

To illustrate my point, let me mention in passing that more than two-thirds of all the major provincial measures of social security in the other nine provinces have been passed by Liberal governments. Every major federal measure of social security has been passed by Liberal administrations.

Because it has been the party of action the Liberal Party has been returned again and again to power. The people have insisted on re-electing Liberal governments because they have found from experience that it is from such governments that they can expect social progress.

It is part of the genius of democracy and secret of much of its strength that out of all the multiplicity of facts and trends of their time, free people are able to discern those essential lines of policy and development to which they should give their full confidence and support. In Canada, all political parties have come around to support Liberal policies of social welfare. But it is not enough to be proceeding in the right direction. Speed of advance must also be considered. Declarations of desire for social advance must always be divided by past performance. I remember that nowhere in the Bible is it said that "by their words ye shall know them". We all know that democracy is not a debating society. Progress is not measured by debating points scored or promises made but by solid achievement -- by such measures as Old Age Pensions, Unemployment Insurance, Family Allowances, the National Health Program.

In a democratic country like Canada little attention is paid by the people either to promises or to platforms. Even past performance creates little lasting interest. What we are interested in, in this country, is getting on with the job. We learn from the past to what party we must look for action. In looking to the future we choose as our guide that party that has proved that it knows how to lead and that is going our way.

The Liberal record of social security is an impressive story of accomplishment, of wise and responsible and progressive legislation to meet the social needs of our people as they have developed year by year.