

Mr. HEENAN: I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend, but I think he ought to be fair.

Mr. MANION: Yes.

Mr. HEENAN: I would remind him that the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River when Minister of Labour did put the eight hour day into effect on all government works.

Mr. STEVENS: Oh, oh.

Mr. HEENAN: He did get his—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is out of order in interrupting.

Mr. HEENAN: I wish to say—

Mr. MANION: The hon. member did put part of the government employees on the eight hour day, but the fact remains that a great many are not working under those conditions and were not on the eight hour day during the whole time my hon. friend was Minister of Labour. It would appear that he is more anxious now to have the eight hour day enforced than he was when he was Minister of Labour. I do not dispute the fact that he brought in legislation by which contractors doing government work were instructed to put their men on the eight hour day.

Mr. HEENAN: The day that the eight hour day legislation—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. MANION: Go ahead.

Mr. HEENAN: The day that the eight hour day bill became effective every employee of the dominion government working for contractors went on the eight hour day.

Mr. STEVENS: Bosh.

Mr. HEENAN: The day we introduced that bill we also passed an order in council which put every employee of the dominion government service on an eight hour day.

Mr. MANION: No, my hon. friend did not do any such thing. There was an order in council that government employees might be put on the eight hour day. As a matter of fact to-day there are many government employees who are still working much longer than eight hours each day and they were working much longer than eight hours each day during the whole term of office of my hon. friend. I pointed out the other evening that the present government was gradually placing employees under the eight hour day, but my hon. friend had four years in which to do so and moved only in the dying days

of the last parliament after he had been minister for four years. Undoubtedly his action was a prelection move.

I do not think it is fair that this government should be accused of being inconsistent and of breaking pledges when as a matter of fact it has been in power only about ten months, and the government with which my hon. friend was connected was in power nine years and made no move to build the trans-Canada highway. So hon. members behind the right hon. gentleman should hesitate to find very much fault with us for moving a little slowly with respect to what is a very big undertaking. I point out on behalf of the government that the question has not been overlooked, it is under consideration, and that we hope to arrive at a satisfactory solution in due time. But I do not believe that any government that has been in power ten months should be expected to have implemented all its pledges within that time. And I submit that no government has implemented so many of its pledges within such a short time of attaining office as has the government of my right hon. leader.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the attitude of the Liberal party while in office towards these various grants in aid to the provinces, I think the record of the party, as shown by the votes of this house, and in other ways will disclose a perfect consistency, although I am quite prepared to admit that that consistency may have been maintained at a certain political loss. Evidently at this session of parliament we shall be called upon to consider conditions not dissimilar to those prevailing at the time the Liberal party came into office nearly ten years ago, and should it involve more in the way of political loss, I for one will continue to be consistent in regard to the attitude taken at that time, because I believe it to be the only attitude which in the end is going to serve adequately to meet the needs and to serve the highest ends of our dominion and of the provinces in the administration of the various matters assigned to them respectively by the constitution.

To make clear the position of the Liberal party in these matters, may I say that when we came into office we were faced with a deficit of \$80,000,000 or \$90,000,000. The year before there had been an even greater deficit. It was apparent to the administration that something would have to be done in the way of effecting economies if there was to be any