

At this decisive time in the annals of Newfoundland, it is more urgent than ever before for everyone to think very seriously about the choice of those into whose hands you intend to entrust your destinies. Tonight I speak on behalf of the Liberal Party because for so many years it has so faithfully kept the high principles on which this party has been established. For the past fourteen years -- for seven out of every ten years in this century -- Liberalism has paralleled the progress of Canada and it has furthered the welfare and the security of the people of Canada.

You know that throughout our ten provinces we now stand at the peak of our prosperity. The average man or woman in this country is better off today than at any other time and under any other government.

2. THE PARTIES OF GLOOM AND DESPAIR

I know and you know that the Progressive Conservative Party and the C.C.F. Party have been talking recently in gloomy tones about the future of the country in which you now hold equal partnership. The leader of the C.C.F. Party has admitted that his party stands little chance of getting into power unless there is a depression in Canada and the ordinary voter cannot help but ask whether the average C.C.F. candidate is to be trusted with prosperity when they think so much in terms of depression.

Prominent Progressive-Conservative Party members are also talking about the depression that is just around the corner and they think that this is perhaps the best argument for them to return to power. Now let me tell you that there is some sense in this argument because in Canadian history the Tories have undoubtedly had much more experience than the Liberal Party in running this country into and during depressions. No one in Canada has forgotten the dark days of the early Thirties when for five years under a Tory government this country was in the depths of our worst depression.

I am sure that since 1935 the Conservatives have picked up some new ideas. Any other depression into which or during which they would lead us would probably be a considerably different sort of depression. But why should we risk depression when for fourteen years

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