling), the following amendment to the motion now before the house:

That the following words be added to the address:

"This house regrets that Your Excellency's advisers, instead of giving to the country the leadership so essential at a time properly described in the speech from the throne as the greatest crisis in the world's history, on the contrary, have sought to evade their responsibility by holding a plebiscite, which, in the view of this house, is the negation of responsible government.

And this house regrets that Your Excellency's advisers have not seen fit to recommend to parliament without delay additional measures designed to

(a) completely mobilize the wealth and material resources and, on a selective basis, the full man and woman power of the nation, to the end that the nation may wage total war in any theatre of war;

(b) supply the imperative needs of agriculture, industry, and the fighting forces of the nation; and

(c) prepare for the post-war period."

[Mr. R. B. Hanson.]

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) rose on Friday last to begin his remarks in this debate on the address, he very properly and very courteously extended his congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the address. I should like to join with him in those congratulations. I noticed that my hon. friend was somewhat careful to stress the manner of the presentation and said very little about the substance of what was said. I should like to extend congratulations not only upon the excellence of the delivery of both hon. gentlemen but also upon the excellence of the remarks themselves. The hon. member for Hull (Mr. Fournier) and the hon. member for Brantford City (Mr. Macdonald) have made a most important contribution to this debate, which, I think I am right in assuming, may prove to be one of the most important in the history of this parliament.

It was of interest and of significance, I am sure, to all present that both hon. members, one coming from the province of Quebec and the other from the province of Ontario, held identical views in regard to Canada's war effort and the policies which should govern in the prosecution of that effort. Both were equally concerned that all the policies of the government should seek first and foremost to preserve national unity in this country. It was fortunate, as well as a matter of interest, that both hon. members had had the privilege last year of visiting Great Britain and of giving to this house during the course of their remarks their impressions of the effects of war on the British isles, and particularly their impressions of the courage and endurance of the brave people of Britain.

It is not without interest that the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell), who is the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party, and the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore), the leader of the Social Credit party, who I understand are to follow me in this debate, were at the same time afforded the same opportunity. And perhaps I may be pardoned if I remind the house that the leader of the opposition and myself each had an opportunity last year of visiting Great Britain, of conferring there with members of the administration and others, and of seeing conditions first hand for ourselves. It is, I believe, a matter of satisfaction and pleasure to all six of us that we had the opportunity of making the trip to Britain by air, and returning to Canada in the same way. I hope the experience gained as a result of those visits will, as I believe they will, be