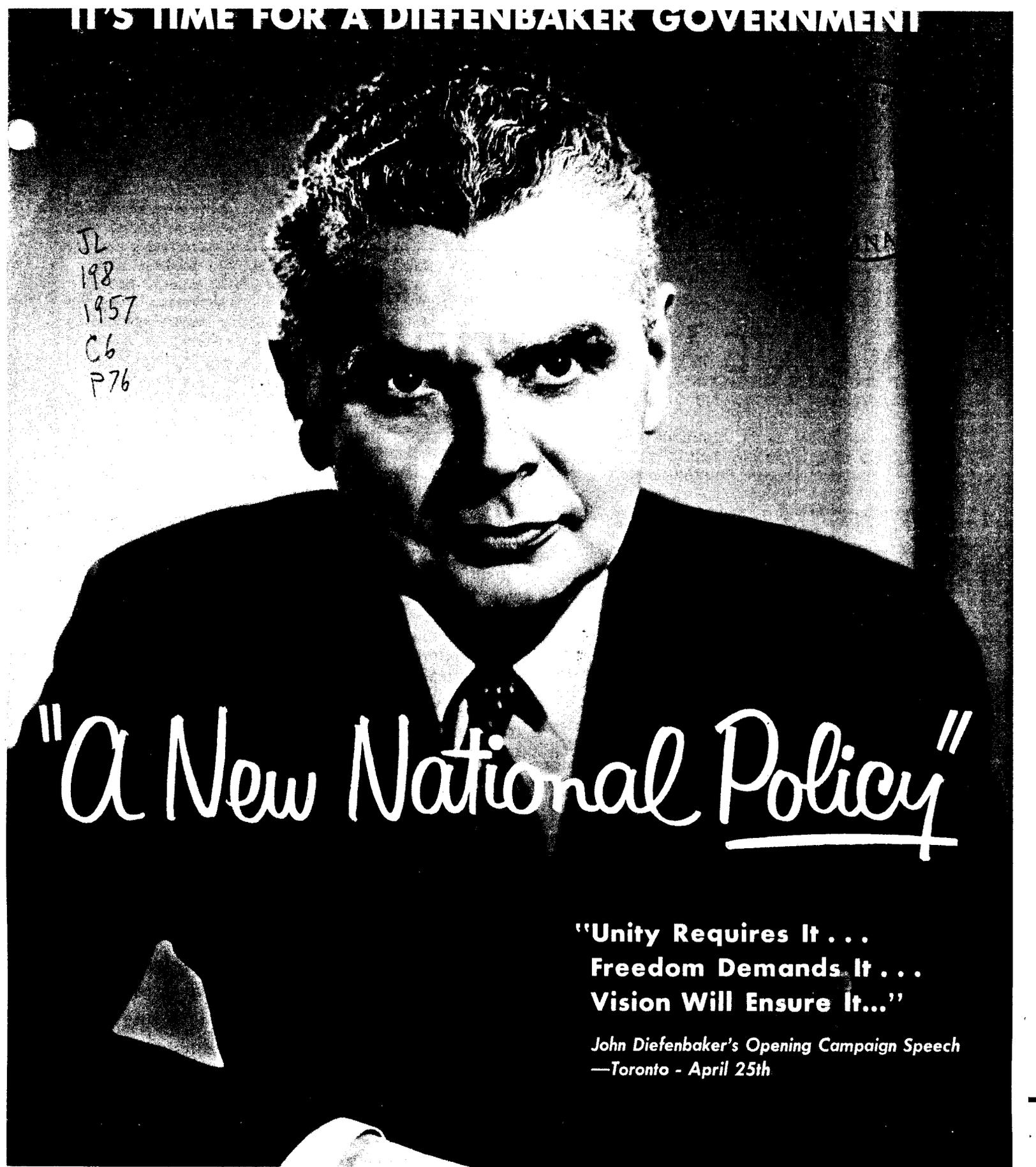


IT'S TIME FOR A DIEFENBAKER GOVERNMENT

JL
198
1957
C6
P76



"A New National Policy"

"Unity Requires It . . .
Freedom Demands It . . .
Vision Will Ensure It..."

*John Diefenbaker's Opening Campaign Speech
—Toronto - April 25th*

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY

In Verbatim Quotations From Speeches By

JOHN DIEFENBAKER

A DATE WITH DIEFENBAKER . . .

Many thousands of Canadians are keeping "a date with Diefenbaker" during his dramatic coast-to-coast election campaign tours.

Hundreds of thousands more will keep a "Date with Diefenbaker and Democracy" on June 10th — Election Day.

In this booklet you will find some of the major issues of the election expressed in his own words at public meetings and over Radio and Television.

In a remarkable way these statements reflect the Man and his Mission . . . his concern for great matters of state and his abiding faith and interest in the average man and woman.

ONE CANADA AND CANADA FIRST

At the Crossroads

Can anyone doubt that Canada stands at a crossroads in her history? This is a time for greatness in planning for her future. Unity requires it—freedom demands it—vision now will ensure it.

We have a choice—a road to greatness in faith and dedication—or the road to non-fulfillment of Canada's destiny.

The road of the Liberal Party in recent years will lead Canada to the virtual extinction of Parliamentary government; towards national disunity; and expose future generations to the possible loss of national independence.

If this nation is to have a new birth of unity and freedom we must return to the vision of the nation-builders who made Confederation—of Macdonald—Canada's first nation-builder—who led the way to national tolerance, dignity and unity when he joined with Cartier in brotherhood and in faith.

My pledge, on behalf of this Party, will be to do my part to achieve ONE CANADA.

Fundamentals of P-C Policy

The Platform and Policy of the Conservative Party is based upon its abiding faith in freedom; in the maintenance of our institutions which are the buttress of our freedoms; in the sovereign independence of Canada; in the assurance to all Canadians of the opportunity for industry, skill, and enterprise; and, in the resolute determination that the state shall be the servant of the people and that no government shall attempt to be their master. It will resist Communism from within and without Canada by every means in keeping with our conceptions of freedom of the individual.

A Date with Destiny

I do not think the Canadian people are asking for political carpentry for vote purposes. They ask for leadership that will give them a lift in heart and is motivated by a desire to serve.

THE PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE

We must return to the people their right to govern.

I have used the phrase "the supremacy of the people in Parliament." That is the historic phrase, the way men spoke when everybody understood that the supremacy of Parliament over the Government meant the supremacy of the people in the government of their own affairs. I believe that the people of this country are fully aware that full and free disclosure of the business of government to Parliament, and full, free and unfettered discussion of your business in Parliament, is the only effective

We must bring to Canadians a faith in their fellow Canadians and a faith in the future and destiny of this country.

We must make articulate the yearnings and aspirations of the humblest of our people. To this, we are dedicated and you, my fellow Canadians, will require all the wisdom, and the faith, and the vision that the Conservative party gave but yesterday under Macdonald to laying the foundation of this nation for a glorious future.

External Affairs

Internationally we must retain a close relationship with the Commonwealth and in our tradition resent the British people being derisively condemned as "supermen".

We must maintain good relations with our neighbour the United States, whose devotion to freedom means survival to free men all over the world.

We must remain true to our international obligations in the United Nations and NATO.

Opportunity for All

It was never more important than today that this Party should maintain as a sacred trust the vision of Macdonald and Cartier of a greater Canada nurtured in a spirit of brotherhood, vision, and faith. In that spirit I come to discuss with you the future of Canada, not just one section or another, but *ONE CANADA*.

We believe that equality of opportunity must be assured to our people in every part of Canada, whether fishermen in the Atlantic Provinces, the industrial worker of Ontario and Quebec, the wheat farmer of the Prairies, or the workers in the oil fields, the mines and the forests of Alberta and British Columbia. The poverty or misfortune of any man, any region, or any Province diminishes the birthright of us all.

guarantee that government in this country will indeed be (in the immortal words first uttered by Tyndale and Wycliffe and later by Abraham Lincoln), government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The Liberal Record

We shall continue to expose, criticize and resist every indication of a continuance of the contempt for Parliament and Parliamentary institutions shown by the present government in the last few years. Those who have watched it develop to its

climax in the last session can fully appreciate it for what it is and what it means to our cherished concepts of individual and group freedom within a Parliamentary democracy. The cabinet act as masters rather than servants of you—the people.

The catalogue of specific abuses is long. It includes the deliberate with-holding of important information about what the government has done and is doing. It includes the suppression of full information about the disposition of millions of dollars of your tax payments. It includes the taking of absolute power to enact in secret, measures which affect the rights of everyone of us.

Specific Reforms

Our Party will:

1. Restore Parliament as the custodian of freedom . . . it will abolish Closure to guard against its abuse.
2. Call a Dominion-Provincial Conference for the purpose of making the Senate an effective arm of democracy.
3. Restore the Two Party System.

People, Parliament, Provinces

The Three Pillars of Canadian Democracy are:

The Canadian people
The Canadian Parliament
The Canadian Provinces.

True Liberalism Betrayed

In the British tradition of parliamentary democracy, the Cabinet is continuously responsible to

the people through their elected representatives in Parliament. Such government is in every sense "Of the People, By the People, and For the People." There was a time when the Liberal Party was true to its faith and militant in the cause of freedom and the preservation of parliamentary democracy.

The late Rt. Hon. Ernest Lapointe, speaking in Parliament in 1932, stated:

The first duty of Parliament is to remain a Parliament, not to become a subservient and ornamental body . . . It is the will of Parliament, not that of the Government, that is the will of the nation. . . . The Sovereignty of the people is delegated to Parliament, not to the executive, and when I say 'Parliament', it means the minority as well as the majority in Parliament.

Those views are no longer held by those who profess Liberalism in this country. The Prime Minister and his Ministers have repeatedly declared that the Cabinet, not Parliament, is the sole interpreter of the will of the Nation. That view denies responsible parliamentary government.

Parliament has been treated with shocking contempt, sorely wounded and robbed of its rights. It has lost its independence and its power has been usurped by a few Ministers who treat the rest of the Cabinet as juniors and members of all Parties as though they were not entitled to be in the House at all.

There has been a progressive restriction of the supremacy of Parliament in the last ten years. The concentration of overwhelming power in the hands of the Cabinet has disciplined its majority into abject servility.

A NEW DEAL FOR PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES

The Provinces

We believe in *ONE CANADA*, with equal opportunities for Canadians in every part of this country. We consider that there can be no national unity, indeed, that national unity is an empty dream, until that end has been achieved.

We, therefore, intend on forming a government immediately to convene a Dominion-Provincial Conference to bring about a settlement of these problems, not in the spirit of arrogant domination displayed by the Liberal Government at successive Conferences, but in a spirit of unity, amity and with mutual tolerance and respect.

Federal Tax Grants

How can there be national unity with Federal-Provincial Relations in the mess they are with

Provinces and Municipalities handcuffed by inadequate sources of revenue—with several of the Provinces unable to discharge their constitutional responsibilities and to promote the development of Natural Resources?

We believe that the Provinces and the Municipalities should have the financial resources to carry out their constitutional and community responsibilities without which our productive economy cannot continue its progress.

We believe in the Federal system of Government and in its preservation as essential to Canadian unity, and that the Federal system is threatened by the centralization complex of the St. Laurent Government, and that a healthy balance of revenues as between the Federal and Provincial Governments (including Municipal Governments) must be assured.

Fair Sharing of Taxes

The provinces and the municipalities have responsibilities in development and must be assured of sources of revenue. To that end the time has come for a more equitable share of tax yields being provided for the provinces and the municipalities.

We have fought the battles of Parliament to maintain the Constitutional rights of the minorities and of the Provinces. It was the Conservative Party under Macdonald and Cartier that created these Constitutional rights. It is this Party that will maintain them.

The Liberal Record

We will halt the ever-increasing trend to centralization of power in Ottawa whether directly taken, or indirectly through taxation measures which deny to the Provinces and in consequence to the Municipalities their fair shares of the taxation dollar. Is evidence necessary to establish this trend?

The concentration of taxation in the Federal Government since the war is shown by the fact that in 1939, of the Net General Revenue—44% of

the total taxation levied was taken by the Federal Government, 32% by the Provincial, and 24% by the Municipal governments.

On the basis of the latest taxation statistics available 76% went to the Federal coffers, 10% to the Provincial, and 14% to the Municipal governments.

The concentration of taxation in the central Government will, if unchecked, dilute Provincial rights as effectively, if more slowly, than would actual amendment of the Constitution. This trend must be stopped.

The views of the Government were revealed in the speech given by the Prime Minister to the Canadian Bar Association two years ago when he spoke of the increasing demands of the people on the Central Government, and used these words:

If those demands are to be met it naturally follows that the Government has to be endowed with the necessary powers and financial means to make that possible. . . . Only in that way can a democratic government remain democratic.

That theory enunciated by the Prime Minister would set at naught the Constitution.

THE LIBERAL LINE

Much will be made in this campaign by Government propaganda agencies and press that the general level of well-being in Canada has resulted from government policies; and credit will be taken for the bountiful harvest of the land, the sea, the forest and mine.

The "all-knowing" Cabinet has even taken credit for having maintained world peace. The Government will hope that Canadians will forget that the Prime Minister condemned Britain and France in their darkest hours last autumn and referred to the leaders of those two countries as those "Supermen" whose days are about over, placing them in the same category with Bulganin and Krushchev and completely disregarding the contribution that those nations made for freedom in a welter of sacrifice in two world wars and for generations before.

Brush Aside Failures

They will take credit for the National Income; they will deny their responsibility for, and their ineffectiveness in meeting, the fast-falling purchasing power of the dollar. They will brush aside their failure to do what should be done to meet inflation, namely, to reduce wasteful and unnecessary Government expenditure which, in 1956-57 has been greater than ever before in all history.

They will brush aside their responsibility for ineffective credit restriction, the raising of interest rates which have not stopped the race of inflation but has struck down necessary home building and embarrassed financially municipalities and Provinces who require to borrow funds for needed public works.

They will brush aside the adverse balance of trade with the whole world during four successful years and which, in 1956, amounted to \$848,000,000—more than double that of 1955, and the fantastic amount of our deficit with the United States which last year totaled \$1,200 Million Dollars and will be more this year if the trend of the last two months continues.

They will brush aside the need of preserving our economic independence.

They will brush aside the danger to Canada's heritage of sovereignty by the shipment of our exhaustible resources in raw material form to a large degree to the United States.

They will endeavour, with statistics, to lead the farmer to believe that he is prosperous, even though our markets for farm products have been lost by indolence and apathy; they will deny that industrially Canadians are being taxed out of the markets of the world because of excessive Canadian taxation.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

National Development

To assure economic development in all parts of this country the Conservative Party will offer a new National Policy founded on a renewed sense of national purpose. Whereas Sir John Macdonald was concerned with opening the West, we shall be concerned with the developments in the Northern Frontier.

We believe in a positive national policy of development in contrast with the present negative *laissez-faire* and haphazard one. Such a policy would provide for co-operation with the Provinces, and the northern areas, unorganized as Provinces, would be the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Liberals "Canada Last" Policy

The North, with its vast stores of hidden wealth, is ready to come into its own. The wonder and challenge of the North must become our national consciousness. All that is needed is an imaginative policy which will open its doors to Canadian initiative and enterprise.

We renounce the philosophy of the Government as expressed some years ago in the House of Commons when the then Minister of Transport said "that one of the advantages of the St. Lawrence Seaway would be to make it possible to convey the iron ore to the great steel mills of the United States" of which 75% to 80% were within reach of the Great Lakes.

That is a "Canada Last" policy which permits, if not advocates that our vast irreplaceable resources should be processed to a major extent outside of Canada.

We believe that the welfare of Canada demands the adoption of such a policy as will develop our National Resources for the maximum benefit of all parts of Canada; will encourage more processing of Canada's resources in Canada; will foster wider financial participation by Canadians.

The Concept of One Canada

That being my philosophy and since I wish to bring about the concept of one Canada with special rights and privileges to no area, I would advocate a new national development policy of resources embracing every part of this country to assure prosperity in Canada and a maximum capacity to discharge her international responsibilities.

I believe that Canadians are becoming more and more conscious of the need for re-examination of Canada's economic policies to ensure and preserve for the people of Canada the control of their own economic and political destiny.

Natural Resources Policy

1. Every encouragement must be given to the processing of domestic raw materials in Canada to a much greater degree than exists today, in order that our resources may be utilized to the maximum advantage of the Canadian people.
2. Foreign investment must not be discouraged, but it must be directed to the maximum benefit for Canada.
3. Canadian subsidiaries of foreign concerns to that end should be required to provide a substantial interest in their equity stock to Canadian investors.
4. I agree with the recommendation of the Gordon Commission that wherever possible foreign companies should employ Canadians in senior management and technical posts, should retain Canadian engineering and other professional and service personnel, and should do their purchasing of supplies, materials and equipment in Canada. Canada is losing too large a percentage of its highly trained engineers and technological scientists to the United States, because of the fact that American corporations operating in Canada do not provide in Canada for a fair share of the research expenditure. If companies operating in Canada were to provide for a fair share in this regard, these trained men would stay in Canada and help to build their own country.

National Energy Board

To meet the industrial demands of Canada's future I believe that there is a need now for the setting up of a Canadian Energy Board, with its membership to be composed of technical personnel who might be selected by the President of the National Research Council, together with representatives of industry and of the Dominion and Provincial Governments, to the end that the most effective use of the energy resources of Canada in the interests of the public welfare may be assured. With the vast resources of gas, oil, coal and uranium the time has come to set up a National Energy Board, whose duty it would be to advise and to recommend proposals regarding these resources, so that they may be safeguarded from prejudicial and ill-timed action for the use of Canadians in this and future generations.

Roads to Resources

I believe that a National Highway policy should be launched to provide highways for peace and

development wherein the Federal Government will make contributions to or share costs in co-operation with the Provinces.

The challenge of Communism now and in the years ahead demands that our vast northern resources be made accessible and available to industry, for vast resources undeveloped and hidden in the

earth will not fashion or forge the shield of freedom or contribute to the survival of the Free World.

A "Road to Resources Program" would appeal to the imagination of the Canadian people and particularly to the young men and women of this nation, who ask for nothing but the opportunity to make their contribution to the building of a greater Canada.

ECONOMIC CONTROL OF OUR OWN DESTINY

Economic Policy

We believe that Canadians must recognize that Canada's Economic Policies must ensure and preserve for the people of Canada and future generations of Canadians the control of our economic destiny. History shows that the loss of a nation's economic destiny may lead to the same fate politically.

Our party, in common with all Canadians, welcomes Foreign Investment. It must not be discouraged and it must always be treated fairly, but a sense of national destiny for Canada calls for it being directed to the maximum benefit of Canada.

Control Our Own Destiny

Recently the "Financial Post" pointed out that foreign investment in Canada now amounts to 65% of the national income. In the United States, at the peak of foreign investment in that country the proportion was 15%. Today, on a per capita basis, foreign-owned assets come to \$940.00 per person in Canada. In the United States it was \$75.00.

Canada's investments abroad are barely one-third of the amount of foreign-owned investments in Canada.

And of these nearly one-third are government loans. Is it any wonder Canadians are beginning to wonder—to use the words in a recent editorial in the "Financial Post"—"how long (with the growing dominance of foreign-owned enterprises) Canada can continue a separate existence".

I believe the State has a function to provide climate and incentive. Is it not time that the incentive to non-residents to operate in Canada as foreign corporations rather than as subsidiary companies incorporated in Canada should be removed? The Conservative Party believes that it is long overdue. We encourage immigrants to become Canadian Citizens, likewise we must encourage immigrant Capital to become Canadian.

High Taxes Discourage Investment

Canadians are realistic and know that if foreign investment were to stop or be seriously hampered, a deadly blow to our development would be the result.

On the other hand, if foreign investments are to remain predominant in resource industries, Canada would tend to become a purely extractive national economy supplying the materials for other nations to process and turn into useful goods. *of*
learned
or
used

Why have Canadians not participated to a greater extent? Some put it down to timidity. Others say that the tendency of Canadians has been not to invest in risk capital but rather in the direction of long-term savings. I believe that too high taxation and antiquated and out-dated tax processes are responsible in large part.

There is another phase of the development that is not in keeping with Canada's destiny: that is the degree to which the United States' industries have almost absolute power and control over many enterprises in our country and whose practices deny Canadians getting more than a token interest. Canadians, as a whole, believe that they should have an opportunity of greater participation in investment in these companies and a voice in sharing in the destiny of important sectors of our economy and in particular among those that I have mentioned.

A P-C Government will

1. Adopt a National Development Policy in co-operation with the Provinces which will develop our natural resources for the maximum benefit of all parts of Canada.
2. Encourage more processing of Canada's resources in Canada.
3. Correct the present unfavourable trade balances.
4. Foster wider financial participation by Canadians in the development of our resources.
5. Promote greater opportunity and employment for a steadily increasing population.

Perilous Adverse Trade Balance

The unfavourable trade balances of recent years touched a maximum in 1956. Last year Canada's adverse balance of trade with all the nations of the world was \$848,000,000.00, more than double the 1955 balance. It was the fourth year in succession that there had been an adverse balance in total trade with the world. Canada's exports to the world increased in 1956 by 11.8%. Our imports increased by 21.2% over the preceding year. Our

trade with the United States has continued to mount. Last year 73% of Canada's imports came from the United States, while 60% of the exports went to the United States. In 1956, Canada achieved a frightening and perilous adverse balance of trade with the United States of \$1,290,000,000.00, the greatest in Canada's history.

We Have Lost Markets

We have lost our agricultural markets in the United Kingdom and, "Canada is perhaps the most open and unrestricted market in the world", ac-

ording to the views of the Minister of Trade and Commerce when he was in Japan last October.

The government refuses to act. The Conservative Party for several years has advocated the calling together of a Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference, but on each occasion Liberal members have voted against support of the motion. The Conservative Party when it achieves power intends immediately to convene such a Conference and thereby to restore to a maximum extent the British Market which has been all but lost by our government which seems not at all concerned over the fact that while the U.S. market is close at hand, it is uncertain.

OVERTAXATION BY THE HIGH TAX PARTY

Taxation

We believe in private enterprise with the state's function being the provision of climate and incentive. We believe that the development of this country is dependent on incentive and individual enterprise.

We believe that there should be stronger incentives in the Income Tax Act for Canadians to invest in Canadian equity stocks.

We believe that the discriminatory method of taxing Canadian oil companies should be changed so that Canadians are not at a disadvantage in competition with the foreign investors in Canadian oil fields.

We believe that tax deductions should be permitted in research in order to encourage Canadian research in every field.

For Canadians as a whole, we contend that present unjustifiable and excessive rates of taxation must end, and that taxation must be reduced. When the Conservative Party forms the government of this country a session of Parliament will be called to reduce taxation.

Overtaxed \$120 per Family

Last year Canadians were overtaxed by \$120.00 for every family of four. In 1957 the amount will be larger. Mr. Harris, speaking at a meeting of the York Liberal Association recently was unrepentant and seemed to boast of the fact that already in the first two months of this year the surplus is far in excess of last year. It is time to take the unrepentant tax-masters off the backs of the Canadian people. No one can deny that present rates of taxation penalize success, neutralize incentive, and diminish production.

The Government seems to think that it is good for the souls of the Canadian people to overtax them and to have honest Canadians pushed around and pilloried by income tax snoopers.

The views of the Ivory Tower Boys seems to be that if you spend your money it makes inflation,

but if the Government takes it from you and spends it no harm is done.

The Liberal Record

The Liberal Party, through the years, has always had one session in each Parliament that has been a tax reduction session. They always felt that all of us taxpayers should have a few extra dollars in our pockets in April of the year in which they sought re-election.

In the session ended last month in Ottawa, and in the Budget brought down by Mr. Harris, they made no noticeable reduction in taxes. There was no reduction in the rate of Income Tax; no reduction in those taxes which contribute to the high cost of goods that you and I have to buy; and there was no reduction of that most discriminatory tax—the Excise Tax on automobiles.

Canadians Overtaxed \$536 Millions

Unnecessarily high taxes, due in considerable part to wastefully high costs of government, are unjustified. For the first ten months of this year Canadians have been overtaxed \$536 Million Dollars, or \$33.00 per person.

Liberals are "High Tax Party"

The High Tax Party has been in power too long. The taxes have become confiscatory and can, if continued bring about the end of our system of free enterprise. (That is not only my opinion, but it is also that of V. W. Scully, now a business executive and formerly Deputy Minister of Taxation.)

Furthermore, we believe that a major reason for the serious trade situation is that we are being taxed out of the markets of the world by unnecessarily high taxation. Every Canadian last year

paid more than was required for the costs of government. We say that such taxation is not justified and reductions should not be reserved only for election years.

Tax Structure to be Revised

I believe the entire tax structure in Canada needs to be overhauled with a view to providing encouragement to the promotion of primary and secondary industries in our country. Canadian companies cannot expect to enjoy special advantages over foreign investment, but have the right to be assured that taxation laws in Canada will

permit them to compete with foreign companies on equal terms. That is now denied.

Promoters, investors and those who venture in risk enterprises should have precisely the same advantageous treatment in taxation as exists in the United States.

I repeat—in the opinion of many Canadians the time has come for an exhaustive survey of the tax structure of Canada, federally, provincially and municipally, for to too great an extent, development of our natural resources by Canadians is held back because the tax structure has not been brought up to date and in keeping with the needs of the present.

FREE ENTERPRISE AND EFFECTIVE UNIONS

In 1872 George Brown headed a committee of employers to break a strike. The Conservative Government pushed through Parliament the Trades Union Act, freeing Canadian unions from the old common law restrictions affecting combinations in restraint of trade. And through the years this Party has placed much advanced labour legislation on the Statute Books.

The Progressive Conservatives are convinced now, as always, that the free enterprise system coupled with effective free trade unions, offers Canadian labour the best assurance of opportunity, security and highest possible standard of living. To attain this end we shall:

1. Make the maintenance of full employment with the highest possible standard of living our primary objective.
2. Undertake an immediate review of all national labour legislation in consultation with representatives of labour, management and government and in particular to:
 - (a) Revise conciliation legislation so as to eliminate the present prolonged delays, and we reiterate our opposition to compulsory arbitration as an instrument for settling industrial disputes;

- (b) Co-operate with the Provinces to promote uniformity of labour legislation;
 - (c) Where difficulties in respect to labour-management matters are being experienced in inter-provincial industries, endeavour to bring such industries under a single jurisdiction in a manner acceptable to the parties concerned and the provinces;
 - (d) Enact legislation to provide minimum wages, hours of labour, and vacations with pay for all workers under Federal jurisdiction;
 - (e) Overhaul the Fair Wage and Hours of Labour Act so that it will govern minimum wages and working conditions in all Federal government work and services and on all government contracts, direct and indirect;
3. Provide adequate representation for Labour on all government boards and commissions dealing with Labour's interests.
 4. Improve Unemployment Insurance legislation to include:
 - Coverage for greatest number of wage earners;
 - Increases in benefits and allowable earnings;
 - Extension of benefit period to 52 weeks;
 - Elimination of waiting periods;
 - Prompt payment of claims;
 - Elimination of discriminatory regulations affecting married women.

INFLATION: A MAJOR PROBLEM

Inflation

Inflationary pressures are destroying purchasing power of the dollar with detrimental results to the Old Age, Family Allowance, and War Pensioner and others in respect of fixed incomes. The dollar has a purchasing power today of 53½ cents as compared with the dollar of 1939.

Inflation is the major domestic problem confronting Canada today. Canadians encounter it every day in rising prices. The only action that has been taken has been to restrict credit and to

raise interest rates. Such a policy cannot cure inflation without effective action by the Federal government to restrict its spendthrift mentality. Major elements increasing inflation are heavy government spending and high taxes, in both of which fields the St. Laurent government seems to pride itself on its record of failing to reduce either or both.

The Liberal Record

Major projects are being shelved by municipalities. They have adversely affected the economy

in various parts of this country. They have caused many small businesses to be strangled into bankruptcy in numbers not exceeded since the depth of the world depression. They have forced Provincial governments, Municipal and school administrations to pay excessive interest rates to finance vital public works and improvements.

The inflationary trend in my opinion will not be met without a change of government, for the St. Laurent government has developed an insatiable disinterest in saving the people's money and restricting the national spending without which the Canadian dollar will buy less and less and irretrievable damage will be done to the Canadian economy.

Government Waste

Another major problem is that of the mounting and accelerating reduction in the purchasing value

of the dollar. *The St. Laurent government has stubbornly refused to do anything to reduce wasteful expenditure.* In 1957, the Federal government will spend more than ever before in its history.

The Conservative Party has endeavoured to secure a reduction in unnecessary expenditures of government by suggesting the setting up of a Commission similar to the Hoover Commission in the United States but without result. That Commission has suggested economies in the Billions. Departments of the government would undergo a careful examination by Parliament. Finally the Estimates Committee was set up but its effectiveness was destroyed because the government refused to empower the Committee to call witnesses and have documents produced.

A FAIR SHARE FOR FARMERS

Agriculture

We will assure the farmer of his fair share of the national income by maintaining a flexible price-support programme to ensure an adequate parity for agricultural producers based on a fair price-cost relationship.

Fair Cost-Price Deal

I underline the word "flexible" to ensure an adequate parity for Agricultural Producers based on a Fair Price-Cost relationship. It represents, in general, the viewpoint of organized Agriculture across Canada. It represents the experience of every other country with a free economy in Agriculture. It represents a need at this time if Agriculture is to take its proper place in this nation.

My pledge to farmers in all parts of Canada is:— To assure that the farmer shall receive his fair share of the national income. My objectives will be:—Equality for farmers in Canada's economy. My desire is to correct the social inequity and the inferior economic position into which Agriculture has been allowed to fall.

Assure Stable Income

In summary, the Progressive Conservative policy has as its purpose the assurance of a maximum of stability of income to Canadian Farmers. The essential purpose of the Conservative Development Program is equality to regions and to groups in all parts of Canada and the raising of opportunities for the undeveloped parts of our country in a National Resources Program. Agriculture and its

welfare is a basic cornerstone in that policy. Our pledge to Agriculture is not new but has been developed through the years.

We will provide needed help to the agricultural industry by providing for expanding markets and to alleviate the detrimental effects of the squeeze in which farmers are now and have been irreparably caught between rising costs of production and falling farm prices.

The Government has Failed

The farmer is being squeezed between rising costs of production and falling farm prices. His markets have been lost or diminished because of the ineffective trade policies of the Federal Government, while, year after year, farm organizations have approached the Government with briefs in which the plight of Agriculture is set out in detail.

In general, the Government has failed to act and has quoted statistics. The farmer's share of the national income has gone down in the last eight years by some 6% and the costs of goods and services that the farmer has to buy have increased by 20%. Furthermore, there has been a continuing reduction in the farmer's share of the consumer dollar, from 59.3 cents of the dollar to approximately 50 cents today.

Farm Markets

Farm markets are being lost; to the greatest extent the British market, traditionally Canada's surest and best, is being sacrificed, and the uncertain U.S. market is being substituted therefor.

HUMAN BETTERMENT: THE ESSENCE OF GOVERNMENT

Social Security

Human betterment is of the essence of Government and we intend to maintain all Social Security measures; we intend to maintain a high standard of Social Security to keep pace with the rising productivity of the nation.

Pensions — Old Age, War, Civil Service

We condemn the meagre and niggardly assistance given to Old Age Pensioners which leaves them in a position worse off in purchasing power than they were in 1951 when \$40.00 per month was first established. In the same period of time wages and salaries have increased by more than 50% and no government worthy of its responsibilities can justify the picayune increases made to the Old Age Pensioners and to the War Pensioners and the present level of pensions for the retired Civil Servant.

The Conservative Party proposes to set the amount at a figure high enough to meet the needs of our older citizens and these other deserving persons, and to make necessary adjustments thereafter on a cost of living basis.

Veterans' Pensions and Allowances

To the Veterans we ensure justice and fair treatment at all times bringing pensions and allowances into line with the cost of living.

We intend to have veterans' problems discussed regularly in the House of Commons by the establishment of a Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

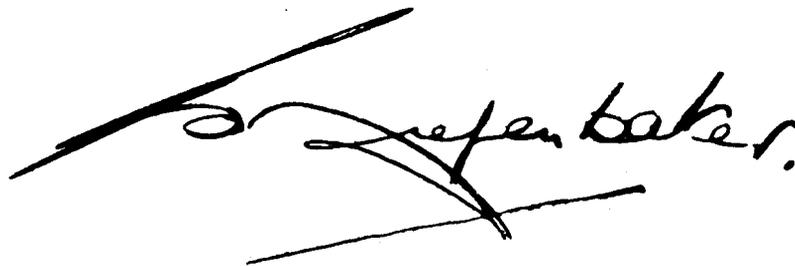
Needs of the Average Man

I believe I know the needs of the average man and woman. My pledge to you is that you will receive adequate and fair treatment in keeping with the responsibilities of the state to assure a reasonable equality to all our citizens.

Expand Social Security

A Progressive Conservative Government will consider expanding the present old age pension system by the addition of an insurance system similar to that in the United States. The United States plan of old age and survivor insurance provides average monthly benefits on retirement of \$76.00 for single workers, \$128.00 for aged married couples without dependents and \$65.00 for aged widows.

The average contribution per person is \$27.08 not much more than the average contribution by Canadians of \$22.70 for the Old Age Pension. A Conservative Government will consider implementing such a plan "in addition to" the present pensions system. The United States plan is "worthy of the highest commendation."



NATIONAL LEADER
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA

IT'S TIME FOR A DIEFENBAKER GOVERNMENT

Published by the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

