

Conservative Leader Manion Voices Criticism

Scores Government For Attempt To Get Snap Judgment From People—Claims Canada Unprepared And War Effort Lagging.

OTTAWA, Jan. 25—(CP)—Following is a partial text of Conservative Leader Manion's speech in the House of Commons today:

I should like to point out that the custom in the House of Commons has been for the Government to give a copy of the speech from the Throne to the leader of the opposition an hour or so in advance, and up to the present this custom has been observed by this government. No such courtesy was extended today, not even when you, Mr. speaker, had the copy of the speech in your hands. So far as I know no copy has been made of any part of this House except to the Prime Minister and the speaker.

I merely point this out, sir, because it is a discourtesy that not only offends all the parliamentary traditions of the House of Commons but which also shows a lack of respect for the part of the Prime Minister to try to catch everyone in this House without preparation by the absolutely unprecedented step he has taken today. Until I went into the Senate Chamber I had absolutely no hint that there was any thought of any step like this.

Unscrupulous Politics

What he has done from a political standpoint is to carry on a campaign of unscrupulous politics at this time by calling for an immediate election without any hint to the people, in order to gag discussion in this House and throughout the country—at all events, to prevent any discussion and to attempt to force a decision of the people of Canada on this great question.

Mr. King: My honorable friend will realize that a speech from the Throne containing a declaration of an immediate election for the country was a document which had to be kept very secret. Otherwise, as my right honorable friend knows, the information would have got out on all the streets of this country before it was announced in Parliament. That is the sole reason copies of the speech were not given out.

Mr. Manion: The right honorable gentleman is right in his desire to keep the matter secret. He suggests that if he had given me a copy of the speech I would have blathered it all over the street. As a matter of fact I have not blathered it all over the street. I will say that no one had a copy of the speech except the Governor General.

Unprecedented Action

Mr. Manion: That is a small matter, but it is just in line with all the other acts of the Prime Minister in his recent course of action. He says, in his remarks, that the Canadian people have approved—according to his idea—approved of the acts of this government. If the Canadian people have approved of the acts of this government, why then this hurry for an election at this time?

Why call a snap election on this day of 1940? Why call a snap election on this day of 1940? Why call a snap election on this day of 1940? Why call a snap election on this day of 1940?

Disgraceful Trick

The understanding was that the House of Commons would be called in regular session and that we would discuss the activities of the Government, the effort of the Government in the conduct of the war, as we have done in the past. It was only a few weeks ago that the Prime Minister had decided an election should be called; but to put over a political trick of this kind I say is disgraceful and is in violation of the traditions of Canada and the British Empire.

Reward for Inefficiency

His reward for handling the Department of Labor in such a weak manner was to be made Minister of National Defence, the most important post in the Government. How can the people of Canada expect that a Minister of Labor who made a failure of such a nature in the administration of the Department of National Defence?

Propaganda By Government

And this has happened after months in which there has been the greatest degree of propaganda by the Government. It is an attempt to force a decision of the people of Canada by the right honorable gentleman has been the war effort.

Govt. Will

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should be called at once, dwelling particularly upon the criticism directed against the administration by the Ontario Legislature.

It is expected that the Government of Canada will be surrounded by the animosities of the opponents who are seeking to undermine every effort that is being put forward in the leadership of the administration by the Prime Minister.

The Ontario Legislature action of the Government of Canada is the start of a "deliberate campaign" the Prime Minister said.

What is the cry already? The leader of the Conservative Party in Ontario is calling the people and he gives them the slogan "no more Go." I am quite prepared to accept that slogan if he will add the words "no more campaign."

It is now being said that a political campaign has begun. "That being so I ask honorable members whether it is wise to carry on a political campaign in the Ontario Legislature at this time."

There has been a complete lack of preparation and as a result the war effort so far is deplorable.

Kicked Government To Action

Whatever has been achieved in the way of preparation has been done only by kicking this government into action. The matter of mothers' allowances was settled only the other day.

There are thousands of widows and other dependents of men who have enlisted to whom this government has failed to give the proper allowance.

Many of the boys who enlisted were on relief and they owed gratitude to this government for relieving their distress or to give them work and wages. These boys had the guts to join the army to fight for Canada. They had the guts to come forward and offer their lives for democracy. Yet in many cases the mothers of these boys who were on relief, due partly to the inactivity of the former Minister of Labor and the Government generally in not solving this problem, are being faced with hunger.

The wheat sale to Russia was another example. Wheat was sold to Russia and it was only after the fact that the Government had to be called to the Atlantic to discuss the matter. It had to be kicked into doing it.

No Defence For Canada

There was no defence for this country. What is even worse, there were no plans for defence. Yet far back as 1936, if not sooner, the Air Training Association in Canada was pleading with this government to get ready for the inevitable war.

Mr. King: We said we would provide the facilities ourselves and give them the opportunities here, but the administration must be under the Government of Canada, not under the Government of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Manion: He said he would get our establishment here, give them the right to train. Where were our establishments? Where were our personnel? Where were our machines? We did not have any machines.

Refused British Plan

Mr. Manion: Well, I will deal with that too. The ex-Minister of National Defence, said we were to cooperate with the British. We were going to train 126—I think was the number of pilots here per year, and all we were going to permit the British to send across were 50 per year. And yet Sir Kingsley Wood, the head of the Air Ministry in Britain, made the statement that what the British had hoped was that there would be 25,000 men going to train 60. That is what the ex-Minister of Defence stated.

At that rate it would have taken 500 years to provide them with the number of pilots that we are now training.

The British proposed to come over here and establish schools for their flying pilots, to be maintained at their own expense. Let us see what would have happened if the right honorable gentleman had said "yes" to them at that time. As they have come over here and established their air training schools, they would have brought over their British young men to train here at the expense of the Government. I say that the Prime Minister in refusing the British the opportunity to train their pilots here, did what was unfair to the people of Canada.

Mr. King: I absolutely deny that there was any refusal to train pilots here. My honorable friend, by endless repetition of a statement of that kind, cannot give it any veracity.

Mr. Manion: Well, I can give it veracity by the right honorable gentleman's own words, and before this election is over I will quote them over and over again.

Predicts Liberal Defeat

If it is the decision of the Prime Minister to dissolve the House of Commons, he shall leave it in the mouths of the people to say whether they want to govern them or to carry on Canada's war effort. I venture to make this prophecy.

In view of the unpreparedness of the Government, in view of its weak war effort, and in view of the attempt of this Government to put over a piece of trickery on a many of the traditional civil rights

Naval Men Ponder On Prize Money

By Pat Usher
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON, Jan. 25—(CP)—Men of the Royal Navy are wondering if admiralty will continue in the war the traditional practice of awarding prize money and special bounty.

Officials are deliberating whether the prize money for captured German ships and cargoes and special bounty for German warships destroyed. They have not made up their minds yet.

At the end of the first great war part of the prize money was distributed amongst all navy men. The money was divided on a proportionate basis, according to rank and length of service at sea.

In the old days prize money went exclusively to the crew of the ship which made the capture. But most of the fleet was occupied in 1914-18 in hunting down the German Navy.

Authorities do not know how fair for all the benefit to go to the few ships engaged in hunting down enemy shipping.

An enemy warship was destroyed in the last war by a British ship. The prize money was £25 was paid for every sailor aboard the enemy ship. This was distributed proportionately according to rank and length of service amongst the crew of the British warship or warships responsible.

If this bounty is awarded in this war, the crews of the cruisers Exeter, Ajax and Achilles will get it. The crews of the destroyers Exeter, Ajax and Achilles will get it. The crews of the destroyers Exeter, Ajax and Achilles will get it.

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Prime Minister King Explains His Viewpoint

Tells Commons Reasons For Decision To Call General Election At Early Date.

OTTAWA, Jan. 25—(CP)—Partial text of Prime Minister Mackenzie King's address in the House of Commons today follows:

The House will recall that at the special session my honorable friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Manion) asked me if I was prepared to give an undertaking that an election would not be called by the present government before Parliament had again been summoned.

I have undertaken that an election will be called before Parliament is summoned. I have undertaken that an election will be called before Parliament is summoned.

It is not against myself alone personally but it is against the entire administration. There have been, as no doubt honorable members are aware, many other attacks upon me personally as leader of the Government; but this is against the government at Ottawa, and the change is not a personal one. It is a change in the government itself.

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PREMIER MACKENZIE KING

why it is in the public interest, in the interest of the country and in the interest of the people of Canada. As if we are to have an election, as is now perfectly evident that we should, we should have it just as soon as possible and have it over at the earliest moment.

This Parliament was returned in 1935 and this is 1940. That in itself is in my opinion, is the strongest reason why there should be an election at this time. Some may say that this was not the case with Sir Robert Borden; that this was not the view that the Government was returned to power in 1911 and war came on in 1914. He had been in office for only three years, and there was the most urgent of reasons why he should carry on. He had still another two years before his term would be completed.

Had I thought that it would have been in the interests of the country so to do, I should like to have gone to the people immediately after the election, to explain to them that those who would be charged with the great responsibility of government in war time were not the best men for the job. I realized that at that time, however, that it was not so easy as it is now to have an election as expeditiously as possible, that the country should be changed from a peacetime to a war time situation. All necessary measures should be taken. And once those measures were taken, every man should be entitled to a free and unqualified mandate from the electorate.

Mr. Mackenzie King: I will answer the question in regard to the men who are fighting overseas. What about the military forces? They have to face the winter. Miss MacPhail: I should like to see them drive over the roads. Mr. Mackenzie King: I have considered that question carefully and I think my answer will appear to you as well as to others. I am older than you are, and I am a general elector of the country. I am a general elector of the country. I am a general elector of the country.

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