

C209568.3

MEMORANDA RE LIBERAL PARTY POLICIES

Not 43

Mr. A.

1. What is wrong with the Liberal Party?

(a) It may be true that the Liberal party has always been a "Canadian" as distinct from an "Imperialist" party. I don't think that has seeped through into the public understanding. On the contrary, I think the Liberal party is looked upon as a "French Canadian" party or at least as a party whose chief pre-occupation is with the French Canadian vote. I think one of the things the Liberal party has to fight is a belief that it will "appease" the French Canadians at any cost.

(b) Napoleon believed in the "carriere ouverte aux talents". You heard what was said about the average age of the members. The party, it seems to me, has got to make it possible for young men of no means to reach the top. And these must not be exclusively lawyers.

(c) If it is correct that the Liberal party organization has been thrown to the winds, I am afraid if there is an election in six months they will reap the whirlwind.

(d) The fundamental weakness of the Liberal party as I see it is that it apparently has no policy except "opportunism".

2. What can be done?

(a) Have Mr. King make a declaration similar to Churchill's that private and state enterprise will do the job ahead - the state only stepping in where it is demonstrably in the public interest.

(b) The greatest need, as I see it, is a "vision" which will bind the Canadian people together. This is the only alternative to a long-term educational programme to interpret one part of the country to the other. I am afraid the time is too short for that.

(c) As a safety-valve, I still think this provincial conference I suggested has possibilities. It will let the business men and others who feel they have grievances sound-off and hold out the hope that the faults will be remedied by the party to whom they state them.