

C 65712

-37-

"I rejoice that the Government of Canada finds in the Empire scheme I have to propose the surest promise that its duty to its own country will be fulfilled..... I am confident your conclusions will coincide with ours.

"And so I propose that we of the British Empire, in our joint and several interests, do subscribe to the principle of an Empire preference, and that we take, without delay, the steps necessary to put it into effective operation.

"First, we must approve or reject the principle. I put the question definitely to you, and definitely it should be answered. There is here no room for compromise and there is no possibility of avoiding the issue. This is a time for plain speaking, and I speak plainly when I say that the day is now at hand when the peoples of the Empire must decide, once for all, whether our welfare lies in closer economic union or whether it does not. Delay is hazardous; further discussion of the principle is surely unnecessary. The time for action has come."

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA