

The Imperial Conference - The Method of Approach

Prime Minister to be judged by attitude, utterances and policies -
are relations more or less cordial -
are conditions more or less prosperous.

Procedure of Conference governed by well established practice:

- (1) Acceptance of government of day and its policies necessary;
- (2) Not interference with domestic concerns.

Britain hostess at Conference.

Embarrassing position Leader of Opposition.

Attitude of Prime Minister at Conference consistent but destructive.

Particulars in which Prime Minister wrong:

- (1) Method of approach - time and manner of submission
- (2) The proposals themselves - the Prime Minister's Offer.
- (3) Petulant and childish outburst over criticism - the 'Humbug' incident.
- (4) Interference in domestic policies of Britain.

1. Method of Approach:

Ignored procedure framed to avoid harmful publicity.
Proposals presented like ultimatum on eve of war.
Prime Minister's statement to Conference
from point of view of approach.

Exhibit 5A

What could be motive of such appeal - not to sell wheat.

Reversal of situation illustrates resentment -
What would have been Bennett's and Canada's
reaction.

Exhibit 5B

Approach of kind incapable of being understood -
No mandate for anything of kind -
Made improvement of conditions impossible.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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