

port a vigorous war effort, making available immediately reinforcements from N.R.M.A. men for overseas, will be told that we have voted confidence not only in the government but in the policies of the government; and personally, having criticized those policies from time to time over the past few years, I do not propose to be put in the position of giving my vote to the government on that basis.

In 1940 we passed the National Resources Mobilization Act. In 1942 we amended it. Before the vote was taken on that occasion I urged in this house that what should be done under that amendment, bill No. 80, ought to be done then so that no further delay would lead us in the future to a bitter discussion and division across the country in time of war. To-day we are faced with that bitterness and we have had a long discussion. The National Resources Mobilization Act of 1940 gave the government a great deal of power. It gave the governor in council in these words power that was all inclusive:

The governor in council may do and authorize such acts and things, and make from time to time such orders and regulations, requiring persons to place themselves, their services and their property at the disposal of His Majesty in the right of Canada as may be deemed necessary, or expedient for securing the public safety, the defence of Canada, the maintenance of public order, or the efficient prosecution of the war, or for maintaining supplies or services essential to the life of the community.

When to-day we endeavoured to move an amendment which would embody that instruction to carry out the National Resources Mobilization Act as amended we were ruled out of order, and therefore cannot get it before the house and the country in the manner in which we ought to be able to do. Therefore we are in the position to-night of having to choose between supporting the government and all its policies, and voting against this resolution which may be considered to be a resolution endorsing the vigorous prosecution of the war. We voted against the official opposition amendment to-night—

Mr. CASSELMAN: That is where your trouble came in.

Mr. COLDWELL: That amendment was not in the terms we expected because when this house assembled the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) told us that he was going to move an all-inclusive amendment. He said on November 22 that he intended to move:

That this house is of the opinion that the full provisions of the National Resources Mobilization Act should be put into effect forthwith. . . .

Mr. GRAYDON: And that is what this amendment calls for.

Mr. COLDWELL: And that all persons should place their property and every other service they had at the disposal of the government. He went on to say:

. . . and that all trained troops in the Canadian home defence army should immediately be dispatched for reinforcements overseas.

I presume that the alteration was made afterwards because of the implications of his first motion; for the second amendment which we voted upon to-night was in terms entirely different from that which we expected from what he said on November 22. His amendment of November 27, which we voted on to-night, was as follows:

This house is of the opinion that the government has not made certain of adequate and continuous trained reinforcements by requiring all N.R.M.A. personnel whether now or hereafter enrolled to serve in any theatre of war and has failed to assure equality of service and sacrifice.

They are altogether different. This motion is a different thing altogether from that which we expected. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am going to move an amendment, a very simple one, which I believe is in order. We always have the right to add to a motion, although under the rulings that have been made we have been limited in that right. We have the right, however, to delete from a motion, and I am going to move that certain words be deleted in order that this house may express itself as being in favour of the prosecution of the war and a vigorous war effort. My amendment will not place the house in the position of having to endorse the policies of the government. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) that the motion be amended by deleting the words "its policy of", so that as a consequence the motion would read:

That this house will aid the government in maintaining a vigorous war effort.

We can not support its policies, but we are prepared to support the government in maintaining a vigorous war effort or, indeed, any other government that may be in power during the course of this great war.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am quite prepared to accept the amendment of my hon. friend. It is entirely what I mean.

Mr. ROBERT FAIR (Battle River): Many arguments have been placed before this house since the discussion began. I may say now that anything I do before the conclusion of this part of the session will be for one specific purpose, namely, to see that reinforcements are sent to the men overseas just as soon as it is possible to get them there. The amend-