

Defence Ministry at eight o'clock the morning after your appointment and to have been there ever since. Probably apocryphal, isn't it?

CLAXTON: Quite apocryphal. But I like it.

FISHER: Yes, so do I. Well, Mr. St. Laurent, I'd like to put the first question on this broadcast to you. I touched on it just now. The United States is committed to an economic policy based on free enterprise. The United Kingdom is involved in a form of socialism -- they're trying it. Now, Mr. St. Laurent, you in Canada have very close relations with both of us. How will you shape your economic policy?

ST. LAURENT: Well, Mr. Fisher, Canada, like other nations would, I think, shape her economic foreign policy according to the economic and foreign facts of life.

FISHER: You mean

ST. LAURENT: Well, those responsible for framing policy cannot indulge too freely in doctrinaire labels. "Free Enterprise" and "Socialization" as you know are often very carelessly used.

FISHER: I wish you'd go on to explain that.

ST. LAURENT: For example, classic economists would hardly accept, under their definition of "Free Enterprise" the active role played by modern governments in national economies. There is a considerable amount of social control in my country and in yours and I don't believe either of us has been unduly influenced by doctrinaire slogans.

FISHER: By social control, Mr. St. Laurent, do you mean government aid?

ST. LAURENT: Certain important sections of the community will receive government assistance if and when the need arises. To take one example, Mr. Fisher, we recognize that government support may be needed to ensure stability in, for example, agriculture. It is of course necessary that farmers have a reasonable level of income and that this vital element in the national economy be not impoverished. Measures to safeguard a basic industry like agriculture are as fully recognized, I believe, in the United States and in Great Britain as they are in Canada. In a "Free Enterprise" economy, in the classical meaning of that phrase, enterprise however important, while free to succeed, would be equally free to fail.

Perhaps Mr. Claxton would illustrate the same point from his experience in the field of social security.

FISHER: Yes. Would you do that, Mr. Claxton?

CLAXTON: Well, Mr. Fisher, while in Canada we believe that the maximum responsibility for improving his position should be left in the hands of the individual, we are fully aware that the state is now held responsible in all civilized countries for ensuring certain minimum standards for the protection of its citizens.

ST. LAURENT: I cannot see that government aid of this kind limits the scope for individual ingenuity in developing new enterprises. I do not think that in our continuing attack on our national problems Canada's difficulties will in any way be rendered insuperable by the character of the respective economic policies of the United Kingdom and the United States. A large area of agreement was reached at the Preparatory Commission on Trade and Employment held in London in the fall of 1946, and we do not find ourselves in any serious disagreement with