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and independence, can meet the need and answer the desire of the vast majority of Canadians.

Around such a policy a new political alignment, a *people's coalition* of labor, farm and democratic forces generally, can and must be brought into being. This is the path to winning a people's majority and a People's Parliament.

Our Party is nominating a minimum of 70 to 80 candidates to bring this New National Policy to the people all across Canada.

We will fight for this Program, and for votes for our candidates, with the aim of arousing democratic Canadians to the necessity for Labor and People's Unity. We urge trade unionists who favor labor political action, CCF supporters who see the need for a new policy, farmers who recognize the need for cooperation between democratic people of town and country, and middle class people who have lost faith in the old line parties, to assert their opinions and pool their forces in every constituency to obtain unity around candidates committed to peace, democracy and independence.

The LPP will join hands in all such popular efforts for unity. It is our conviction that to change the course of the present betrayal of Canada will require the action of the masses, of the people, and of labor, CCF and farm organizations.

Against St. Laurent's policy of selling our country to the United States the Labor-Progressive Party calls for People's Action—Canada for the People of Canada!

Against the parliamentary monopoly of the Liberal and Conservative parties, the parties of big business, United States domination and imperialist war, the Labor-Progressive Party unfurls this banner; this Program of People's Action, for Canadian Independence, Peace and Democratic Progress!

TIM BUCK
for the National Committee,
Labor-Progressive Party.

Liberal Platform of 1953

[From the campaign speeches of The Hon. Louis St. Laurent, *The Canadian Liberal* (Summer & Fall, 1953), pp. 102-30]

The Liberal party is making only one promise. And that is if you decide that we are the right people to carry on your affairs we will do our utmost to serve you as well as we would our own individual families.

We are not going to make extravagant promises to get votes and we are not making promises which future conditions might prevent us from implementing.

We do, however, have a programme of things which we would like to see carried out and which we will do our best to work for. We think what we have in mind is realistic and will appeal to the native good sense and reason of the Canadian people.

The *first head* is *taxation and expenditure*.

The Liberal policy is to pay as we go and reduce the national debt in good times, to go slow on new expenditures and to continue reducing tax rates as much as possible.

The *second head* is *federal-provincial relations*. The Liberal policy is to offer voluntary tax rental agreements to all the provinces which will place those with limited resources as well as the wealthier ones in a sufficiently strong financial position to carry out, by themselves, the functions assigned to the provinces by the constitution.

The *third head* is *the constitution of Canada*. The Liberal policy is to work out, in co-operation with the provinces, a method of amending our own constitution, in all respects, here in Canada, which will fully safeguard the autonomy of the provinces and give the utmost legal protection to our sacred constitutional rights with respect to education and the use of the English and French languages.

The *fourth head* is *internal security*. The Liberal policy is to maintain the drastic legislation to protect our institutions, our defence establishments and essential industries from subversion and sabotage which is now on the statute books, including emergency powers to deal quickly with unforeseen and unforeseeable dangers, but the Liberal party is opposed to legislation to control men's political opinions.

The *fifth head* is *trade*. The Liberal policy is to use every available means to maintain and expand Canada's external trade and, to that end, to encourage the removal of trade barriers generally.

The *sixth head* is *floor prices*. The Liberal policy is to maintain floor price legislation to give farmers and fishermen the kind of security given to wage earners by unemployment insurance.

The *seventh head* is *employment and labour relations*. The Liberal policy is to maintain a high enough level of employment so that no one who wants to work and is able to work will have to go very long without gainful employment and to help meet the hazards of unemployment with unemployment insurance.

It is also Liberal policy to encourage *collective bargaining; fair employment practices, and non-*

discrimination in employment under federal jurisdiction.

The *eighth* head is *housing*. The Liberal policy is to continue to give to housing the high priority which has made it possible for Canada to provide more housing units proportionately than any other country since the war.

The *ninth* head is *health insurance and social security*. The Liberal party is committed to support a policy of contributory health insurance to be administered by the provinces when most of the provincial governments are ready to join in a nationwide scheme, and meanwhile to maintain and improve health grants to improve provincial health services.

It is also Liberal policy to go on improving the overall social security programme, including the Veterans' Charter, when circumstances warrant and the resources are available.

The *tenth* head is *transportation*. The Liberal policy is to construct the St. Lawrence Seaway, to complete the Canso Causeway and the Trans-Canada Highway, to improve sea and air services particularly in the coastal provinces, and to encourage improved air and rail services to open up our frontiers.

The *eleventh* head is *the conservation and development of our natural resources*. The Liberal policy is to respect provincial jurisdiction but to offer federal co-operation through scientific and economic research, technical surveys, and, where appropriate, federal assistance to land, forest and water conservation projects.

The *twelfth* head is *national unity and national security*. The Liberal policy is to do everything we can to maintain unity and harmony among Canadians whatever their origin, language or creed, and to give encouragement to the expression of our common Canadianism in appropriate ways such as the public control of broadcasting, national films and the encouraging of our growing Canadian culture.

The Liberal government recognizes that the first responsibility of the government of the nation is to provide for our national security and it is Liberal policy to maintain our defence effort at a level which will represent Canada's fair share in providing for the collective security of the nations that really want peace.

We in the free world must continue the build-up of our defences until we can be reasonably sure that they are adequate to preserve peace. But that does not mean we should rebuff peaceful gestures from behind the iron curtain. We should explore every possibility of better relations while remembering that peace is likely to come only through

strength and unity among men and nations of goodwill.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY

In the last session of the Parliament just ended, the government recommended another measure whose aim was to benefit the fishing industry by removing some of the financial hazards which are attached to it. The Fishermen's Indemnity Fund, which has just taken effect here in the Maritimes on July 6, provides low-cost protection against storm and other losses to fishing vessels and lobster traps.

It is confidently hoped that this scheme will provide a permanent form of protection.

Like most Liberal measures this scheme is designed to be extended and improved as circumstances and experience demand and permit.

Only the other day, in an election broadcast, the Minister of Fisheries announced that once the insurance plan is well under way, the government expects to start a scheme whereby fishermen may obtain improvement loans.

AGRICULTURE

The Liberal party established the floor price policy to give the farmers something of the same kind of security against disaster which unemployment insurance gives to industrial workers.

And we have used the legislation, and used it effectively for that purpose, as our recent experience with foot and mouth disease and the U.S. embargo showed.

At the present time the farmers of Ontario are very anxious about this serious outbreak of hog cholera—and so are we in the government.

The officials of the Department of Agriculture have been giving careful study to the problem of compensation for the animals which have to be destroyed to eradicate the disease.

My colleagues and I expect to consider the recommendations at the next full meeting of the Cabinet which will probably be held on July 6th.

Meanwhile I feel the farmers are entitled to know that even in the heat of an election campaign, we are giving attention to their problems.

Floor prices are a protection against calamity and disaster if they should come.

But we don't want calamity and disaster to come—and that is why external trade and external markets are so vital to our farmers all over Canada.

The home market is not yet large enough, despite our great industrial growth, to absorb our

total production of most farm products and we must have external markets to provide any real security for our farmers.

With the world in the troubled state it is, and with the difficulty most countries have in earning enough dollars to pay for what they want and need to import, we simply cannot hope to avoid problems—and often very serious problems—in maintaining and expanding our external trade.

Progressive Conservative Platform of 1953

[Campaign Leaflet (Ottawa: The Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, 1953)]

TAXES

We will reduce federal taxes by at least five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) a year. This can be done without reducing any pensions, family allowances, other social security payments, or in any way impairing the efficiency of our armed forces.

MUNICIPALITIES

We will introduce legislation exempting municipal councils and school boards from Sales Tax and Excise Tax on all purchases of machinery, equipment, instruments and other goods and which will further provide for taxation of all federal government properties in municipalities on the same basis as that of ordinary municipal taxpayers.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

A Dominion-Provincial Tax Conference will be called immediately for the purpose of revising our whole system of taxation so that taxes on homes and farm lands for education, health and other essential services can be substantially reduced.

ACTION ON "WASTE" REPORTS

We will greatly reduce the cost of government by ending waste and extravagance, increasing efficiency, eliminating duplication and improving accounting methods. In particular, we will reorganize the Department of National Defence. We will act immediately upon the findings of the Currie and McNab Reports as well as the Reports of the Auditor General and others. These reports

all offer positive and constructive suggestions for dealing with the waste, extravagance, inefficiency and chaotic accounting methods disclosed in that department.

SUPREMACY OF PARLIAMENT

We will re-establish the true principles of the Confederation Pact set forth in the British North America Act. We will restore the Supremacy of Parliament and the Rule of Law. We will return control of the nation's business to the elected representatives of the people. We will put an end to government by secret Orders-in-Council. We will repeal the Emergency Powers Act.

SENATE REFORM

We will set up a joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons for the purpose of reforming the Senate with particular reference to the method of appointment, tenure of office and its legislative functions within the framework of our federal system.

COMMUNISM

We will introduce legislation to amend the Criminal Code which will make it an offence punishable by due process of law to engage in Communist or other subversive activities designed to destroy our democratic system.

WORLD MARKETS

We will take immediate steps to restore and expand world markets for agricultural and other primary products. Our program will include bold and constructive steps to break the Dollar-Pound Barrier and regain our vital British and Commonwealth Trade.

FARM FLOOR PRICES

We will appoint a National Agricultural Board for the purpose of establishing fair floor prices related to farm production costs.

ADVANCED LABOUR LEGISLATION

We will undertake an immediate review of all national labour legislation for the purpose of improving collective bargaining procedure, expediting conciliation of disputes, assuring fair employment practices, providing equal pay for equal work, and generally increasing the basis of co-operation