

house yesterday. It is not indicative of a helpful spirit or calculated to induce people who put public service before personal aggrandizement to enter the service. It is no encouragement to them; therefore, so far as one may reasonably and calmly resent that type of suggestion I raise my voice in protest against it.

Mr. COLDWELL: Mr. Speaker, may I endeavour just to shorten this debate? The hon. member for Cape Breton South is not in his seat. As to the suggestion that any reflections were cast by this group upon any member of the armed forces, I want to say that no reflection whatever was cast or intended by the hon. member, nor would we tolerate for an instant any such reflection.

Mr. W. A. TUCKER (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. I do not intend to detain the house for more than a moment, but two things which have not yet been mentioned in connection with this matter should I think be mentioned.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not wish to prevent any hon. member from rising to a question of privilege, but I do think that the statement which has already been made by the hon. member for Lotbinière has covered the question of privilege which was raised. There can be no debate on a question of privilege.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): With all deference, may I point out that this statement affects every single member of the House of Commons. I repeat what I said before I was interrupted so unnecessarily by my hon. friends opposite—that every member of this House of Commons is entitled to speak on a question affecting the privileges of this parliament—every single member here—and especially are those entitled to speak who wear his majesty's uniform.

Mr. SPEAKER: With reference to the remarks made by the minister, I would point out that at the moment there is no motion before the chair for discussion. On the question of privilege, any member who thinks that there has been a breach of privilege is entitled to speak. I am allowing the hon. member who has now risen to proceed, because he has stated that there are two matters which have not been discussed and to which he wishes to speak on a question of privilege.

Mr. TUCKER: In reference to what has been said, the suggestion was thrown out very distinctly by a member of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party, as follows—*Hansard*, page 162.

[Mr. Mutch.]

With all due respect to those who are in uniform, I think a decision should be made one way or the other as to whether they belong here or in the service, because no man can do both jobs.

Mr. COLDWELL: Read the next sentence.

Mr. TUCKER: All right:

It is done in England, some will say. It is all right in England, because the armed forces in Britain are in the front line, and when you are in London or in any other part of England you are at the front.

I wonder if there is not a danger of attack on our west coast, on Alaska and parts of the west coast of Canada just as there is a danger of attack on England. If it is all right for people to go from the parliament of England to defend their country, it is all right for a Canadian to go to defend his country and to have a seat in the House of Commons. Every hon. member in the forces who comes to attend this house, unless he is on leave, gets no pay or allowances from the army while he is sitting here. It is a strange state of affairs that it should be suggested that a man can continue in business, or continue in a profession, or continue to earn his income in any other line whatsoever, but that if he dares to enter the forces of his majesty to defend his country he is to be excluded from this House of Commons. I hope that the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, and the leader of the C.C.F. in the province of Saskatchewan, who desired, as I did, to get into the armed services and serve his country, will absolutely repudiate on behalf of their party the suggestion that merely because a man wears his majesty's uniform he should be prevented from sitting in the House of Commons.

#### FRENCH LEGATION

##### VACATING OF LEGATION BY FORMER MINISTER— PROVISIONS FOR CUSTODY AND MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY

On the order for motions:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): The house will be interested in having information with respect to the position of the former French legation and matters surrounding the closing of the legation. I should therefore like to make a statement at this time.

When, on November 7, 1942, forces of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and others of the United Nations, including certain Canadian naval forces, commenced landing operations in North Africa, the government at Vichy ordered resistance