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for confidence, not upon its record or upon the result of the election, but upon a new programme specially addressed to the Progressive and Labour members who hold the fate of the Government in their hands. Many of these members had utterly lost confidence in the Administration, but they were put in the position where they could not so vote without at the same time voting directly against the programme they had been crying for for years. That any government should take this step, or even be permitted to take it, is unprecedented in constitutional history.

Since getting a narrow majority in their favour under the above circumstances they have been hovering between life and death. All legislation is decided upon after negotiation with the Progressives and Laborites. On no subject is any definite line of policy possible. The consequences are only too inevitable and are already too obvious. If this continues there can be no chance of stable or prosperous conditions in this country. Its early conclusion is manifestly of vital interest to every citizen.

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