

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

SUBJECT

D 16522

NAME AND DATE OF NEWSPAPER

Woodstock Sentinel Review April 8/30.

NOT "OPPOSED"

Full text of Premier King's speech last Thursday, on the unemployment issue, as published in *Hansard*, discloses one or two statements almost as remarkable as that which achieved so much prominence in the press: "I would not give a single cent to any Tory government." Recalling that when his government came into office, soon after the war, there was a considerable amount of unemployment, the prime minister said that "we made at that time no difference between Liberal and Conservative. We gave our money just as freely to the Tory governments then as we gave it to the Liberal governments, because there was a necessity to meet and a very different situation prevailing from what there is at the present time in this country." The passage suggests that, since there is no emergency now, aid might be refused all provinces upon obvious grounds, without raising any question of party politics. Furthermore, if no emergency, why should the prime minister say that he might be prepared to go to a certain length possibly in meeting one or two of the western provinces that have Progressive premiers?

Equally obscure is his argument that he would not give a five-cent piece to "these governments with policies diametrically opposed to those of this government." Just a few minutes earlier, the premier had read to the House from the British North America Act the subjects assigned to the provinces in respect of law-making, namely management of hospitals and charities, municipal institutions, property and civil rights

and generally all matters of a local nature. How can policies on such matters be described as "diametrically opposed" to those of a federal government which does not have anything to do with them? Take the case of Ontario, with a Conservative administration. A summary is to hand at the moment of legislation passed at the session just closed. It relates to education, hydro, automobile insurance, Northern Ontario development, the T. & N. O. Railway and various other matters wholly of provincial concern. In immigration, the Dominion has control and a provincial policy could not be at variance and succeed; as a matter of fact, there has been close co-operation. Members of a provincial government may hold views on the tariff differing from those of the Dominion administration, but the provincial body has nothing to do with customs schedules, and could not well have any "policy" in respect thereto. Anyway, some people think there are within the Dominion Cabinet itself views on that subject that might almost be termed "diametrically opposed."

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA