

After a while the Right Honourable Sir Lyman Poore Duff, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne,

The Honourable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that—

“It is the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor’s desire that they attend him immediately in the Senate Chamber.

The House of Commons being come,

The Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the Second Session of the Nineteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following Speech:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

Since the present session opened, we have witnessed the extension of war until, to-day, it encompasses the globe. As aggression has succeeded aggression, the active resistance of free peoples everywhere has risen to meet it. The myth of national isolation has vanished from the earth. It is now recognized that the freedom of each nation is bound up in the freedom of all.

A little more than a year ago, the countries of the British Commonwealth stood virtually alone, except for China, in armed resistance to the forces seeking domination of the world. In the front line of freedom were the brave people of Britain. Most of the countries of Europe lay at the feet of the conqueror. The heroic resistance of the peoples of Yugoslavia and Greece, the entry as an ally into the war of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the determination and military might of the armed forces of the Soviet Union, and the achievements of the British and allied forces in Africa have materially changed the outlook in Europe.

A new and very critical situation has been created by Japanese aggression in the Far East and by the declaration of war by Japan against the United States, the British Commonwealth and the Netherlands. Germany and Italy have joined Japan in declaring war against the United States. In assessing the possible consequences of Japan’s action, full account should be taken of the significance of the entry of the United States into war against the combined Axis Powers.

In Canada, within recent weeks, the world aspect of the conflict has been reflected by formal declarations of the existence of a state of war between Canada and Japan, and shortly before, by similar declarations against Hungary, Roumania, and Finland, whose governments had passed completely under Nazi domination. Canada’s action in this respect was a part of the solidarity which now embraces the war effort of all the allies.

In Britain, in the Far East, in the skies over Europe and over Africa, and on all the seven seas, Canada’s fighting men are upholding freedom. Hostilities in the Pacific have added to our problems and responsibilities. Already by their heroic participation in the defence of the island fortress of Hong Kong, Canadian troops have written an immortal chapter of Canadian valour.

The whole economy of Canada has been increasingly directed to meet the needs of war. There has been a steady and orderly mobilization of material resources and of men and women for the widely varied tasks of modern total war.

Additional precautions have been taken for civil defence.