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### Prime Minister Asks For Liberal Convention To Name His Successor

**Suggests Need For Re-Organization Of  
Liberal Party, Nationally and Locally —  
Convention Expected To Be Held In August**

Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King took the first official concrete step toward retirement Tuesday night when he asked the National Liberal Federation to summon and organize a national convention, next summer, to select his successor as liberal leader.

Mr. King did not mention a specific date or locale for the convention, but it is expected it will be held in Ottawa or or about Aug. 7, which will be the 29th anniversary of his Liberal leadership.

"It has seemed to me that the selection of a new leader of our party should not be further delayed (than next summer)," Mr. King stated. "I should like to see the new leader of our party chosen, as I, myself, was chosen at a national convention by representative members of the party throughout the country, as well as by its representatives in Parliament."

#### Life of Parliament

While the life of the current 20th Parliament does not expire until 1950, Mr. King observed, as to the timing of the convention next summer to choose a new leader: "It is, however, by no means certain that the government (under a new leader) would wish to wait until the expiration of the life of Parliament before seeking a renewed expression of the people's confidence."

The gathering, numbering over 500 Liberals, attending the big federation dinner at the Chateau applauded heartily when Mr. King declared he had never enjoyed the confidence of his party in fuller measure than he does today."

The audience applauded approvingly again when Mr. King said "he would not like to be accused of never having meant what he said" at the commencement of the 1945 general election campaign, and repeated several times since that he would not again lead the Liberal party in another general election. He would have disliked, more than anything else, he added, being accused of having held on to the position of leadership to what might be termed the last moment, and then, whatever the circumstances might be to have it said that he had let the party down."

Frankly admitting that "the Liberal party at present does not possess an efficient organization", Mr. King sounded a clarion call for prompt and renewed effort in that regard "to ensure the Liberal party's record and its policies being brought before the people as they should be."

Mr. King stated that, had time permitted the choice of a new leader for the 1945 election campaign, he would not have hesitated to have the party, at that time, select a new leader.

The Prime Minister recalled that the Liberal party, since Confederation has held only two previous national conventions, both in Ottawa, the first in June, 1893, and the second in August, 1919. Following both such conventions, he remarked, the Liberal party swept into power in subsequent general elections.

In the light of changed and changing conditions, Mr. King emphasized, the time has now come for the third national Liberal convention to deal with party organization to select