

**THE RAVAGES OF THE SO
CALLED CONSTRUCTIVE
REGIME TASCHEREAU-GODBOUT**

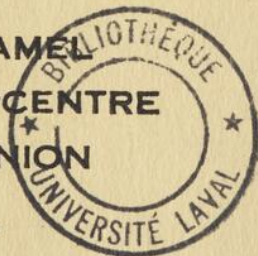
RADIO TALK GIVEN FRIDAY,

JULY 31ST. 1936

J. S. G.

BY

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CANDIDATE IN QUEBEC-CENTRE
FOR THE NATIONAL-UNION



(TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH TEXT)

**SOME FACTS TO READ BEFORE
FORMING AN OPINION**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

If one, who all his life has abstained from entering the Political Arena, one day, for reasons of Public Welfare, openly participates in Political Fights, he soon discovers that a given literature and certain speeches supposedly circulated and spoken in a view to enlighten the intelligent Electorate, are nothing but a jumble of sophisme and lies, garnished with bearly an essence of truth.

What a comedy to so cynically mock at the public.

What a crime to so exploit the good faith of the masses.

THE NEO - POLITICIANS

One must not confuse a Politician with a Statesman. The first generally personifies selfishness ; the second, altruism. Generally speaking, the Politician looks to the people for his personal advantage while the Statesmen seeks to be helpful to his fellowmen. The masses, for a time, are easily duped by the bait a Politician offers, but the day comes, when tired and suffering, the same people turn for relief to leaders more idealistic and patriotic.

Look at our leaders of to-day, the supposedly new men. These same men, yesterday, were side by side with Forgers. They enact-

ed despicable laws, laws that to-day they promise to recind, because they can no longer defend their odious effects. They clung to power when it was officially known that the voters' lists in the large centres had been prepared by fraud and parjury; they voted against the prosecution of the guilty and thus favoured the continuance of methods shameful and threatening to established order.

They borrowed by order in council, unknown to the Public, a sum of \$25,000,000.00 one month before the last Provincial Election. Then, rather than account for such a loan contracted under such suspicious circumstances, they called hurriedly for the dissolution of Parliament.

THE HYPOCRICY OF THIS REGIME

When we speak of the scandals uncovered during the enquiry of the Public Accounts, they turn and accuse us of endeavoring to besmirch others.

When we hunt down these plunderers of Public without pity but also without malice they accuse us then of being destructive. If we try to uncover the truth..... they stifle it and suggest new methods to better show up the vileness of the Regime that they were associated with.

We have accused their friends of theft perjury, forgery and fraud and while we were endeavoring to prove these accusations, they multiplied their efforts to smother the testimony of witnesses. To-day, they offer us a Royal Commission, a tribunal before which direct accusations must be made and which eliminates the possibility of an enquiry. Before the Committee of Public Accounts we could seek for the guilty before knowing who they were. Before a Royal Commission we would have beforehand to name the guilty and specify our charges before we could bring them in front of the judges.

Do you realize the important difference? . . . Does it dawn on you why Mr. Godbout and his friends were so insistent on having a Royal Commission? . . .

The best proof we have that these promises of a Royal Commission are another act in a comedy being played at the expense of the electorate, is that, Mr. Godbout expresses his wish to punish the Civil employees who failed in their oath of office to divulge nothing. Mr. Godbout and his colleagues are indignant at the thought that conscientious Civil Servants dared inform us that in such a department theft was going on, that in another revolting acts of injustice were being com-

mitted.

Mr. Godbout, do you honestly believe you have the right to bind the consciences to protect evil? Do you believe when you put a Civil Servant under oath that he is there to remain silent on the score of detestable abominations committed by a dishonest Government?

Mr. Godbout, if you wish the oath to be respected, punish the Perjurers who appeared before the Committee of Public Accounts, punish the perjurers who inscribed fictitious names on the voters' lists, but do not touch honest Civil Servants who would not hide condemnable acts committed by your Government, a government whose interest was to see they remain unearthed. These honest Civil Servants are willing to inform us and, in so doing, they only perform their duty.

Mr. Godbout, the people of this Province, on the 17th, of the month will put you where you belong by electing in the place of you and your Government men who will reward honest Civil Servants defenders of the Public against unscrupulous administrators.

THEIR SUPPOSED DIGNITY

These new men have the pretention to say they are carrying on a dignified campaign, but this

does not hinder them from insulting on every possible occasion, an honest and respectable Mayor and they have gone so far as to insult our King's Representative, the Lieutenant Governor, in accusing him of political partisanship.

For once, this Regime finds itself at variance with the Lieutenant Governor, and promptly they have one of the Ministers dare to publicly abuse him. This Regime cramped to Power, so accustomed to have all bow to their will, resent the action of the King's Representative in not allowing them to further waste public money.

Oh! the sweet serenity of a Regime guilty of endless abominations.

Your friends may think us severe towards you, Regime soon to pass away, but the same friends of yours, blinded by their political allegiance will open their eyes with no little surprise when daylight is thrown on your doings of yesterday.

There is a calmness, dictated by tactics, a calm under which smoulders a fury, an undisguised hate, that, gentlemen of the Taschereau - Godbout Regime, is your calm. A calm that sounded more like rage when you insulted the Lieutenant Governor who sized you up just as will do the

intelligent public on the 17th, of this month.

TRUTH VERSUS FALSEHOOD

Now, since before the people, truth is scoffed at, and every effort is made to poison Public Opinion, permit me to lay before you, facts that cannot be denied in spite of all utterances, and which will remain a starting point for forming an unbiased public opinion.

You will bear in mind that last November, I made serious charges against the Regime; and it was stated that I would have to prove these charges on the Floor of the Assembly. — It is easy over the wireless, did they tell me, to make charges, but, on the floor of the House, you will have to prove them, otherwise resign.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the Parliament, before Mr. Taschereau and several of his Ministers, I repeated my charges, I repeated the accusations that I had made in public prior to my election. Not one of them was taken exception to, nor did one Minister budge. Like the guilty, they took all that was coming to them and then stated we were insulting them. These are the same men who are asking you now for a vote of confidence on your part. These charges alone were of such a nature that in any country where public

opinion is alive, it would have meant the fall of a Ministry. Unhappily for us, party spirit yet blindfolds many a victim.

However, Ladies and Gentlemen, you have seen a whole sequence of charges even more serious during the enquiry held before the Public Accounts Committee, enquiry which, as you know, was so abruptly suspended by the Government and so ably conducted to the admiration of all, by our Chief, Maurice Duplessis. The weight of these charges bore heavily on the Regime to which belong Mr. Godbout, his Colleagues and a large number of the Ministerial Candidates. Such was their shame that one would have thought them unable to-day to ask for your confidence.

But their audacity knows no limit. Not having this time, the famous Dillon Bill to whitewash themselves, they simply turn their back on the past and show you a new front, claiming rebirth. The Ex-Ministers whose presence in the Cabinet would not be acceptable are advised to renew their mandate as ordinary candidates, with the promise later of one of the two or three Portfolios presently held by some ministers.

How do they account for the absence of Mr. Alexandre Taschereau from their set-up? Is he not just as ready as they are to

turn his back on the past and also claim rebirth. Go to St. Vincent de Paul or to Bordeaux jail, and I am sure you will find not many, but one an all, ready to turn their back on the Past, if they knew this easy gesture would grant them, in the future, positions filled with responsibility and honour,

OUR PROGRAM

On November last, we offered an elaborate program to the people of this Province. Yet, these reborn politicians of the Infamous Regime Taschereau - Godbout et al, have delved into our program, taking to themselves what they considered would interest and attract the Electorate, and, once well helped with our property, they turn around, stating we have no program and further stating we were conducting destructive work.

Bear in mind, Ladies and Gentlemen, that the principal movement of social uplift in this Province was the preparation of a Program by the "Ecole Sociale Populaire", of Montreal. Now, all of the citizens, without exception, who took part in the preparation of this program, are participating with us in the present fight. And further, when "l'Union Nationale"

was conceived and its program elaborated, it was based on the above - mentioned Program of Social Restoration and remains the same that we will put into effect, after the 18th of this month. If, as certain people would have it, we merely discussed our program before you, without throwing some light on at least a small portion of the scandals of the Late Regime, would we not place ourselves on the same level as our opponents of the Taschereau - Godbout - Bouchard Regime? When the Manager of a Company has permitted the plundering of the Company's Funds entrusted to him; when he has made false returns and ruined the undertaking confided to his care, there can no longer be question of seeking his advice and studying with him his future plans of administration. The dishonest manager cannot discuss or elaborate a new program with his employees, he is there under charges, and, if to prevent an enquiry, he endeavours to retain the keys of the safe where the books and evidence are kept, they are then taken from him and he is promptly thrown out.

This is the roll that we propose to play. We want the people to understand what the Regime stood for. We want them to thoroughly realize the means em-

ployed by the guilty of this Regime to distract public attention and calm consequent indignation. We want the people to know that the Taschereau Government, in other words the Manager of our Public Administration, was dishonest. Those who formed part of that Government were the accomplices more or less knowingly. And naturally, to-day, they do not want discussion of their misdeeds. They much prefer to talk of a new Constructive Plan and, thus, serenely hide their shame and their anger. They can pose as wonderful builders, but only in the abstract, for they do not want you to look back on the wreckage they have left. They would rather you gazed on the picture they will now paint for the public. I here repeat, the electorate during this campaign listens to the most amazing series of contradictions, but the Electorate begins to understand what no politician to-day can contradict: the corruption of the late Regime. The Electorate can see who are the wreckers and who are the genuine builders.

AGRICULTURE

In 1929, Mr. Perron, then Minister of Agriculture, stated that Agriculture was in a mess. Supposedly 40 p. c. of the Farmers are in bankruptcy. What a situ-

ation! And all this due to the so-called constructive spirit of the Regime.

In 1931 there were in this Province, 1661 less farms under cultivation than in the year 1921.

Another "constructive act" to the Credit of the Regime

In 1921, 8,051,989 acres were cultivated and sown, in 1931, although the acreage of the Farms showed an increase of 496,290 acres, the acreage under cultivation had dropped to 5,681,062 acres. In other words, while the total holdings of the Farmers increased considerably, the land under cultivation diminished in an alarming manner. What splendid work of reconstruction for the Regime !

UNEMPLOYMENT

It is estimated that to-day, 60,000 young men are idle for lack of employment.

What a magnificent constructive work !

Some would say the crisis account for this situation. Never ! we would have had these 60,000 youths on our hands long ago had the American Government closed its frontier in those days as tightly as it is closed to-day. Our Government permitted a large portion of our youth to yearly emigrate South and West without taking the steps to establish the same

youth on virgin soil. The Government allowed this departure of the best of our population without realizing the importance of keeping our sons at home to build up our own Province.

Another example of their splendid work of reconstruction !

ELECTRICITY

To-day we live in an era of Electricity... All progressive countries are vitally interested in the problem. Here, in Quebec, a monopoly is favored, a monopoly that kills all progress. We have 47,853 farmers absolutely unable to reap the benefits of Electricity, and, while 92,235 farmers could make use of the Electrical energy, only 16,726 are in a financial position to enjoy the luxury of electricity when the electric current passes by their residence.

And they have the face to call this, amazing Progress. . . .

BEAUHARNOIS

Daily, your works, evil Regime protector of Trusts, show you up.

It should be remembered that when Sir Wilfrid Laurier heard for the first time that the Robert family wanted to lease the Beauharnois Canal, it was conditional that, should ever the canal become the property of the Montreal Power, it would automatically

revert to the State, not only the canal but also any electrical improvements or developments made on same. Yet the Regime of Monopolists, not only favored the creation of the Beauharnois Company but it sanctioned its acquisition by the Montreal Power. Nothing short of a crime committed against the Public. Monopolies under your Regime have expanded in a manner undreamed of.

One of the least reassuring actions of the New Electricity Commission, — that famous commission brought into being to protect the Public, — was to authorize the exchange of the Beauharnois Bonds for those of the Montreal Power, in other words, it was to allow the Montreal Power to take full control of the Beauharnois. Here again, the Iron hand of this exploiting monopoly shows itself ably abetted by the Regime.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me tell you a better day is dawning. After the 18th, when we will unquestionably take over the reins of state, we will see that the Beauharnois development reverts to the state. This development is probably the greatest source of hydraulic energy in the world, it is an asset and a rich one, the property of the Public. And no longer will we tolerate the misguided errors of the past in sacrificing our natural resources to the only benefit

of a few individuals. These natural resources should remain the property of the public and should be exploited for its benefit first and for the profit of individuals secondly. I am fully aware that in my coming fight in Quebec Center your humble servant will have to deal with unscrupulous methods. I fear not the underhand work of the Electricity Trust. The Electorate of Quebec Centre is not blind, and these low methods will be of no avail to fool a public opinion now awakened by the members of the National Union.

THEIR WORKS.

The Government's Policy was one of "Laisser-faire", one of trusting the luck, a policy consisting of extorting from the Public by those in Power as much money as possible to fatten the purses of friends and ever retain Power. That is what is known to them as: restoration .

COLONIZATION

During five or six years, the amount voted in the budget for Colonization was consistently reduced, until a group of citizens advocating the necessity of further colonization, forced the hand of the Regime, who promptly decreed a convention would be held

on this subject. It has been the usual procedure of the Government, whenever alarmed at any turn in public opinion to immediately call a Convention. We had a Convention on Agriculture, then a Convention on Colonization, and now they are calling a Convention of Teachers. I suppose the next Convention will be one of Thiefs and Perjurers. Of these, the Government could certainly assemble a number equal, if not superior to the attendance at the recent Convention of Liberal Youth in Sherbrooke. It was a genuine fiasco. The Youth is turning its back to the old leaders, thus imitating the leaders' behavior towards the past.

The Regime in 1934, sensing an early call to the people, voted \$10,000,000.00 for Colonization, and to-day this colossal sum has hardly established three to four thousand colonists, most of whom are already on Direct Relief.

Colonists were strewn right and left some in the heart of the forest without roads or means of communication. Some were led knowingly to abject misery, and they call this Colonization.

It was like building a house starting by the roof. Colonists were located before roads were opened. Haste was the order of the day. Elections were in the wind. To-day we find this Government has committed itself to this Policy

of lopsided colonization for more than \$11,000,000.00.

In the speech of last April on the Budget, there was no question of a supplementary vote for colonization, on the contrary, it was understood that the normal budget would even be reduced, for the Government relied in a misplaced belief that they were there for another five years. Their hope was upset, the Regime could no longer stand up, it was slowly sinking into mud. It is now forced to come before the people, and Mr Godbout prepares the statement that he will vote \$5,000,000.00 for colonization.

In March there was no such thought, colonization could advance on low gear, but in June the Regime is looking for votes, therefore colonization is speeded and intensified.

In March, total indifference on the part of the Regime to Colonists; in June the Regime assumes a lively interest in colonists. Marvelous reconstructive work!

In March, no mention of a bounty on butter for the producer, a bounty promised by us last year, a bounty that Mr Damien Bouchard qualified as the lowest form of political corruption he ever knew off. To-day the same Mr Bouchard and Mr Godbout offer the producer a bounty on his butter. It is no longer corruption,

no longer a subject of scandal because it will only be for the Winter months. Was it because we offered it for the twelve months of the year that Mr Damien Bouchard was so scandalised?

In March of this year, no bounty was offered for clearing the land or for the labour thereby entailed. No bounty for clearing of stones and rocks:—no bounty for hygenic pig-stys.

In June, when the Regime is compelled to face an election all these measures became urgent. But do not look for any bounty for the uplift of hovels. Man made to the image of his Maker is at least entitled decent conditions of lively-hood. But according to Mr. Godbout only after the pork. There is money to give pigs hygienic quarters but n'er a farthing to improve the living conditions of our less fortunate berth.

Constructive program, constructive work, oh yes! improve the hygenic conditions under which animals are to live but his fellow-man, together with his wife and children, can linger and die in hovels.

In March, youth was promised a registry office to find employment, but of what use was a registry office that had nothing to offer. In June, every one understood

the joke and the Government thought it better to drop silently the question.

Compelled to come before the Public, the Government would have us forget the depth of humiliation into which they, the Government, were plunged by the revelations at the enquiry of the Public Accounts Committee. Appealing for your suffrage, they come to your like Santa Claus, arms laden with presents, playthings in painted tin and gilt, toys that in the hands of children rarely outlive the day.

Mr Godbout labours under the impression he can feed and sustain the public with promises, hope and roadends. This accumulation of promises has but one aim: to further stifle the enquiry into a rascally and dishonest administration. When I say this, I weigh my words.

This situation, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the picture under your very eyes, one that no equivocal speeches can change. The middle classes and their more fortunate brothers cannot ignore it, they have too many examples before them. The poor, the unemployed how could they ignore it, when they have lived these so distressful years.

Look at the town life where unemployment persists due to a

crisis brought on greatly by a Regime impoverishing all classes and more particularly the Working Class. The crisis is greatly the result of maladministration of the Public Weal, the result of wrong legislation, wrong administration of justice.

When a State is governed only in the interests of monopolies which have diverted to themselves the savings of a people; when a State permits the exploitation of the same people by the nefarious tradings of unscrupulous bond salesmen or company promoters, the ultimate end of such a policy is the impoverishment of the masses and the accumulation of wealth in a few hands.

In March, there was no question of a minimum wage scale, no question of the conversion of Municipal debts at a lower rate of interest.

To-day, appealing to the public, the Government assumes the enforcing of a minimum wage scale, promises the conversion of the debt of defaulting municipalities. In consequence Municipalities to ease the load of their debts must go into bankruptcy first — This they call re-Construction.

Unquestionably debt conversion to a lower rate of interest whether Municipal or on Mortgages privately held is not only in the interest

of debtors but also of creditors. Investors and Capitalists willing or unwilling must face the issue, otherwise there may be a rude awakening and these men may ere long find themselves despoiled of their all.

THE UNEMPLOYED

It is incomprehensible how apparently well informed people do not realise the ill effects of allowing the unemployed to linger in idleness.

The Speech from the Throne led one to believe that direct relief and unemployment were to remain with us. Finally, in face of our protestations, it was understood that of all necessity the unemployed should be put to work. Yet there is no realisation of the mental and physical condition of these people, since it is decreed overnight all must be set to work. It is essential that the unemployed be placed at and on work of public benefit rather than allow them to waste both their time and public funds on petty and useless works, just as an excuse to pay them their grant.

The taste for honest labor must be re-instilled into the laborer and, to that the end, useful work should be provided, work in which the laborer will take an intelli-

gent interest, work in which he will feel some pride when it is definitely finished, work he can look back on as having had a hand in.

We have to re-educate in a large measure a great number of our unemployed, and if we do not set them useful and productive employment, we are sliding downhill, not slowly but at an alarming rate towards a catastrophe, a moral and financial one, embracing all ranks of society.

Who and where are the Builders, in this Government of the blind?

See our fishermen, Gaspeians mostly, see our labouring classes in the towns, see our farmers, our colonists, our small industries and our professional men. All are headed for disaster and ruin, if they have not already reached this undeserved goal.

Is this reconstruction or destruction?

What has the Government done to prevent Paganism rearing its head in this Province, the Church alone cannot effectually combat the plague of immorality into all ranks of society. The clergy, the teachers and social workers can answer this in no uncertain manner.

What have you, you the governing class done to inculcate in the masses, respect of the clergy, respect for established beliefs and

the observance of the Lord's Day?

Will the vile words and acrimonious criticism launched at religious authorities, at the impartial christian presse, at the upholders of our sacred liberties, help in this uplift. A press encouraged by you has sought to decry and slander our well thinking clergy at every turn.

Builders you call yourselves, when you surround yourselves with traducers and unbelievers singing your praises, blackmailing and slandering your opponents whose reputations are the envy of your like.

Builders, you may call yourselves. I call you Purveyors of wretchedness and scandals.

My words are not spoken or written in anger or hate but urged by a deep indignation that we should be governed by such an infamous Regime as the Taschereau-Godbout-Bouchard clique.

Mr Godbout is heir to and has accepted the heritage of a Regime whose iniquity baffles description.

ACCUSATION

M. Godbout, can you deny being one of the Taschereau Cabinet when orders in Council, fraudulent on their face, were passed and ratified to cover scandalous favoritism and cause the loss of thousands of dollars to the Province?

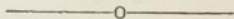
Deny it, Mr Godbout, I'll supply the proof. Admit the truth and I challenge you to punish the guilty. What will do with your own case, since you are party to the blackguardly acts of the late Ministry. — I suppose you'll turn your back once more on the past. Great Builders whose smug complacency seeks before Public Opinion to blind the Electorate to their misdeeds. Velvet footed before the Elections you'll quickly show your claws, should you ever obtain Power which happily is not to be.

Friend of monopolies, Regime of Trusts you remain the creature of old — not a builder, a destroyer.

We will be the builders but first must seek a foundation, we will

start there, not by the roof. To properly build we would like to choose our site but not have to take the accumulation of mud and filth left by you. Justice is the Keynote of all sane Government and you'll get justice and may be, for your welfare, tempered with charity which is more than you deserve. We shall endeavour to give people justice, the first condition to allow charity to prevail between classes and set them to work in perfect harmony.

Justice and Charity indispensable conditions to lead a country to happiness, to sane and lasting prosperity, this will be the foundation upon which we will endeavour to build.



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