

## CANADIAN LIBERALISM FOR THE SIXTIES

Upon what basis will the platform of the Liberal Party of Canada be determined? A party platform will be determined partly in terms of strategy and partly in terms of policy. Strategy is the means by which a party hopes to win seats and gain political power. Political power, however, is not an end in itself. The goal of achieving political power is to enact party policy. Considerations of political expediency concern the strategy-makers. Considerations of fundamental principles of political philosophy concern the policy-makers. To create a party platform that ignores either of these elements will result in one of two possibilities. Without consideration of political expediency, a party is not likely to have opportunity to implement its policy. Without consideration of fundamental principles of political philosophy, a party is not likely to have any policy to implement, even if elected.

It is far easier to determine election strategy than party policy. To determine the appropriate strategy to adopt, a party need only discover the temperature of public opinion. To determine the appropriate policy to adopt, a party needs a set of fundamental principles of political philosophy in terms of which the party policy can be consistently formulated.

Liberalism is the political philosophy of the Liberal Party. The basic tenet of liberalism is the dignity and worth of every individual. This entails that each individual is an end-in-himself, not merely a means to an end. The state and the government liberals believe, exist to serve man and exist by virtue of the consent of the governed. A corollary of liberalism, therefore, is the democratic process of responsible representation. Within the state, individuals are entitled to certain basic rights. A right of an individual may be defined as a privilege that other individuals ought to permit and that the state ought to guarantee. The basic rights of an individual include: freedom, equality, and security. These terms are ambiguous and have come to mean different things to different people.

Freedom means the exemption or liberation from the control of some other person or some arbitrary power. Freedom is guaranteed to each individual through legislation for the removal of restrictions which impede the development of each individual. Freedom, however, is not unlimited. An individual is not free to interfere with the freedom of other individuals. The liberal will oppose exploitation

and oppression of one individual or group by another individual or group. Liberalism, therefore, protects the freedom of minority groups to have different ideas. Diversity of opinion and belief leads to new ideas, and the liberal welcomes new ideas. The first freedom of liberalism is the freedom to live, without which the other freedoms are academic. Some of the other freedoms which the liberal is determined to protect include: intellec-

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tual freedom, freedom of thought and expression, freedom of association, freedom to own private property, freedom to choose his government or freedom to lawfully oppose his government, freedom to pursue his own interests and goals as long as he does not infringe upon the freedom of another individual.

One individual is not more free than another. A consequence of freedom, therefore, is equality.

Equality, as the liberal understands it, does not mean that all individuals have equal ability. Equality means equal opportunity for all individuals. Equality means equal rights for all individuals before the law without regard to privileges of birth, wealth, creed, sex, or race. These are artificial hindrances to individual development and the liberal seeks to remove them. Equity follows from equality. Equity means fairness, impartiality, and justice for all individuals.

To guarantee and protect the freedom and equality of all individuals, the state contracts to defend the basic rights of its citizens. Another basic right, therefore, is the individual's right to security. Security, like equality, is a consequence of individual freedom. Security is itself a freedom: the freedom to live and to live in freedom!

Security means the freedom from fear, the freedom from danger. Security is the assurance of safety. A liberal government offers security on two fronts: internal and external. Internal security entails the enforcement of legislation to protect the independence and liberty of each individual. That is why there are civil and criminal codes of law, and police and courts to enforce the law. External security undertakes to protect the rights of all individuals within the state

## Liberalism In International Affairs

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What policies ought liberals to advocate in the field of international relations? The primary purpose of the liberal in external affairs is to effect an enduring and salubrious peace. It is to the attainment of this goal that all other measures in foreign affairs are directed.

While the liberal aims to bring about an enduring and productive peace, the desire for peace should not be taken to mean "peace at any price". Ultimately, the liberal endeavours to attain "Peace with Security", and security means that we are guaranteed the most basic freedom of all: "The freedom to live and to live in freedom!" The neces-

sary prerequisite to the realization of this goal is the prevention of a thermonuclear holocaust in the interim. In the interim, therefore, liberals may subscribe to the deterrent theory. As an intermediate step, liberals may favour membership in regional alliances such as N.A.T.O. and NORAD in order to deter any potential aggressor. The prevention of war, however, is not the goal; it is the necessary condition for the realization of the goal.

Back in the time of the ancient Greeks, the survival unit was considered to be the polis, or city-state. As recently as the Second World War, the survival unit grew to be the nation-state. Today, during the "cold-war", the survival unit is mistakenly considered to be the regional group. This is mistaken because the survival unit is mankind itself. Therefore, while nationalism has given way to regionalism, if the liberal is to achieve his goal of an enduring and productive peace, regionalism shall have to cede to internationalism. Since the most basic interest common to all men is the common interest in international peace and security, liberals ought to work toward the creation of the environment whereby disputes among nations will be settled without resort to violence. In short, liberals seek to establish the rule of law in international affairs as they do in domestic affairs. To do this, first steps must be taken to improve the international climate in order to create a climate of internationalism. This is the best security we can find to safeguard the basic rights so fundamental to liberal philosophy.

The best organ for the expression of this internationalism is the United Nations. In view of this, the liberal ought to advocate steps to strengthen that international organization to render it potent and effective in settling international disputes without resort to a thermonuclear conflagration. Some of the steps which the liberal might propose would be: (1) the establishment of a permanent United Nations

Each delegate has the responsibility of preparing for the CULF convention. Each can do so in the following way: read one or two items in the bibliography which is included at the end of this paper, reflect upon the principles of traditional liberalism, determine the appropriate interpretation to be placed upon these traditional principles in view of changing needs of modern conditions, and formulate policies which are appropriate to meet the needs of the Canadian people in the sixties while at the same time are consistent with the contemporary interpretation of the fundamental principles of liberalism. When that is done, submit your policy resolutions at the CULF national convention in February, and fight intelligently for their adoption.

Police Force, (2) the expansion of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, (3) admission into the world community of all nations including those which do not advocate liberal principles — for toleration is another principle of liberalism.

It follows from what has already been stated that we liberals should advocate the extension of formal and diplomatic recognition by the government of our country to sovereign nation-states whether we favour their political system or not. No longer through exclusion but only inclusion can our goal be attained.

In addition, we liberals, in this country, ought to take a more realistic look at our foreign aid program. One suggestion is that we ought to concentrate our foreign aid in the form of technical assistance rather than capital aid. This would make our foreign aid program most effective to the recipient country while at the same time having beneficial effects upon Canadian manufacturing and employment. It is proposed that Canada concentrate its aid in the fields of technology and teaching. Sending personnel will increase the awareness of Canadian techniques and products in the developing nations to our mutual benefit. The liberal believes that the best help we can give to the developing nations is to help them help themselves.

These steps should be seriously considered if we wish to improve the international climate; and improvement of the international climate is the best means for the realization of our goal: peace with security. The CULF convention will be extremely successful if the liberally-minded students of this country can propose and adopt serious and responsible policy resolutions outlining our goals and the means of achieving these goals in the field (among others) of international relations, remembering at all times that these resolutions ought to be consistent with the fundamental principles of liberal political philosophy.

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Your special interest area or special knowledge area in which you would like to do research: .....

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