

the amendment which we have offered shall clarify the whole problem. It will permit hon. members who desire to support the government in a clear and unmistakable position to know exactly what they are voting for. Certainly there is not a member of the group to which I have the honour to belong that is not fully in favour of sending all the reinforcements necessary to our troops overseas, and I doubt if there are many hon. members who are of a different opinion on that matter. But we are not in favour of supporting the government in all its policies; I would hate to be associated with some of those which the government has undertaken. I would hate to be associated with the attitude which this government and other parties represented in this house took at the time war broke out, in 1939. I recall only too vividly our stand here when we asked for an all-out war effort. We stood alone at that time, and when the plebiscite came on we were criticized here because of our action, but we were the only party in Canada which went out and explained the facts as we understood them to the people. We were the only party, I repeat, which, when the plebiscite was taken, explained the facts to the people and, in conformity with the practices of a democratic country, said to them, "You tell us how you want us to vote," and abided by that decision. The rest of the membership of this house went out and told the people to vote "yes", and when they did vote "yes", some of them came back to the house and voted against the passing of bill 80, contrary to the decision democratically registered by the people. It may be that there was an excuse for them: they could justly say, nobody knew what it was about. The purpose of this amendment to the main motion is to put the question fairly and squarely not only before the members of this house but before all the people of Canada. We are only too anxious to send all the needed reinforcements, but we do not think we should be compelled, as the hon. member for Macleod said, to vote for a two-barreled resolution, when you do not know which trigger the Prime Minister is going to pull, although you can depend upon it that he will pull the one which suits him.

The amendment which we have made does not in any way deflect from the policy of sending reinforcements, but it does make the issue clear. The Prime Minister said in the course of his speech that to vote for his motion did not imply support of all the government policies, but the motion does not so state, and our amendment is intended to clarify that position and make it clear to

hon. members that by voting to send the required reinforcements they will not be obligated to vote confidence in the other policies of the government.

Mr. E. G. HANSELL (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I have only a word to say with respect to the amendment which has been moved by the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Johnston). I shall not inflict another forty-minute speech on the house. As I said before, I do not like the wording of the motion standing in the name of the Prime Minister and yet, realizing the tremendous problem he has, I wish to give him all the support I can. I am speaking now for myself and not for my group; my group can vote the way they want to; but I am not going to vote confidence in the government on the basis of the present motion standing in the name of the Prime Minister. He may not want my little vote; it may not make a particle of difference—

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Not very much.

Mr. HANSELL: —nevertheless my vote is going to be determined on the basis of what the Prime Minister wants to do with the amendment. All I am asking the Prime Minister to do is to take one tiny step, a step which will readjust this motion, whereby he will put into the motion what he promised in his speech, namely, that he was not demanding the house to vote confidence in all the administration did. The next is a slight addition which says that we will also support his government in waging "a vigorous war effort against the totalitarian powers"; and it adds this, too, "at all such times" as it wages a vigorous war effort, because I do not think we should be forced to vote confidence in the government in carrying on its war effort and let it carry on just as it wants to; it is to be "at all such times as it wages a vigorous war effort" that we will support them. Then there is this little addition. You know there is an opinion in Canada that we embarked upon too ambitious a war programme. I do not know whether we did or not, but I do not think we should be called upon to do more than our share in a world war. Other nations are at war on our side. So that we are merely adding, "an effort consistent with Canada's ability and position in the world." It is a slight change. Personally I will give the government every possible weight of support I can in my own small way if they will reword their motion, and this amendment is exactly what that will do. If they vote against this amendment I cannot vote confidence in the government.