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FILE → T. C. DOUGLAS
Hon. T.C. Douglas Premier of Saskatchewan "The Nation's Business" Nov. 6th, 1947.

Good evening -- The GCF desires to see established in Canada a complete system of social security. By social security I mean care for those who because of age, illness, or misfortune are unable to care for themselves. In Canada we have established old age pensions, unemployment insurance, children's allowances and a few minor social security measures but so far we have failed to implement any broad policy of social security such as ~~that~~ that enjoyed by the people of Great Britain, New Zealand or the Scandinavian countries.

In the province of Saskatchewan we now have free care and treatment for those suffering from tuberculosis, cancer, infantile paralysis and mental illness. All Old Age Pensioners and their dependents as well as Mother's Allowances cases and their dependents are entitled to complete health services. Our automobile accident insurance plan makes provision for those who are injured in automobile accidents and provided compensation to dependents of those who are killed on our roads and highways. Our Hospital Services Plan provides free hospitalization for all the people of the province on the payment of \$5. per head with a maximum of \$30.00 per family.

However, I think it is becoming increasingly apparent to all thoughtful persons that an adequate social security program cannot be financed solely by provincial governments. When the British North American Act was being drafted the Fathers of Confederation gave to the provinces the sole responsibility for providing social services. It was probably only natural that they should do so. In 1867 ~~such~~ such things as old age pensions, care for widows and orphans, health insurance and provision for the physically incapacitated were practically unknown. In the intervening 80 years, however, there has quite properly been a growing recognition of society's responsibility to care for ~~its~~ its unfortunates so that today we measure a society not so much by the size of its cities or the extent of its natural resources but rather by the solicitude which it shows for the sick, the aged and the crippled. When the Fathers of Confederation gave these responsibilities to the provincial governments they were relatively minor responsibilities. Today they have grown to the place where provincial governments cannot properly discharge them without additional sources of revenue.

It was ~~to~~ to investigate and make recommendations regarding this problem that the Rowell-Sirois Commission was appointed. Had their recommendations been implemented and a social