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Parti progressiste-conservateur du Canada. (1953). « Campaign leaflet ». In D. Owen Carrigan. 1968. *Canadian Party Platforms 1867-1968*, Toronto, ON: The Copp Clark Publishing Company, (210-211).

total production of most farm products and we must have external markets to provide any real security for our farmers.

With the world in the troubled state it is, and with the difficulty most countries have in earning enough dollars to pay for what they want and need to import, we simply cannot hope to avoid problems—and often very serious problems—in maintaining and expanding our external trade.

Progressive Conservative Platform of 1953

[Campaign Leaflet (Ottawa: The Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, 1953)]

TAXES

We will reduce federal taxes by at least five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) a year. This can be done without reducing any pensions, family allowances, other social security payments, or in any way impairing the efficiency of our armed forces.

MUNICIPALITIES

We will introduce legislation exempting municipal councils and school boards from Sales Tax and Excise Tax on all purchases of machinery, equipment, instruments and other goods and which will further provide for taxation of all federal government properties in municipalities on the same basis as that of ordinary municipal taxpayers.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

A Dominion-Provincial Tax Conference will be called immediately for the purpose of revising our whole system of taxation so that taxes on homes and farm lands for education, health and other essential services can be substantially reduced.

ACTION ON "WASTE" REPORTS

We will greatly reduce the cost of government by ending waste and extravagance, increasing efficiency, eliminating duplication and improving accounting methods. In particular, we will reorganize the Department of National Defence. We will act immediately upon the findings of the Currie and McNab Reports as well as the Reports of the Auditor General and others. These reports

all offer positive and constructive suggestions for dealing with the waste, extravagance, inefficiency and chaotic accounting methods disclosed in that department.

SUPREMACY OF PARLIAMENT

We will re-establish the true principles of the Confederation Pact set forth in the British North America Act. We will restore the Supremacy of Parliament and the Rule of Law. We will return control of the nation's business to the elected representatives of the people. We will put an end to government by secret Orders-in-Council. We will repeal the Emergency Powers Act.

SENATE REFORM

We will set up a joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons for the purpose of reforming the Senate with particular reference to the method of appointment, tenure of office and its legislative functions within the framework of our federal system.

COMMUNISM

We will introduce legislation to amend the Criminal Code which will make it an offence punishable by due process of law to engage in Communist or other subversive activities designed to destroy our democratic system.

WORLD MARKETS

We will take immediate steps to restore and expand world markets for agricultural and other primary products. Our program will include bold and constructive steps to break the Dollar-Pound Barrier and regain our vital British and Commonwealth Trade.

FARM FLOOR PRICES

We will appoint a National Agricultural Board for the purpose of establishing fair floor prices related to farm production costs.

ADVANCED LABOUR LEGISLATION

We will undertake an immediate review of all national labour legislation for the purpose of improving collective bargaining procedure, expediting conciliation of disputes, assuring fair employment practices, providing equal pay for equal work, and generally increasing the basis of co-operation

between labour, management and government. We believe that fair working conditions at good pay provide the surest means for assuring the industrial stability upon which steady jobs, expanding production and improved standards of living all depend. We will extend the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act to provide benefit payments for unemployment due to disabling sickness or accident.

HOUSING PROGRAM

We will introduce a housing program which will make it possible for people with small incomes to buy new homes by improving the terms and conditions under which houses can be built and purchased. We will co-operate with Provincial Governments and Municipal Councils in making fully serviced land available for building.

CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH INSURANCE

We will introduce a contributory health insurance program, in co-operation with the provinces, which will assure to every Canadian proper diagnostic, medical and surgical treatment. This program will recognize existing medical insurance plans and provide the medical services which our people require without introducing state medicine.

FREIGHT RATES

Immediate steps will be taken to deal with the freight rate structure in Canada, with recognition of the fact that the railways are commercial arteries, maintained by the people of the whole of Canada and that the facilities offered by those services should be designed to expand production, distribution and trade on the widest possible basis to the greatest advantage of every Canadian. We will respect all existing regional statutory rates and take every practical step to encourage the use of our own ports for Canadian export and import trade.

CIVIL SERVICE

There will be an immediate review of all legislation affecting the Civil Service, so that all except casual employees may become permanent members of the Civil Service, with assurance of security of employment, and promotion by merit to the highest offices within the service. The importance of the Civil Service within the structure of government will be fully recognized and working hours, pay and advancement will be comparable with employment in industry and commerce.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The natural resources of Canada are a heritage which Canadians of our generation hold in trust. In cooperation with the provinces we will establish a national policy under a system of free enterprise which will:

- a) promote and develop all our natural resources for the benefit of the people of every part of Canada;
- b) protect and conserve our forest, mineral and other resources from undue depletion or exhaustion;
- c) expand the use of our resources by the encouragement of industrial research;
- d) proceed with a national development program which will include such projects as the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project, the Saskatchewan River Power and Irrigation Project, Hydro Electric Power Projects in the Maritimes and similar projects of national importance in other parts of Canada;
- e) promote the decentralization of industry so that opportunities for employment and advancement may be extended on the widest possible basis throughout the whole of Canada.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

We believe that Canada has a vital role to play as a member of the Commonwealth and a friendly neighbour of the United States. That is the cornerstone of our external policy. We have faith in the peaceful power of that great alliance of free people working together within the framework of the United Nations. We believe that world peace depends primarily upon the strength of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We pledge our full support to that and other organizations set up under the United Nations for the preservation of peace and the improvement of social and economic conditions throughout the world. We approve of the Colombo Plan and believe that the principle it establishes should be extended as widely as possible.

Social Credit Platform of 1953

[From a campaign speech by Solon Low, *The Halifax Chronicle-Herald*, June 27, 1953]

Abolish hidden taxes which result in pyramid-consumer prices.

Abolish all present sales tax except the two per cent which supports old age pensions.