

NAME AND DATE OF NEWSPAPER

*The Evening Star April 8/30***HYPOCRITICAL
HOLY HORROR**

The Tory politicians hold up their hands in hypocritical holy horror at the statement said to have been made by Premier King, while discussing the unemployment situation, that he would not give certain provinces (who happen to have Conservative governments) any money to aid the unemployment situation.

This statement says the Toronto Globe, "was apparently a bye-product of the attempt of the Conservative Opposition in the Federal Parliament to make political capital out of the issue. This is evident from his subsequent remarks that the government would co-operate with the provinces in establishing an unemployment insurance scheme if desired, and would be willing to consider assistance to any province finding itself in distress in an effort to meet the situation.

The Prime Minister, continues the Globe, has adhered to the principle that responsibility for unemployment relief rests first upon the municipality and then the Province. All appeals for Federal assistance during the past winter have come directly from municipalities, reinforced by demands of the Opposition. None, he stated, has come from the Provinces. Quebec and Prince Edward Island, which have Liberal Administrations, wired that they were in no need of help. Authorities in the Maritimes have been quoted in the press that unemployment in that part of the country was not serious. Of the other Provinces, Alberta appropriated \$100,000 as a relief fund without asking Federal aid. **In view of these facts there is some justification for the impression that demands of the Opposition are examples of political opportunism and attempts to raid the Federal Treasury that credit for the expenditure may be given elsewhere.**

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It is not likely the Federal Government has overlooked such incidents as the letter sent out by the Conservative candidate in North York in the last Provincial election claiming

special credit for his party in awarding old-age pensions. What, then, might be expected if the Dominion Government dipped into its Treasury voluntarily and reduced its surplus to hand over money to the Provinces to meet this new demand? It would establish another precedent, and enable politically opposed Legislatures to claim credit to which they were not entitled.

The whole involved situation shows how discreditable it is for any party to try to make political capital out of public distress. Assuming that Premier King granted assistance to one Province, it is doubtful that he could avoid doing the same for all under similar circumstances. Unemployment, however is not a political condition. It is economic, and the sooner all parties and Governments recognize this, the sooner will the situation be solved. There is unemployment, more or less serious, in every important country, regardless of fiscal policy and of Government machinery.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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