

and there is no possibility of avoiding the issue. This is a time for plain speaking, and I speak plainly when I say the day is now at hand when the peoples of the Empire must decide, once and for all, whether our welfare lies in closer economic union, or whether it does not. Delay is "hazardous; further discussion of the principle is surely unnecessary. The time for action has come.

" Projects other than the one I propose have been placed before you. They have been carefully canvassed by our delegation, and, while we would avoid anything which might savour of premature condemnation, we are constrained to state that none of them can be accepted by Canada as alternatives at all likely to achieve the purpose we have in mind.

" Until this principle is accepted it would be profitless to discuss the application of it in any great detail. . . ."

Then follows the so-called "offer" to "the Mother Country and to all the other parts of Empire" - "based upon a 10% increase in prevailing general tariffs or upon tariffs yet to be created," and the Prime Minister's conception of

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