

(c) Freedom

To understand security we must define the economic and political aspects of Freedom. To a Canadian, freedom is a possession beyond price. Freedom is the breath of this nation -- for every one of us must know that unless there is justice and freedom for all no man can be sure of remaining free.

"Freedom" does not mean freedom to go hungry, jobless, neglected. Freedom does not mean that a man should be free to sink or swim, with the state indifferent to his fate. Freedom does not mean that a government should wash its hands of responsibility for unemployment, for poverty or for social injustice. Under the Liberal concept of freedom, the citizen is guaranteed the maximum of freedom consistent with the responsibilities of citizenship.

For many years, the Liberal Party in Canada, against steady resistance, has been faithful to its conviction that the state should be the servant of the people and that all the strength of the state should be mustered where necessary to protect the individual Canadian and the Canadian family against those unavoidable hazards of life such as unemployment, sickness, disability, and old age -- against which individual enterprise, courage and willingness to work alone cannot avail.

5. SOCIAL SECURITY AND LIBERALISM

The bridge between political and economic freedom is social security. This is not -- as the Tories claim -- a step towards Socialism. Social security is not -- as the C.C.F. hope -- antagonistic to free enterprise -- social security corrects the inequalities and injustices of the free enterprise system. No other country, no other system can surpass the productive capacity of Canada, which has brought us to the peak of prosperity with a level of living not surpassed anywhere. But while abundance has come within reach of every Canadian, there are variations in our incomes that unless cared for would lead to malnutrition, neglect, and under-privileged classes -- none of which have any place in a Liberal program.

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