

BY MR. MacINNIS:

Q. The fact remains Canada was in the war. A. That is right. Let me quote to you the statement made by Mr. St. Laurent in the House of Commons in the debate on the conscription bill where he says:

"Our loyalty cannot be expected to be one of traditional affection and sentiment, but it is one based almost solely on a utilitarian viewpoint.

Because of that viewpoint it is felt that our first duty is to Canada, and that Canadian interests must come first."

He speaks about the last war and he says:

"Some feel that Canadian interests were well served by what we did in the last war."

Then he says:

"Though some would volunteer to fight for France for sentimental reasons, no one would dare to say that it was a national duty for Canadians to fight for France." Our position was very much like this.

BY MR. BENCE:

Q. With one exception. You were prepared to agree that Canada should, once she had committed herself to fight, turn around and withdraw. That is the difference in the two cases.

A. Just a minute. Our position was that it is the duty of a Canadian citizen at all times to defend Canada. That comes first; but there are periods in history when the interests of one country coincide with the interests of other countries in a common fight as is the case at the present time.

Q. Was it at the beginning of the war, according to you?

A. No.

Q. You said you sent that telegram to the Prime Minister.

A. I said momentarily it did appear that was the case in the beginning of the war, yes. I said that.