

shown itself so futile in relieving the troubles of this country. This is another delectable bit from the right hon. gentleman.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Finish reading the last one.

Mr. MANION: I am not going to read the whole book, because if I did I should laugh myself to death, as I said this afternoon.

This is another quotation from the next page:

The Liberal party believes the aim of every government should be the balancing of its budget.

This government has not got very close to balancing its budget. He goes on:

It would seek to effect that end, by retrenchment of public expenditures—

Never have public expenditures been so heavy as since this government came into power, and I do not notice any denials coming from the other side of the house.

The right hon. gentleman went on:

—by reduction of principal and interest on the public debt—

There has been a certain reduction of interest, but we were taking action in that regard before we went out of power. Every government has done that, by the process of refunding. He went on:

—by a reduction in taxation—

When has there been any reduction in taxation? There has been an increase in the sales tax since this government came into power, but I do not know of any tax that has been taken off. The right hon. gentleman goes on:

—and by increased revenues through the encouragement of trade.

There has been an increase in the revenues; but increased revenues certainly mean increased taxation, and these increased revenues must come out of the pockets of the people. Then he said:

The government will seek to effect a reduction of the cost of government in Canada by a careful inquiry into federal, provincial and municipal costs.

When was that inquiry made? It has not been made. The right hon. gentleman goes on:

The record of Liberal administrations in the reduction of expenditures, taxation, debt and interest, and in transforming deficits into surpluses, is the best guarantee that Liberal policies, if given their opportunity, will be able again to achieve these results.

There has been no reduction in taxation. On the other hand there has been an increase in the sales tax; the cheque tax is still on; the three cents postage is still on; the sugar

[Mr. Manion.]

tax is still on. In the next budget something may be done by way of reductions in view of the possibility of an election, but that is the only hope the people have of getting a reduction in taxation.

But this is something more than the right hon. gentleman said; this is a sweet bit:

More equitable distribution of wealth. The Liberal party recognizes that the problem of distribution has become more important than that of production and believes that personality is more sacred than property.

That is a discovery! He goes on:

It will devote itself to finding ways and means of effecting a fair and just distribution of wealth with increasing regard to human needs, to the furtherance of social justice, and to the promotion of the common good.

Human needs! Social justice! The common good! How those terms would roll over the right hon. gentleman's tongue when he was speaking over the radio! I myself was trying to gain a few votes for others at that time, but I did not succeed very well. He did. Social justice! The right hon. gentleman, when out of power, has been the greatest reformer the country has ever produced; but when in office he has been the greatest reactionary we have ever had. Out of office he is a theoretical reformer; in office he is a practical reactionary.

A little further down on the same page he says:

To-night, I hope I have answered, once and for all, the unwarranted and unworthy charge, so often made by our political opponents, that the Liberal party has no policy.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal party has had so much policy that nobody knows what it has had. It has had plenty of policy, all right, but it has lacked the principle of putting the policy into effect. Like the old woman in the shoe, it had so many policies it did not know what to do. That analogy is not quite correct; for the old woman in the shoe was dealing with children, and the Prime Minister, being a bachelor, would not, of course, adopt children. But if he did adopt children and treated them as he has treated his own policies, he would be arrested for cruelty. Or if he treated that dog of his as he has treated his own policies, he would be arrested for cruelty to animals.

I think it was Mr. Bourassa who said in this house that the only principle the Liberal party had was to have no principles, and it was Mr. Fielding who said—I think I have heard him say it in this house—that a platform was to get in on, but not to stand on. The principles which the right hon. gentleman is expounding in this little booklet remind me