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security program established then we might have been well on our way. In 1945 the present Federal Government convened a Dominion-Provincial conference which had its main objective co-operation between the Federal and provincial governments in bringing about a greater measure of social security for the Canadian people.

At that time you will remember the Dominion asked the provincial governments to turn over to them income, corporation and inheritance taxes in return for which the Federal Government would not only give to the provinces an annual cash subsidy but it would also assume full responsibility for the care of all people 70 years of age and over. They also offered to provide 50% of the care for those between 65 and 70 if the province would pay the other half and in addition said they were willing to pay 60% of the cost of a system of a complete health insurance. Two years have lapsed since that conference was held. All the provinces except Ontario and Quebec have turned over the tax fields requested by the Dominion and have received an annual cash subsidy in return. So far, however, we are no closer to ~~making~~ seeing the implementation of the social security proposals than we were at the time of the conference. The Federal Government seeks to place the responsibility for its inaction upon Premiers Drew and Duplessis - and certainly the Ontario and Quebec governments must accept their share of the blame. But the Federal Government cannot wash its hands like Pilate and think so easily to avoid its responsibilities. There is no good reason why Ottawa should not embark upon a social security program with those provinces who are willing to co-operate to this end. The Federal Government cannot claim a lack of financial means indications are that the Dominion will have ~~an~~ a surplus of nearly one thousand million dollars at the end of the present fiscal year.

Has Mr. King forgotten the election promises of 1945 when he talked of lowering the age for old age pensioners to 65 and raising the amount of the pensions? And what about the ~~a~~ national health insurance scheme which was promised during the last Federal election? What about the implementation of the proposals of the Rowell-Sirois Commission which Mr. King set up?

Rather than assuming more responsibility for social welfare, the Federal Government has been assuming less and has been seeking to unload on the provinces some of the burdens which belong to the Dominion.