

In my opinion, the people are fearful that party politics and party welfare—not restricted to any one party, let me emphasize—are influencing or are apt to influence the deliberations and decisions made in the house. That distrust is deepened by each partisan speech made in the house. Every time a dog fight between parties takes place in this chamber, that distrust deepens. We just about had one this afternoon. It is confirmed time and again in British Columbia, and I have no doubt in the other provinces of Canada by the actions and the talk of the government hangers-on. Probably we would have the same condition if the Conservative party or any other one party were in power.

I do not blame the ministry. I blame the hangers-on, who are out across the country. I am afraid it is impossible, under our present organization, to shake them off. There is no enthusiasm for action taken by this ministry to-day. There will not be enthusiasm, unless some change is made right here in Ottawa. It may be difficult for the ministry sitting here in Ottawa to realize the truth of that statement. Ottawa is a very poor place in which to get a realization of what is going on in other parts of the country. But that situation, in my honest opinion, does exist to-day, and I have reached the conclusion that with the house organized on a strictly party basis, as it now is, it is quite impossible to increase the confidence of the Canadian people either in the ministry or in the house, and that there is far more likelihood of there being a decrease in such confidence, as time goes on.

The Canadian people are sound in believing that in a crisis of this kind the House of Commons should not be carrying on the business of this country on a political partisan basis because in this war, as everyone in the house knows, there is no real issue between the parties. We have one aim. We have a common aim: To win the war, and to win it just as quickly and with as little suffering as possible.

Further, each member in the house knows that if we do not win the war there will be no further need to worry about parties or parliaments; for they, along with all other democratic institutions, will have been liquidated, and the freedom of the individual Canadian will be a thing of the past.

We have moved into a new world, a tougher world, and we must meet these new conditions with a new type of parliament. Great Britain did it, but did it only under compulsion and in the face of imminent invasion. The time has now come for Canada to do the same thing. I implore members of the house to realize that fact. It should be done quickly,

before the blitzkrieg comes. We know a blitzkrieg is coming. The Prime Minister has told us; we have been told by others, and it is only reasonable to expect that it will come. The change will have to be made then. I ask the house and the people of Canada: Why wait? Let us do it now so that we will be organized to meet this thing which is rushing up to strike us.

There are different ways of changing the methods of the House of Commons. There are different ways of adapting them to meet the rapidly changing world conditions. I do not pretend to have the only way or even the best way. But I would ask hon. members to consider the whole position, and to think of ways by which we can bring our Canadian parliament up to date.

I propose that the Prime Minister form a "victory" ministry—I repeat, a "victory" ministry, in which the members of each party in the house, Liberal, Conservative, Cooperative Commonwealth Federation and Social Credit, would have direct representation. The Prime Minister had the right idea when, on September 12, 1939, during the first war session—over seventeen months ago—he made this statement, as reported at page 157 of *Hansard*:

So far as I am concerned I look upon myself to-day, with all due humility, much more as the leader of all parties in this country united in an effort to do what we can to preserve and defend the liberties of mankind.

Those were noble words. I was inspired by them, and I think every other hon. member present on that occasion was so inspired. In my opinion, the Prime Minister meant what he said. Obviously, at that time he thought it would be possible for the ministry of the day to obtain the united and whole-hearted support of the Canadian people, despite the fact that it remained a strictly one-party ministry. For the sake of Canada I hoped he was right. But events have proved that it was a case of expecting too much. Happenings in this chamber this afternoon have proved that fact. We need not go any farther back than to-day's sitting of the house. It is now clear that enthusiastic and whole-hearted support cannot be obtained from our people for a House of Commons or a ministry organized as is the present one.

I propose, further, that such "victory ministry" should invite suggestions and constructive criticism from all private members in the house. In other words, let us make this a real parliament. Let us make it a gathering of the representatives of our people. To-day Liberal private members cannot readily suggest or criticize in the house. In practice, they are confined to suggestions in caucus, a secret meeting. They are deprived of the