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Bishop's University
Lennoxville, Quebec

OFFICE OF THE
PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR
REV. A. H. MCGREER, M.A., D.D.

13th November 1941

The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen, P. C.
320 Bay Street
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Mr Meighen:

I have just read the announcement of your acceptance of the leadership of the Conservative party. It has given me great pleasure. You have the gratitude of a vast company of patriotic Canadians for thus responding to the call of duty. In those sections of Canada of which I have knowledge, there has been a deep yearning for a courageous leadership in our political life worthy of the responsibilities which this unprecedented crisis lays on us. We have confidence that in your great gifts of mind and heart there is the certainty of having this yearning satisfied.

Reflection on the situation in Canada and discussion with my friends have led me to convictions, two of which I should like to place before you.

The first is that we should have in the Dominion Parliament a symbol and an embodiment of the united effort which conflict with a totalitarian power necessitates. If the Conservative party has a similar conviction, and convinces the Canadian people of its sincerity, I have no doubt that the electorate will give it enthusiastic support. I should like to see the Conservative party so strong in its advocacy of a Union Government that it would not only promise to invite the Opposition to enter the Government, should it be returned to power at the next election, but express its willingness to enter the Government should it be returned as His Majesty's Opposition. I am certain that such an attitude would reflect the thought and the feelings of our best Canadian citizens, and I am convinced that it would have a public expression of approval from them.

The second conviction is that the promise to undertake an intelligent application of the principle of compulsory selective military service would have the approval of the majority of thoughtful Canadians, and would bring relief to thousands of people who have lived through an agony of disappointment because of the failure to introduce it since the withdrawal from Dunkirk.

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