

percent behind the party's leader, and that he believed the course the government had followed, in one of the most trying and difficult of all situations, was the only one which could have kept the country united.

Mr. St. Laurent's role in the crisis of 1944

I do not know that it has ever been realized how near we came, in November, 1944, to having no government at all in Canada, and no party that could form a government, with any hope of being able to carry on in parliament while our armed forces were facing the last terrible ordeal of battle at the front. I shall always believe that it was the firm and statesmanlike stand taken, in that hour of crisis, by the Minister of Justice, his clear vision, his wise judgement, his quick decision, and his persuasive powers which more than any other single influence helped to ensure the continuance of the government, and to avert an appalling disaster.

I would not for a moment have it believed that all members of the government were not equally conscientious, equally anxious to reach a right decision, but knowing the situation as I do, knowing the exceedingly difficult position in which many members from this province, as well as many