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RESPONSIBILITY AND POWER

The party that I have the honour to lead believes in representative and responsible government. It will accept sole responsibility for policy if you decide that it merits your support. It will continue to attract to administrative duties men of all parties who it believes can, and will, bring to your service, honesty, efficiency and economy. For over twenty-five years, in peace and in war, I have been privileged to serve you in office and in opposition. Throughout my parliamentary life, I have continuously voiced my faith in a parliamentary system in which the people's will governs its representatives. I have always upheld the rights of the majority to govern, and the right and the duty of the minority to criticize, to discuss and to oppose. I believe that the evasion of political responsibility by the unnatural alliance of conflicting opinions is the beginning of the denial of democracy. It is my firm conviction that responsibility and power must go hand in hand. For these reasons, my colleagues and I, and those who honour us with their confidence will continue to support true National Government.