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MR. PEARSON'S FAREWELL

"I am quite sure - being human - I will make mistakes, but I can promise you that they will be honest mistakes for which I will not have to apologize to my conscience."

The Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, quoting the foregoing from his acceptance speech when he was chosen Liberal Party Leader on January 16, 1958, said in his farewell address to the Leadership Convention in Ottawa on April 4, that he acknowledged and regretted "those promised mistakes". He was "happy and grateful", for any good things or good results he had helped to achieve. "Failures," Mr. Pearson said, "are made only by those who fail to dare, not by those who dare to fail."

Part of Mr. Pearson's remarks follow:

...We now have in this country a strong basic structure of social security and welfare.

We have improved our economic and financial system; encouraged trade and development, with special consideration for areas of underdevelopment. We have shown concern for the consumer.

We have unified the defence services; doubled external aid; passed far-reaching transportation and communication and broadcasting legislation; helped the primary producer and the worker; signed the most important international agreement for tariff reduction ever drawn up; made available vastly increased financial aid to the provinces and a fairer equalization of that aid between them.

We have introduced far-reaching changes to the criminal law and are modernizing our penal system.

We have kept Canada's place high in the councils of the world; at the United Nations, and in the Commonwealth.

We have given new strength and spirit to those facets of national life which reach beyond national

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income. We have our flag, our anthem, the Order of Canada. We have given greater support than ever before to the arts and letters and sciences. We have helped to foster a new pride in Canada; a pride which came to a glorious climax in centennial year; that heart-warming, outpouring of love and loyalty for our country, shown in the most modest village celebration, all the way up to Expo 67, the finest fair in history.

We have, in short, changed the face of Canada and I hope and believe, have made it better.

As a Government we have worked hard to bring about a meaningful and deeper unity; to build a new federalism with strong provinces and a strong central Government working together in a more co-operative way than ever before and with new machinery for such co-operation.

ISSUES AT HAND

What now faces Canada? Problems and difficulties of a nature and complexity and importance never faced before in peacetime.

The problem of a wealth which is not fairly shared between people and regions.

The problem of maintaining economic expansion without inflation; of financial stability without stagnation and mass unemployment.

The problem of growth and development which will require large amounts of outside capital. Much of this will come from the U.S.A. and will, in its turn, create a problem of Canadian control or U.S. domination.