

Coe - Lib. Organy

D. 18985

Re Political Criticism

The fact that the right individuals and the right policies are inseparable in meeting the requirements of good government accounts for two kinds of criticism in political discussion: the personal and the impersonal, the former related to individuals and the latter to policies. Usually, though not always, the extent to which the one is employed relative to the other is an indication, in inverse ratio, of the relative merits of the two. An individual or a party that resorts to personalities, that aims at detraction, that seeks to undermine and to destroy reputations and character is usually conscious of the superior qualities of its opponents or has very little faith in the relative merits of its own principles and policies to meet a given situation. Personalities serve to divert attention from policies and their significance. Moreover, the far reaching consequences of policies is often difficult to explain, and not too easily grasped by a large part of the electorate.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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