

Hitler's unjustified and unprovoked conquest of Czechoslovakia and his triumphal march through that gallant little country have shocked all the peace-loving people of the world. Everyone is asking—what next? All realize that not only is no country in Europe safe from this man who appears to be drunk with power and lust of conquest, but they realize as well that, if his conquering march goes on, countries far removed from Europe will find their national life endangered. Should Hitler obtain the absolute dictatorship over Europe, at which goal he appears to be aiming, he might well look with covetous eyes toward this continent which is vulnerable to attack in these modern scientific times.

As pointed out by Mr. Chamberlain in his speech at Birmingham, Hitler's word no longer deserves any trust whatsoever, and every law-abiding citizen of the world stands aghast at his dishonourable disregard not only of his own promises at Munich but of the rights of the people of other nations.

With the approval of the president of the United States, Sumner Welles, the under-secretary of state, has issued a statement, declaring that Hitler's actions of "wanton lawlessness and of arbitrary force are threatening world peace and the very structure of modern civilization."

Like Mr. Chamberlain, I am an ardent lover of peace, but I feel that the surest way, indeed probably the only way, to maintain world peace is by the liberty-loving democracies—Great Britain and the dominions, the United States, France, and the smaller free nations—announcing clearly their determination to stand together in a solid front against the tyranny of Hitlerian dictatorship, for no one knows when or where this man, driven by his mad ambition for conquest, will strike next.

And I concluded with the following words:

Considering all these circumstances and remembering the terribly critical situation which we face, all Canadians should stand unitedly together. The National Conservative party will gladly join with the government in making it clear to the world that the Canadian people, with one mind and heart, are determined to preserve their national liberties.

In all my statements, I wish to say, I have shown a readiness to join with the government in cooperative action.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am sorry to interrupt my hon. friend, but I do so in order that the record may be clear. My hon. friend mentioned that I had made no statement up to that time. I should like it to be made clear that I made a statement to parliament on Monday. My reason for not having made a statement at that time was that I was waiting to make my statement to parliament, which is the practice I adopt whenever possible when parliament is in session.

Mr. MANION: That is true, but even the Prime Minister occasionally makes statements outside parliament. However, I was just going to refer to his statement. On Monday, the twentieth, the Prime Minister

made a statement to the House of Commons. May I point out that Mr. Chamberlain's most important statement was made outside parliament, in the city of Birmingham. While parliament was in session he went to Birmingham to deliver what was perhaps the most important declaration made by him during that crisis. However, I am not wishing to get into any controversy. I am going to refer to the Prime Minister's statement on Monday. It is on record, and I shall not read it, but the points he made—and I am subject to correction if I am wrong—were: first, he was ready to consult with the United Kingdom; second, if London were bombed Canada could consider it an act of aggression. I believe I have correctly synthesized the statement. The points I made in my remarks the same day were: first, that I should offer no criticism of the government; I said I did not believe in political manoeuvring at a time like this; second, I mentioned the need of maintaining a united Canada; third, I called for a united front of the empire and other democracies; fourth, I concluded—and these are my words:

As leader of the National Conservative party I offer now to join loyally and wholeheartedly with the government in making it clear to all the world that a united Canadian people—with one mind and one heart—is determined, come what may, to preserve its liberties and its nationhood. And may God assist us in our efforts!

I have no word to change in that statement. That is the record, so far as I have it—and I think it is correctly given—of the situation in this parliament and outside it on the part of this government and myself. Since then, on March 27, three days ago, I gave an interview to a Toronto newspaper regarding the resolution of the Ontario legislature. I do not mind adding that it received a great deal more publicity than I had expected. Later on I shall elaborate my statement, but I mentioned the following points; and since the statement has been made public, while I should like to put it on *Hansard*, I will not do so in view of the fact that it is somewhat lengthy.

The points I made were these: first, there should be no profiteering in war time; second, there must be full cooperation with Britain in war time, because we cannot be neutral and remain in the empire, as everyone wishes us to do; third, there was to be no conscription of Canadians to fight outside our borders in any war. That was the gist of my statement three days ago.

Now, sir, the crises have all passed and for the time being I think we can, all of us, discuss calmly the situation as a whole. After