

This is the foundation principle. I adopt the words of another statesman, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when he said this on March 13, 1900:

If there is anything to which I have given my political life it is to try to promote unity, harmony and amity between the diverse elements of this country. My friends can desert me, they can remove their confidence from me, they can withdraw the trust they have placed in my hands; but never shall I deviate from that line of policy.

• (4:10 p.m.)

Those words I adopt as my own. They represent the consensus that must be established within our land. Then he went on to say this:

Whatever may be the consequences, whether loss of prestige, loss of popularity, or loss of power, I feel that I am in the right and I know that a time will come when every man will render me full justice on that score.

That is the attitude of statesmanship rather than of political expediency designed to obtain votes this year, regardless of the consequences to the nation in the years ahead.

I say again our position is that we will convene that conference. We had already sent out the notices, but with the defeat in the house of the non-confidence motion it became impossible to bring the matter forward.

I turn now for a moment to the question of the economy, and this will be dealt with at length. Look at the speech from the throne—wordy, verbose, redundant. Where is there anything in it to bring about the idea, the concept of the Economic Council of Canada, that we need a 10 per cent increase in the export of manufactured goods each year? Where is there anything to indicate that the government has any plan, imaginative or otherwise?

I come back to the automobile plan, that policy of \$50 million to which I referred, that annual subsidy in rebated tariff paid by the Canadian taxpayer? Who is going to get soaked under that in Canada? The poor, the average Canadian and all Canadians. Who is going to be helped?

There is nothing in the throne speech to indicate the government has any recognition of the inflationary trends that are taking place. When we were in office we maintained the price level to a degree that received most favourable comment from the late President of the United States. Prices are rising today. What are the members of the government going to do about that? They are going to have a committee look into the matter. Drug prices are as high as Haman's gallows, but what are they going to do? They are going to set up a committee to look into the ques-

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tion. There is one reason why drug prices are so high, and it is the 11 per cent sales tax. Take that off, and drugs will be a lot cheaper.

What is this padding in the throne speech—words instead of action.

My government will propose the re-establishment of a special committee of the House of Commons on food and drugs, and will facilitate its work with the aim of reducing the prices paid by the public for drugs.

Mere stuffing, but not effective.

Then we come to the next point dealing with the economy:

My government is developing new policies to enable farmers generally to achieve larger and more reliable incomes....

While the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hays) peregrinates back and forth, now and then he throws out policies. He said to the farmers of Quebec, "The trouble with you people is that you don't know how to look after things." I heard him make a speech in which he said we should go back to the days of the Renaissance and we should go in for more poetry and philosophy. He told the farmers of Quebec the solution was, "six cows, two sows, and you will be on easy street." That was the serious policy of the Minister of Agriculture in respect of that matter.

So far as the dairy farmers are concerned the government says it is going to set up a Canadian Dairy Commission. The announcement the other day in connection with dairy prices does not at all meet the situation and will leave the dairy industry in almost as serious a condition as it is today.

What about our veterans? The government gave a 10 per cent increase in disability pensions. We increased them twice in our period of office, by 20 per cent on each occasion. What about the veterans? Nothing is going to be done for them in that connection except that the Veterans Land Act, the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act and the Army Benevolent Fund Act are going to be amended. Padding and stuffing.

We were ready for the establishment of an Indian Claims Commission. We had the legislation ready at the time we were defeated. The Indians have been waiting. Promises were made that action would be taken and now we find we "will be asked to enact legislation to establish an Indian Claims Commission." That would not take any time. Bring it in. It could have been brought in last session. Now it is overdue.