

Resignation Is Accepted by Premier

Partial text of Major Power's speech in the House of Commons and letters exchanged with Prime Minister King will be found on Page 3.

By **KENNETH C. CRAGG**

Ottawa, Nov. 27 (Staff).—Former Air Minister C. G. Power today in the House of Commons in a declaration of unalterable opposition to the Government's conscription policy for reinforcements, attacked Gen. Eisenhower's strategy against the enemy, and told soldiers' dependents it might make for heavier casualties.

"I think I should draw the attention of the House, and to thousands of mothers, wives, sweethearts and dependents of those now in the front line that this repeated return to battle, instead of making for less casualties among their loved ones, might very easily make for more. No commander will take experienced men out of the unit and undertake an engagement with only the newly arrived, however well trained they may be.

"It seems to me that the logical thing, the reasonable thing, is to take the men out of the line temporarily to refit, to re-equip, to rest, to recuperate, and to refill their ranks."

The statement raised tension in the Commons to a new level, and came directly after Prime Minister King announced acceptance of Major Power's resignation of last Thursday, before the Government Leader had an opportunity to declare his stand.

Units Filled at Once

The former Air Minister, thrice wounded in the last war and awarded the Military Cross, told the House that the supreme commander of the Allied forces on the Western front had proclaimed, as strategy, the decision "to strike the enemy again and again, and to give him no rest and no respite."

"We are informed," he said, "that in order to carry out this Eisenhower plan of war reinforcements must be available and at hand to refill battalions and units within 24 hours after the casualties occur."

He said that if the course of systematic recuperation had been followed in the army, as had been followed in the RCAF, the voluntary system would have sufficed until the day of victory.

A crowded House, with galleries jammed even tighter than on any day of last week's sittings, and with at least 200 of the former Minister's RCAF repats in the audience, heard Mr. King read the resignation correspondence.

Persuasion Failed

When the House adjourned for the week-end the issue between Major Power and his Leader was still in some, if little, doubt. It was known strenuous efforts were being made to persuade the man who headed the Canadian effort in the air war to reconsider.

That it had failed was evident from the moment the House convened, when his Cabinet seat remained empty, and then Major Power took his place in the front-row seat only so recently vacated by Jean-Francois Pouliot, Temiscouata when he crossed the floor into Opposition.

The former Minister was always, without question, a popular figure in the House. The proof was there when he ended his statement, and

members generally, even some known conscriptionists, applauded him, if not his stand.

Mr. King revealed that stand with the tabling of the resignation letter.

"I am," said his former Cabinet colleague, "unable to accept the policy which the Government has now adopted with respect to the Mobilization Act. I do not believe such a policy to be necessary at this time, nor will it save one single Canadian casualty."

The letter declared he parted with former Defense Minister Ralston on the grounds that "the number of troops which he reported as being required was comparatively so small, and the end of the war so imminent, that, weighing everything in the balance, we were not justified in provoking a national scission."

Rejects McNaughton Plan

"I cannot accept now from a new Minister, Mr. McNaughton, a recommendation which I reluctantly felt obliged to reject when made by an old comrade and tried associate, Layton Ralston."

Mr. King heard the Power statement, head in hand and face slightly flushed. It was noticed that neither he nor Mr. Ralston applauded at the end.

Major Power harped on the argument that the number of infantry required was comparatively small and argued that the "lowering of the rate of casualties by periods of comparative or total inactivity would wipe out the margin of deficit, if any exists, and restore the

balance.

He said that "neither ultimate victory nor national honor required that Canadian troops should be in action every hour and every day." He warned of the consequences of cleavage between classes and between races—"of honest and decent people in Canada in the process of hating and reviling each other."

He insisted conscription might have been justified if D-Day had been a smashing catastrophe. "But those days are past and we have no right to tear this country asunder at this stage, and in this state of war."

Public Losing Faith

Major Power said sincere convictions had given way to hysteria with a weakening of faith in public men on all sides.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier had believed he could not belong to a party of one Province and Major Power said he could not accept any policy of isolationism within Canada, and he hoped for full unity and peace in Canada in his time.

Major Power said Canada's glory already was secure and this war surely was more than a competition for casualties.

"I depart in sorrow and not in anger," Major Power said.

In reply written today to Major Power's letter of resignation, Mr. King said he had hoped Major Power would reconsider. He said he hoped the service Major Power could render the war effort would outweigh other considerations.

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149

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CABINET
POWER

McNaughton