

Mr. VIEN: I want a ruling on my point of order.

The CHAIRMAN: I was not aware that the remark was addressed to the other side of the House, and one of the rules—

Mr. VIEN: The hon. gentleman who made the observation used the expression "your friends."

The CHAIRMAN: A rule of the committee declares that an hon. member on rising should always address the Chair. I will not insist upon the hon. member withdrawing the remark.

Mr. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I am sure we all want to preserve decorum in this House. But does the Chair think that by a little joke, or turn of that kind, it can be tolerated in this House that any member on one side or the other can stand up, and in an observation ally other hon. gentlemen with Bolsheviks?

The CHAIRMAN: If an hon. member, in the course of debate had declared that another member was a friend of the Bolsheviks I would certainly ask him to withdraw the expression, but no hon. member was speaking at the time, and I therefore do not know to whom I could address the order of the Chair that the expression be withdrawn.

Mr. VIEN: The hon. member for Algoma has just said that the Bolsheviks were our friends. I ask that the hon. gentleman stand up, and withdraw the remark.

Mr. POWER: I presume the remark was addressed to me as much as to any hon. member, and I have no very great objection to be told that I am a friend of the Bolsheviks since the Prime Minister of this country has invited the Bolsheviks to a conference with him. If they are respectable enough to join him I have no objection to be called a friend of theirs.

Mr. VIEN: I want a ruling on the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN: The ruling has already been given that no hon. member in the course of debate used the expression referred to, and therefore the Chair cannot order it to be withdrawn.

Mr. ROWELL: I have already given one subject that came up as an illustration of the subjects that were brought before the Imperial War Cabinet for consideration. The general plans for the campaign, so far as they were proper matters for considera-

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tion by Government, came before the Imperial War Cabinet, particularly the whole Eastern situation.

Another very important matter that was considered, and considered most carefully, was the possible conditions of peace. I have noticed a rather interesting discussion in the press as to whether the Dominion ministers were consulted on the terms of peace. The whole question of the possible terms upon which peace might be concluded were laid before the Imperial War Cabinet, were considered by a committee of that Cabinet most carefully, and much thought was given to the whole subject. All such matters were dealt with by the War Cabinet while it was in session.

I do not think I need go further in connection with these subjects. I have only one further observation to make in reference to the work of the War Cabinet, and it is this: There could be no more striking tribute to the benefit of British institutions, and to the progress of liberty as we understand it, than the proceedings of the Imperial War Cabinet and the men who composed that Cabinet. When you find General Smuts, that great leader who was associated with General Botha in leading the Boer forces in South Africa scarce twenty years ago, seated at the same council table with Lord Milner—and hon. gentlemen know the relations that existed between them during the Boer war—and with the representatives of all the dominions, planning together for the successful prosecution of the war and the defeat of the German army and forces, you have one of the most striking testimonies in all history to the benefit of free institutions and of responsible government as we understand it in the British Empire. The fact that General Smuts was there, with his colleague Mr. Burton, from South Africa, taking part in these proceedings in the midst of this war, is a striking monument to the genius and statesmanship of Henry Campbell-Bannerman who gave responsible government to South Africa in so short a period after the termination of hostilities in South Africa. The meeting was a striking tribute to the loyalty and devotion begotten of liberty, and to the genius for government which the Anglo-Saxon race possesses.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Kamouraska): I would like the hon. gentleman to state what change in our constitutional relations the creation of the Imperial War Cabinet has brought about? The Prime Minister said that it was an important change in the relations between