

NOTES

On the Reform Party

"...Their policy that immigration levels should be cut in half, and labour market needs mainly should determine who is allowed to come to Canada, denies both our historical emphasis on family unification, and our international commitment to humanitarian action with respect to political refugees.

"...Their stated goal on social programmes is also troubling. For instance, their policy proposal to allow provinces full and sole authority to spend health care funds as they wish, to impose user fees for medical care and to privatize hospitals and health insurance and their plan to run unemployment insurance like a private plan denies many of the principals upon which Canada's social security net has been based. It belies a fundamental misunderstanding of the purpose of government - to serve people - and confuses economic or business imperatives - such as the profit motive - with public sector imperatives and responsibilities.

NOTES

On the Progressive Conservative Party

"...Like the NDP before us, when we abandoned the balance that was at the core of our history, we also abandoned many of our own supporters...We had entered some kind of political twilight zone, where we were neither conservative enough for the conservatives - who chose Reform as their logical political grouping; nor progressive enough or the vast number of Canadians who believe in the Canadian social contract between government and the people - who flocked to the Liberal Party.

"...Those who remain committed to the ideology of the Progressive Conservative Party will have to make two hard assessments. The first will be how such a great Party could be so soundly defeated and why.

The second will be whether there is now, or might be in the near future, need for a political Party which embodies social activism and economic responsibility; or whether, after 125 years, the Party that was there at the birth of Confederation has disappeared forever from Canadian politics."

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