

Coll - Parl - speech from the throne 1931

Exhibit 5C

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Offer Peremptory.

Whatever else is to be said about the Prime Minister's offer, it will, I think, be agreed that it was peremptory.

"This market we want" - "subscribe without delay" - "must approve or reject" - "a time for plain speaking" - "the day is now at hand" - "decide once and for all" - "further discussion...is.... unnecessary" - "time for action" - "deliberations must be governed by the time factor" - "change.....must be made without undue delay" - "the time is now at hand when doctrine must be embraced" - "I await your decision". These are samples of the persuasive terms in which Canada's offer was presented for acceptance - a "now or never", a "take it or leave it" attitude. I wonder what would have been said if I had presented to an Imperial Conference an offer from Canada to Britain in any such terms, especially at a time of great economic distress throughout our land. I would not have been permitted to land had I ever returned to Canada.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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