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320 Bay Street, Toronto,
December 16, 1942.

Dr. Eugene Forsey,
374 Piccadilly Ave.,
Ottawa, Ontario.

My dear Eugene:

I have decided to write you on a matter rather out of the usual line of our letters.

You notice King is making a great play of magnanimity in offering, as he puts it, to open the Selkirk seat so as to make way for Mr. Bracken. So proud is he of this piece of hypocritical stage play that he gets it over the C. B. C. about every hour, and the Canadian Press obediently plays up and puts it out as quite a gesture of generosity on Mr. King's part.

As you know as well as I do, and indeed, as everybody ought to know, Selkirk is a seat where a Conservative could not win, and certainly it is a seat where a Liberal cannot win. The last thing King wants, after the Winnipeg result, is to have an election brought on there, first, because he would be compelled to put up a candidate in view of the results in 1940, and he knows he will suffer a smashing defeat. That, as you know, is the only reason on earth why he is trying to parade himself as a generously-disposed antagonist.

The conclusion is that every step should be taken to force him to issue a writ for the Selkirk seat. You will see from the Act what has to be done. Why should King be permitted to say "I will continue to disfranchise Selkirk unless Mr. Bracken will agree to run there." It is a piece of impudence. This is the line the press should take and I will help all I can to have them take that line.

I am told there is a fulsome editorial in the "New York Times" about the great champion of liberty and equality, Mr. King, following his speech at the Pilgrim's banquet. As you know, it was a characteristically empty speech. I think, though, a letter should be written, and

(over)

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