

The 'Art' of g

Legend: Arthur J. Dixon, C.M.

- Calgary MLA; 1952.
- Speaker of the House, Alberta Legislature; 1967.
- Member of the Order of Canada; 1979.
- Lifetime Member of CREB®.

Art Dixon, founder and agent of Dixon Real Estate Services Inc. has made significant contributions to both the real estate profession and the community.

His beliefs in hard work, dedication and honesty have made him successful



Art and wife Marguerite (pictured above) enjoy spending time with their large and growing family including the latest addition - a great-grandchild.

as a Realtor®, a speaker for the Alberta Legislature and an active volunteer with many organizations.

Art was born on December 1, 1919 in England, moved to Canada at an early age and was raised in Okotoks. He served in the Canadian Airforce from 1940 to 1946 and during that time he met and married Dorothea Evans.

After he was discharged in 1946, he moved to Calgary in the community of Rosedale and eventually owned a hardware store.

"I was interested in politics, but I had a hardware store on 14th Street after the war," Art said. "I wanted to get out and be free and I thought - well, the real estate industry does that, it allows you to set your own hours, you aren't tied to an eight hour day, you can work 14 hours if you want!"

He began in the real estate business in 1949 working for Clark Real Estate and Insurance.

At the time, the population of Calgary was about 80,000, the average selling

Legends Of Real Estate

KIM VANDERLEER

price of home was between \$3,000 and \$4,000 and the outer districts were Rossbarrock, Windsor Park, Forest Lawn, Riverside and Hillhurst.

The real estate business was also a lot smaller according to Art.

"There were very few people in the business at that time, I knew practically everyone."

The familiarity with the other agents and the customers was one of the reasons that Art enjoyed the business so much.

He says that mortgages were not easy to obtain in his early days in the business and people had to save up to buy a house. So, when you sold someone a house, it was important that it was a quality home at a reasonable price.

"I liked seeing people again that I had sold a house to, and they were still living there and seemed really happy. I very seldom had complaints," Art said. "A deal has to bless both parties."

Art enjoyed the real estate business, but he was passionate about politics, an interest he obtained from his mother who was a social activist during the Depression.

He became a Calgary MLA in 1952, a position he held for 23 years.

"Whatever industry you are in, whether you are a lawyer or a real estate agent, it is important to realize it's not about making money, it's about giving back to the community," Art said about why volunteering and politics are important to him.

In 1956, Art started his own real estate company, Dixon Real Estate Services Inc. Today he is still an agent there, with his oldest son Tom running the company.

Dixon Real Estate Services Inc. is one of the oldest family-owned and operated real estate companies that is still in existence.

Art's success as a residential and commercial Realtor® grew and so did his activism with politics. He was the Speaker of the House in the Legislature from 1967 to 1975.

In 1979, a great honour was bestowed upon Art; he was nominated and

giving back



Art Dixon resigned as owner from Dixon Real Estate Services Inc. in June of 1990, but retains the position of agent. Son Tom Dixon has taken over the business reigns.

received the Canada Medal for his volunteerism with seniors and young people.

This distinction also made him a member of the Order of Canada.

Art is a lifetime member of CREB®, has served on various committees and was a director with the board. Last year he celebrated 55 years in the real estate business.

"I thought that the board has done a wonderful job over the years, it's a very important part of Calgary – the real estate industry headed up by the Real Estate Board," Art said. "I had no idea that Calgary would get as big as it is today as quickly as it has grown."

He notes that the industry has changed dramatically over the past 56 years.

"When I started in the business, it was very amateurish. Today they have everything electronically, which is easier for Realtors®; it's all computerized now. They have a wonderful system of advertising houses through the Calgary Real Estate News and it's also on the Internet. In the early days there was none of that, when I started in real estate there wasn't even MLS®, that came along a

little later."

Art retired from Dixon Real Estate Services in June of 1990, but retained the role of Agent. He is still quite busy with a number of different organizations.

He is a Life Member of the Salvation Army Citizens Advisory Board, the President of the William Aberhart Historical Society, a Citizen Court Judge, a Lifetime Member of Calgary Chinook Kiwanis Club and SAIT alumni.

His wife Dorothea passed away in 1991, and he has been re-married for eight years to Marguerite. He has two sons, a stepdaughter, eight grandchildren and he just recently became a great-grandfather.

Art is grateful for his wonderful life and successful career. He believes that the way to be successful is to, "always be truthful in your deals, do the best you can and keep respect for everyone you deal with."

—Kim Vanderleer is a Calgary Real Estate News reporter.

Foundation puts Bible Bill's legacy into perspective



DAVID BLY

HERITAGE

William Aberhart is an important figure in Alberta's history, says Art Dixon, but the premier who ushered in the Social Credit era does not get the recognition he deserves.

So Dixon and some like-minded friends, encouraged by Grant MacEwan, former lieutenant-governor and a keen historian, set out to form the William Aberhart Foundation, which was incorporated as a registered charity in January 2000.

Dixon was a Social Credit MLA from 1952 to 1975, and was Speaker of the Alberta legislature from 1967 to 1971.

"But the foundation is non-political," he said.

"We have people from a variety of political backgrounds. Our purpose is not politics, it's history. William Aberhart is important to Alberta's history — he did so much to help the province become what it is today."

Dixon says Aberhart did not set out to be a politician.

Born in Ontario in 1878, he moved to Calgary in 1910. From 1910 until 1915, he was principal of three public schools: Alexandra, Mount Royal and King Edward. In 1915, he was appointed principal of Crescent Heights High School in Calgary, where he served for 20 years.

During this time, Aberhart preached at various churches in the Calgary area and conducted Bible classes.

In 1918, he founded the Prophetic Bible Conference, which later became the Prophetic Bible Institute.

He foresaw the importance of radio when it was in its infancy, and in 1925 started *Back to the Bible*, a weekly religious broadcast that attracted audiences exceeding those of comedian Jack Benny.

Those broadcasts earned him the nickname Bible Bill.

"A lot of people thought he went into politics to spread his religious beliefs," says Dixon, "but he just wanted to help, to make things better."

When the Depression was darkening Alberta skies, Aberhart was disturbed by the bleak future faced by his students.

"He saw that students were graduating, but weren't able to get jobs," said Dixon.

"Now, Grade 12 was a pretty good education in those days, but it bothered Mr. Aberhart that these students were unemployed. This is what got him interested in politics."

A fellow teacher showed Aberhart a book by Maj. C. H. Douglas, a Scottish engineer who had formulated a theoretical fiscal system called social credit. Aberhart adopted — and later adapted — Douglas's views as a political platform.

The teacher-preacher from Calgary attracted incredible grassroots support.

David Elliott and Iris Miller, who wrote a book in the 1980s about Aberhart called *Bible Bill*, said the Social Credit campaign of 1935 was like nothing Alberta had seen.

"The public discussions, lectures and social gatherings of the old-fashioned political campaign were supplemented by many of the propaganda features of present-day political campaigns," they wrote, "except that this was in the days before professional publicity agents, speech writers and public relations experts."

The campaign was phenomenally successful. Aberhart swept to power with an unprecedented 56 out of 63 seats. The United Farmers of Alberta was destroyed as a political party, and Social Credit ruled Alberta for the next 36 years.

Aberhart succeeded because he offered hope, Dixon said, at a time when hopelessness reigned.

"There was starvation amid plenty," he said. "What did it matter if steaks cost 15 cents a pound if you didn't have 15 cents?"

"Mr. Aberhart knew there was enough to go around — it was a matter of distribution. He felt that if the wealth could be circulated, jobs would



Calgary Herald Archive

be created, the economy would improve."

Alberta was deeply in debt.

"Fifty-one cents of every dollar the province took in went to pay interest on the debt," Dixon said. "Never mind the principal."

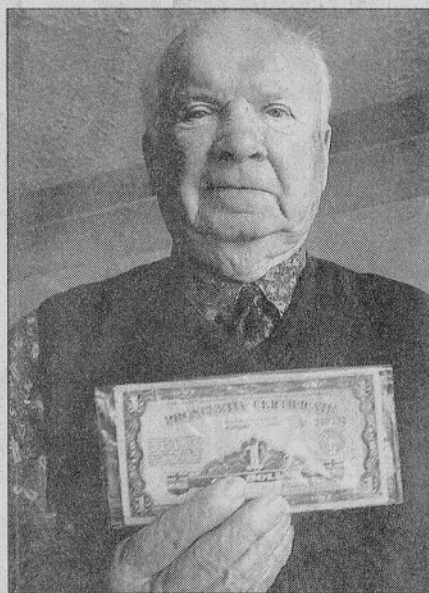
Aberhart made promises he later found he could not keep — a regular monthly allowance of \$25 to each adult citizen, a system in which credit vouchers would be used instead of money.

A few Alberta Prosperity Certificates, nicknamed "funny money," were issued, but the concept was struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada because currency and credit fall under federal jurisdiction.

"One of the great success stories, though, was the Treasury Branches," Dixon said. "When banks were leaving the small towns, the Treasury Branches were there, and became one of the province's most successful business enterprises."

The provincial debt is another success story, he said.

"Mr. Aberhart said in 1935 that the orderly development of Alberta's resources would make the province less dependent on taxes. He could foresee the time when Alberta would be debt-free. He wanted to leave more money in the hands of the people, where it would do some good, and you don't do



David Bly, Calgary Herald

that by raising taxes."

Aberhart died in 1943. His successor, Ernest C. Manning, was premier until 1968; the Social Credit party held power until it was swept aside by Peter Lougheed's Conservatives in 1971.

Under Manning, Alberta did become debt-free.

"We've been very fortunate tax-wise in Alberta," said Dixon.

"We have no provincial sales tax, and we're in pretty good shape. William Aberhart and Ernest Manning

Above, William Aberhart, with Ernest C. Manning, seated, at a Social Credit picnic in 1936. At left, Art Dixon, president of the William Aberhart Foundation, shows a \$1 Prosperity Certificate, an artifact from Aberhart's reign.

really got this province going."

Dixon said the William Aberhart Foundation is hoping to put together a collection of documents, artifacts, books and information that will help this chapter of Alberta's history be better understood.

"We have schools and universities asking for material on Mr. Aberhart," he said. "By 2005, we hope to have all material available as a historical record of one of Alberta's prominent pioneer citizens."

Dixon says he knows Aberhart, because of his unorthodox views and policies, had critics and enemies.

"Regardless of what you think of his policies, he's important historically," he said.

The William Aberhart Foundation can be contacted through J. Alvin Speers, secretary-treasurer, at 256-4639 or Dixon at 287-3919.

ves Dixon Southwest

DEC 4 1958

Five-Year Program Defended At Meeting

Arthur Dixon, MLA, was named Social Credit candidate for Calgary Southeast constituency Wednesday night.

He was nominated by acclamation at a meeting attended by some 120 persons in Victoria School, 11th Ave. and 3rd St. S.E.

Fred C. Colborne, minister without portfolio, warned the meeting that the Alberta government's new five-year development program will be "misrepresented" by opposition parties in the coming year.

A provincial election, for which the major political parties are preparing, is expected to be held next summer.

Mr. Dixon, 39, has been deputy speaker in the Alberta Legislature for the past few years. He is an insurance and real estate agent in Calgary.

He predicted Wednesday that the population of the Calgary Southeast constituency will double in the next 10 years.

BEST IN CANADA

The Alberta government is the best in Canada, he said, and its main purpose is to properly distribute "the great abundance that the good Lord has blessed us with."

Mr. Colborne said Mr. Dixon is recognized as "one of the outstanding members of the House."

The minister said that all fair-minded persons must agree Calgary is to receive "a full measure of attention" in the government's development plans for the next five years.

No other province, he said, could undertake a public works project such as Alberta's without borrowing.

He said many governments have talked about projects to offset a recession, but Alberta "is the only one that ever did it."

During the next five years, Mr. Colborne said, Alberta will spend \$1.5 billion for public works and none of the money will be borrowed.

FIGHT RECESSION

"We still have reserves left over and we will use them to fight this recession," he promised.

Mr. Colborne described the federal government's recent debt program as "the most scandalous thing ever put over on an unsuspecting public."

He said the Borden Commission hearings delayed oil and gas developments and created uncertainties so that Alberta today is



ART DIXON
... acclamation

producing only about one-third of its oil potential.

Charles E. Johnston, former Social Credit MP for Bow River, told the meeting unemployment is higher than it has been for years and there is no relief in sight.

He cited a Herald editorial to demonstrate that the federal government's refinancing arrangement is "hocus pocus."

The editorial said "it is financial hocus-pocus to take some money out of circulation by borrowing it from the people, while putting it into circulation by government spending."

Canadians are suffering from inflation, Mr. Johnston said, and he contended that nothing is being done by Ottawa to "alleviate the suffering."

Mr. Johnston contended that the federal government never had any intention of keeping freight rates down in Western Canada, but was looking only for an "election dodge" before the last federal vote.

Socred Claims Outlined

AUG 26 1959

Art Dixon, Social Credit MLA, outlined some Social Credit achievements to 14 members of the Young Social Credit Association in the Prophetic Bible Institute on Tuesday.

Explaining so, Mr. Dixon explained to the young Social Crediters why he joined the movement because "I could not understand why we should have starvation and near-starvation in the midst of plenty," he said.

When the government was elected in 1935, it faced a \$167,000,000 debt, a poor education system and a shortage of teachers, a poor highway program, a shortage of hospitals, and little or no welfare program, he said.

Mr. Dixon said that the payments on the provincial debt are not due entirely to the discovery of oil and in showing the worth of the "pay as you go" policy instituted in 1935. He said \$19,000,000 of the debt was paid before the discovery of the Leduc field.

He said Alberta is now one of Canada's richest provinces in natural resources and that a good portion of this wealth is due to U.S. capital which was encouraged to enter Alberta after British and Canadian interests had declined to invest here.

TEACHER TRAINING

Alberta was the first province to institute teacher training at the University level, he said.

Alberta is second only to Ontario in miles of hard-surfaced roads, Mr. Dixon said.

He cited supplementary allowances, pending construction of old-age homes, two-dollar a day hospitalization, and the government's guaranteed payments on

See Page 27—SOCRED

Socred C

hospital capital costs, to prove his contention that "in welfare, Alberta is among the leaders in Canada, also."

The province pays the highest grants that are being paid to any municipalities in Canada, he said.

'We're trying to do our best'

In a limited amount of spare time, Art reads widely, concentrating on political biography and parliamentary history. "I think this helps to make up for some of the formal schooling I lack," he says.

Art's an avid bowler, too. Last year, his five-pin average was 172. Art also is a hockey fan, with a healthy respect for Gordie Howe and the Detroit Red Wings.

But politics is the core of his life. "Most people who support or work for Social Credit don't ask what's in it for them," is the way he explains the 34-year-old government's successes over the years.

"It's part of our Alberta way of life. I think it's true that the people would rather stay with the devil they know than with the devil they don't know.

"The people have always felt we may not be the smartest bunch of fellows in the world, but at least we're trying to do our best."



Biography - Calgary - Dixon, G.P. CP-Wirephoto
HONOR FOR CALGARIAN. Governor-General Ed Schreyer

invested Art Dixon of Calgary, a former speaker of the Alberta legislature, as a member of the Order of Canada Wednesday at ceremonies in Ottawa. Sixty-two Canadians received the order, the country's highest distinction.

OCT 25 1979

Feb 27 - 1960

FEB 27 1960

DIXON NAMED DEPUTY SPEAKER

(Herald Legislature Bureau)

EDMONTON — Art Dixon, (SC-Calgary Southeast) Friday afternoon was elected Deputy Speaker of the Alberta Legislature for his second term.

Mr. Dixon, who owns a Calgary real estate company, was first elected to the \$1,500 per year post in 1955. He was elected to the house in 1952.

In practice, the job entails taking over as chairman of House committees of the whole as they consider estimates of expenditure and introduction of legislation.

The appointment lasts the duration of the Legislature, usually four years.

Alberta Gazette
Feb 27 1960

New Speaker



Arthur J. Dixon (SC-Calgary South East) was elected speaker of the Alberta Legislature Tuesday. He succeeds Rev. Hon. Peter Dawson, who died Sunday. Mr. Dixon was nominated by Premier E. C. Manning. The nomination was seconded by A. J. Hooke, municipal affairs minister. No other names were proposed.

Acclamation Suggested

Dixon 'Flattered' *Beta-Election* By Speaker Idea

Speaker Arthur Dixon of the Alberta Legislature says he is flattered by the suggestion that he be given an acclamation in the next provincial general election, but he has some reservations about the idea of a permanent speakership.

He was commenting on a recent suggestion by Bill Dickie, Liberal MLA for Calgary Glenmore, that Liberals in Mr. Dixon's constituency (Calgary South) consider consulting with other opposition parties about the possibility of an acclamation for Mr. Dixon.

Mr. Dickie said it would save the speaker from having to seek re-election in a partisan campaign, then resume his non-partisan job in the Legislature.

APPRECIATES IDEA

Mr. Dixon says he appreciates Mr. Dickie's interest in the office of speaker, and agrees there are definite benefits to be expected from a permanent speakership. But even after hearing them all discussed in the Alberta and Canadian branches of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, he says "I would not like to see the day come when a speaker might be appointed who has never been through the process

of getting elected in the usual way."

This experience, Mr. Dixon says, gives a speaker an understanding of the problems of other members of the House which



ARTHUR DIXON

... some reservations

he could not acquire in any other way.

On the question of a Calgary South acclamation, he says, decisions will have to be made by the other parties.

A permanent speakership, Mr. Dixon adds, could only be established by the Legislature. He says it is only a question of time until some legislative body in Canada adopts some form of the idea. He says he is in touch with Quebec, where Premier Daniel Johnson made an election prom-

Title Of Speaker 'Forced' On Dixon

FEB 14 1964

By DOUG SAGI

[Herald Legislature Bureau]

EDMONTON — Hon. Arthur Dixon, the Calgary South member of the Alberta Legislature was elected Speaker of the House Thursday afternoon. He is the first new Speaker since 1935, when Rev. Peter Dawson of the Little Bow constituency became the first Social Credit Speaker. Mr. Dawson died in office just before the end of the last session of the Legislature last year and Mr. Dixon succeeded him.

TRADITIONAL RELUCTANCE

Thursday was Mr. Dixon's first official election to the speakership at a Legislature opening. Accepting the position with traditional reluctance (in former times parliamentary Speakers did not want the job and had to be forced into it), he was dragged from his assembly seat by Premier Manning and Municipal Affairs Minister Alfred Hooke.

Returning to the assembly after putting on his robe and three-cornered hat, the new Mr. Speaker said:

"I appreciate the honor you have conferred upon me and my constituency of Calgary South.

"Mr. Dawson, in his 27 years Speaker of this assembly, earned the respect of every member of this House. His long and dedicated service over the years established a record unequalled in our nation and Commonwealth.

"I can pay no greater tribute to his memory than to endeavor to fulfil the duties of this office to the best of my ability."

As Speaker, Mr. Dixon is the "chairman" of the Legislature and occupies the throne between the opposition and government benches.

He will not be able to take

part in debates or to vote on motions, unless there is a tie. His word on procedure is law.

A member of the Legislature since 1952, Mr. Dixon was named Deputy Speaker in 1955. He has been chairman of two legislative committees reviewing changes to the Alberta Workmen's Compensation Act.

He is president of the Calgary Safety Council and a member of the Calgary civil defence committee and the city centennial committee. He is a director of the Calgary Rehabilitation Society and a member of the board of governors of Mount Royal College.

A realtor and insurance man, he is 44 years old, married and has two children.



ART DIXON

... elected speaker



ARTHUR J. DIXON
... pleased

YWCA

Calgary
names

Dixon - Arthur J.
chairman

Calgary South Social Credit MLA, Arthur J. Dixon, has been appointed chairman of the YWCA's Citizen's Committee. General chairman Charles Lee said he was pleased that Mr. Dixon had joined the increasing numbers of Calgarians who are volunteering their time and effort that the YWCA will have modern facilities.

The citizen's committee will attempt to show Calgarians the reasons behind the need for a new YWCA building to replace the present structure at 223 12 Ave. S.W.

In an interview, Mr. Dixon said his task is to co-ordinate all community activities and to get the citizens behind the project.

Before his appointment to the chairmanship of the citizen's committee, Mr. Dixon was on the sites committee and looked for new sites to locate the Calgary operations.

"It was only when I became personally involved in one of the preliminary stages of the campaign that I realized the desperate need of the YWCA for decent adequate facilities and the unbelievable conditions under which this dedicated organization of women has been struggling to meet the increasing demand for girl's residential services and community programs," he said.

JUST as long as he's happy — I'm happy, too, says Mrs. Arthur Dixon. And why shouldn't she be happy? Her husband was re-elected as Social Credit MLA in the riding of Calgary South. As Mrs. Dixon explains, "Politics is his field — he loves it and unless a person does the type of work he loves, he won't be happy."

Mr. and Mrs. Dixon were married in 1944 and have two sons; Tom, 15 and Donald, 13. Mr. Dixon was first elected in 1950 and is now going into his third term. He holds a respected place in the hierarchy of the Social Credit party as he was elected Deputy Speaker of the Legislature in 1952 and, since this spring, has been Speaker.

Although Mr. Dixon has run twice in federal elections, Mrs. Dixon doesn't think he will attempt it again. "He's very happy in the provincial assembly and neither of us have any ambitions for Ottawa."

She helps her husband in any way she can. "I answer the phone; remind him of appointments; type his speeches and run his home," she says with a smile.

As for the children, she thinks Tom their 15-year-old, will probably end up as a politician. "He seems to have a real interest," she says proudly, "He will join the Young Social Crediters when he's 16."

And she doesn't mind — "Just as long as Tom's doing the work he wants to do"

WOMAN BEHIND THE MAN - 14

Mrs. Dixon Finds Political Life Engrossing

JUL 20 1964

By LAWRIE KERGAN

[Herald Staff Writer]

Mrs Dorothea Dixon got a surprise shortly after her marriage 20 years ago.

She found out her husband was interested in politics.

"I didn't know it when we were married, and I wasn't interested in politics then," says the wife of the Speaker of the House, for the Alberta Legislature.

But she pitched right in, "stuffing envelopes and telephoning," and has had no qualms since about being married to a politician.

She admits it is a profession with it's up and downs, although for Hon. Arthur Dixon it has mostly been ups.

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Even when he failed in his first campaign — a federal election more than 12 years ago — she did not worry particularly. "He was young then and not well known," she says.

Her attitude throughout her marriage has been a "whither thou goest" one. She wanted her husband to be happy at his work and, "with his interest in community affairs and in people, politics was a natural," Mrs. Dixon explains.

She feels the same way about the future careers of her two sons, Donald, 14, and 16-year-old Tom. Whatever will suit them will also suit her, except she would like to see

them both get university educations.

As for the youngest member of the family, 9-year-old Judy, Mrs. Dixon admits she is the "pet". No one takes exception, though, because Judy is the nicest Boston bull the family has ever known.

A politician's wife differs from the average in that she rarely sees her husband, probably entertains more and, for Mrs. Dixon at least, has a special duty to see the home is a place of peace and harmony.

No longer active in party machinery, Mrs. Dixon considers her main task that of handling all household problems and "keeping the home fires burning", so that her busy husband will have a refuge to come to.

Her activities centre around the house and her family, to whom she must often be both mother and father, particularly when the House is sitting.

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Apart from membership in the Social Credit Women's League she joins no clubs. "I would like to be an active member of any organization I joined and, as I haven't the time, I don't feel it would be right to join," she explains.

Gardening and bowling are her favorite leisure-time activities and both she and Mr. Dixon are out at the alleys as

often as possible. Mrs. Dixon holds more than a dozen cups won in club and city bowling tournaments.

She would like to add golf to the list because she likes it, and also because she feels it would be an ideal form of relaxation for her husband. But again, there aren't enough hours in the day to fit it in.

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Most of her formal entertaining is done in Edmonton, in the Speaker's apartment in the Legislative buildings. The Dixons move up there during sessions, but Mrs. Dixon comes home for weekends as often as possible to see her sons, and attend to the house.

In Calgary, she sometimes puts her stenographic talents to work in the family real estate business. However, she says ruefully: "My typing is all right, but I've forgotten most of my shorthand.

Daughter of an Alberta pioneer and homesteader, the late T. M. Evans, Mrs. Dixon was raised on a farm and educated in Calgary, where she met and married her husband. Mr. Dixon was then in the air force.

Although she likes city life, the couple have always thought a farm is a good place to raise children.

So far, they haven't acquired one, but "we still think about it," she says.

JUL 20 1964



MRS. DOROTHEA DIXON
... helps in campaigns

Veteran MLA To Run In New Calgary-Millican Riding

Dixon Again Gets Sacred Nod

By **BILL MUSSELWHITE**
(Herald Staff Writer)

Art Dixon, speaker of the provincial Legislature, was nominated Thursday as the Sacred candidate for the new riding of Calgary-Millican.

Mr. Dixon, an 18-year veteran of the Legislature, was nominated by acclamation by a standing-room only crowd of about 400 persons.

The 50-year-old MLA for Calgary-South, a constituency dissolved during a recent redistribution, is the eighth Social Credit candidate nominated.

Mr. Dixon, who received the blessings of both Premier Harry Strom and Mayor Rod Sykes, told his followers that Calgary should follow the lead of Houston, Texas, and launch a campaign to get North American corporations to relocate their head offices in this city.

"In recent years, many major firms have begun to reassess the reasons for their location in crowded and uncomfortable Eastern cities.

"We are less polluted, less congested, less crowded and more liveable than most Eastern cities," he pointed out. "We are also well-served in every way with the greatest computer capacity in the country."

Mr. Dixon also suggested that a task force, consisting of representatives of provincial and municipal governments plus oil company executives, be formed to review oil and gas marketing policy.

Such a task force, he commented, would plot future marketing policy and co-ordinate activities of both the public and private sectors of the industry.

CAPITAL NEEDED

An obvious opponent of those who preach economic nationalism, Mr. Dixon said he and the provincial government encourage the inflow of foreign capital.

"Canada needs to develop its resources. Today's grow-

ing technology means we can do this with a minimal impact on our environment.

"Alberta, with no sales taxes and high per capita income, is living proof that foreign investment can substantially contribute to a good life for individual companies."

However, the MLA said, foreign capital should not mean Canadians do not need to invest in their own country. It would be good, he said, if Canadians stopped

★

merely collecting interest on bank deposits and use some of it as risk capital.

Mr. Dixon also said that this city, "with fine post secondary institutions and major total energy and resources

companies, is also in a fine position to lead the country in environmental research.

"Not only could we be known as Canada's oil capital, but also as the environmental capital."

The Saturday Page

Politics runs in veins

By Don Truckey

(Herald staff writer)

Once a politician, always a politician.

Art Dixon should know.

For 23 years, starting in 1952, he sat in the legislature as a Social Credit member for south-east Calgary Millican.

From 1955 to 1963, he was deputy Speaker, and then was elevated to the Speaker's chair, until the defeat of Social Credit in 1971.

"Anybody who tells you that after you've been involved as long as I have, that they don't want to run again, is not telling you the truth," he says.

It's not that Dixon is chomping to enter another election.

He's just saying that politics is habit-forming.

"Despite what you hear about public life — all the derogatory remarks and so on — it's still a wonderful experience for anyone and I don't hesitate to recommend it."

In the last provincial election, March 14, 1979, Dixon was persuaded once again to carry the Social Credit banner in Millican.

Although Conservative David Carter trounced him, the Socred

Update

looks back on the campaign fondly.

"Like the old fire horse, when the bell rings, everyone decides to get up and do something," Dixon says from his southeast Calgary insurance and real estate office.

The bell still rings for Social Credit, he believes.

The party was declared finished this spring by its three elected MLAs, who proposed that it field no candidates in the next provincial election.

But Art Dixon's long political career seems to point to a future of veterans in the party, which governed Alberta for 36 years: Once a Social Crediter, always a Social Crediter.

Dixon says: "Social Credit was more than a political party — it was part of our western way of doing things.

"We've always been mavericks. That's why minority parties have always done very well here."

Art Dixon doesn't want the Social Credit tent folded.

He says the time may be ripe for a comeback, because the original force behind the movement was reform to combat the "money power" that held ordinary folk to ransom with exorbitant interest charges and real estate foreclosures.

"If they (the Socreds) ever had a chance to come back, this is it."

The hard times that spawned Social Credit hit Dixon's family in the early 1930s in his hometown Okotoks.

"My dad, when he got laid off, I can remember it as if it was today... that's when the Depression started for us.

"The generation from, say, 30 years old to 50 years old — the doers today — could probably overextend themselves, because they'd just heard about it (the Depression). They don't know just how bad things can get."

Those who went through it spent much of their mature lives trying to make things as good as they could get.

Dixon got in as many organizations, projects and causes as possible.

He has played a part in the Calgary Tourist and Convention Association, Salvation Army, Calgary and Alberta safety councils, Kiwanis Club, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (speaking out in favor of letting wild horse herds continue to run free in the foothills), establishment in Calgary of the University of Alberta, Calgary (now the University of Calgary), a new court house and Foothills Hospital.

"I've just loved representing Calgary, you know, with the U of C and so on, all those dreams turning into realities."

In 1979, he was honored for his civic work and career as Speaker by being appointed a member of the Order of Canada.

The Speaker's job has been described as best measured by the anonymity of office holder. The Speaker is supposed to be a nearly invisible referee.

"The government has its majority to protect it; the opposi-



File photo, Calgary Herald

Legislature exerts strong pull on its veterans

s of Socred stalwart



Bill Herriot, Calgary Herald

Art Dixon, former Speaker, treasures souvenirs of his Social Credit successes

tion has the rules and the Speaker."

Dixon is aware of controversy that the current Speaker, Edmonton lawyer Gerard Amerongen, has encountered amid charges of violating tradition.

But a protocol of respect for the office crosses party lines, and Dixon honors it when asked about Amerongen's record of rulings on issues affecting the opposition's right to be heard.

Dixon observes only that the question period, especially in the House of Commons, has "turned into a debating society,"

because queries are often tokens appended to long, grandstanding speeches for the television cameras.

Outside the Commons or legislature, politicians are expected to grandstand, and Dixon remembers well one of the greatest showmen of all: William Aberhart, who led the original 1935 Socred sweep.

Dixon prescribes the old basic remedies even now, with his old party in eclipse, the 25 years of Senator Ernest Manning's government a fading memory and the economy faltering.

"All government should do is make the investment climate so that people want to build, want to invest, want to stay here. When government starts running things is when everything starts going to pot."

Recalling their own history, old Socreds believe it takes charismatic leadership to do the job.

Dixon says: "What I'm waiting for now is another Aberhart to come along, whether it's a Social Credit Aberhart, a Liberal Aberhart or a Conservative Aberhart."



Art Dixon [far Left] stares with some surprise as Peter Lougheed unveils his portrait in the Alberta Legislature. Joining the Premier were Art's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Dixon, who just previously had celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

Contrary to eastern Canadian rumours, the Alberta legislature does not spend all of its time counting its money and figuring out how to now get even with Eastern Canada for its long past put down of the Western provinces.

In fact they are usually too busy up in the legislature for such stuff. However we still retain a kind of Western Friendliness that they have labelled our "Western Hick" syndrome. And they do find time for the giving of honor which is often enlivened with a friendly humorous twist.

Recently Calgary's twenty-two year long continuous representative in the Alberta Legislature was honoured by having his life size oil portrait hung in the Legislature Building. What made the occasion especially noteworthy was the the picture was hung and unveiled by Peter Lougheed, leader of the Conservative Party in power. The picture was a member of the Social Credit Opposition—Art Dixon, MLA.

Art himself is rather an unusual politician who not only has for over twenty-two years won the confidence of his electors, but also the approval of his political opponents. He is a deceptively quiet man who smiles a great deal and who quickly can get things done. In 1963 he was the unanimous joint choice of both parties of the house as their speaker. A job, which at least on one noteworthy case, during a debate on the Athabasca Delta required him to rule against his own party. A difficult job which he courageously handled to the admiration of all.

On the occasion of the honour, Ted Hinman, who was the past provincial treasurer, wrote an off the cuff poem of the occasion that we enjoyed and we hope you will too.

A Public 'angin

Today were the day they 'anged Dixon
T'were not because e'd done wrong
'E were nothing at all like ol' Nixon
But a jolly fine chap all along.

T'was 'is picture of course they were 'angin
Up'igh in the parliament 'all
And 'e looked proper 'ansom—real bang in
Loking down from 'is place on the wall.

T'was all because e'd bin speaker
For quite a great number of years
When times in Alberta were bleaker
With a bit more of blood, sweat, and tears

'E sat every day in 'is fine 'igh-backed chair
A lookin sedate and benign
I's decisions of course just 'ad to be fair
Of petulence never a sign

T'were a real borrin job on occasions
On others excitin and rare
But our Arthur by gentle persuasion
Kept order and peace with a flare

A lookin real grand in is three-corneder 'at
And 'is black robe all flowin' and free
'Is collar adorned wi a short white cravat
'Is striped trousers bagged at the knee

'E were a remarkable speaker
Who earned an 'igh place in our 'earts
'E'd never permit any streaker
Displaying unmentionable parts

And if t'were a point of order
On which 'e were called for a rule
'E turned to 'is clerk and recorder
Who'd studied Beauchesne while at school

If ever there rose a commotion
One side callin t'other bad names
'E quickly dispelled any notion
'E'd let the heat burst into flames

So we all find 'im very deservin
Of 'avin 'is face in a frame
And no one wants any reservin
Of honour or thankin or fame

Then 'ere's a toast to our matee
A wish for a long 'appy life
May 'e stick around 'ere till e's eighty
And join in the fun and the strife.

By E. Hinman

Bright Future Seen By House Speaker

Alberta has the brightest future of any of Canada's 10 provinces Calgary South MLA A. J. Dixon said on returning from the recently closed session of the provincial legislature.

"Alberta has made tremen-

dous strides in material progress under Social Credit government and will continue to do so when the government is returned May 23," Mr. Dixon said.

Mr. Dixon, first elected to the legislature in 1952, has

been speaker of the House since 1963. He was the unanimous choice of the largest Sacred meeting held in Calgary to carry the party banner in the upcoming election.

Mr. Dixon said the very large proposed expenditures for education, health and welfare and the establishment of the new Alberta Human Resources Council demonstrate the high priority which this government attaches to the development and conservation of human resources.

He said substantial increases for an expanding program of roads and public works with proposals for urban renewal and the purchase of land for freeways in Calgary and Edmonton is tangible evidence that the government continues to recognize the importance of developing material resources and improving physical facilities in a rapid and orderly fashion.

He said direct and indirect government assistance to municipalities will amount to 35 per cent of the total provincial budget.

School Children to Stage Centennial Concert Series

An estimated 27,000 public school children will take part in a series of centennial concerts planned for the Jubilee Auditorium during May.

Hundreds of pupils and students from Grades 1 to 12 will perform during the concerts and thousands will be in attendance.

The 50-minute concerts will be held each morning from May 15 to 19 inclusive.

Evening programs will be 90-minutes long and will be open to the public.

A 50-cent admission will be charged. Children accompanied by adults will be admitted free.

Elementary pupils will perform in bands, choirs, story plays, recorder ensembles and choral speech selections.

Viscount Bennett, Ernest Manning and James Fowler band and choral groups will be among the five high schools participating in the concerts.

BRITAMCO CLUB

A log archway will frame the entrance to a new recreation area now under development in the foothills at Chiniki Lake, 60 miles west of Calgary.

The archway is a Centennial project of the Britamco Club, the social and recreational club of the employees of British American Oil Co. Ltd.

The Park itself is the project of the Stony Indians and will be called "Chiniquay Centennial Park".

Dixon given

Canada Medal

6 THE ALBERTAN, Friday, November 9, 1979



Eavesdrop

with EVA REID

Biography

After several unsuccessful attempts to get an appointment with Art Dixon, I concluded he was out campaigning again.

Not so.

However, he seems to be as busy and involved as he was in his 23 years in the Alberta legislature, ten of which were as "Mr. Speaker" in the Social Credit government.

Ever since he became an adult, he has been working for the community. He was active before he entered politics, while he was in the legislature and subsequent to his defeat in the 1975 election.

His contribution to his province and its people has earned him the highest award in the nation — The Canada Medal. It was pinned on his coat lapel by Governor-General

copy - Dixon, Arthur

Edward Schreyer at recent ceremonies in Ottawa.

The citation referred to Art's work with young people, encouraging them in learning the parliamentary system and his endeavors for senior citizens and the handicapped.

Art took a personal interest in the Tuxis Boys Parliament which flourished during his years in the legislature.

The only Canadian on this year's award list of 62 recipients, Art is proud that "an ordinary" person like himself should be singled out and recognized.

He notes he is the son of a coal miner and that his family life was simple, but adds with obvious pride, "My parents are both living, and in Calgary, so that they were able to share this honor too."

The J. W. Dixon family came to Calgary from England



DIXON PORTRAIT. Former speaker of the Legislature Art Dixon stands beside his recently-completed portrait, painted by Ottawa artist Robert S. Hyndman. The portrait was commissioned by the provincial government and will hang in the Legislative Building in Edmonton

alongside of other speakers dating from 1905. Mr. Dixon was first elected to the Legislature in 1952 and served as both deputy Speaker and Speaker during his 21 years in the House. He is the Social Credit MLA for Calgary-Millican.

NOV

9 1979

Albertans

in 1928. The bread winner got employment with the Royalite Oil Company, hauling equipment to the oilfields in Turner Valley from Okotoks.

The little village then was the end of the rail where, just prior to Mr. Dixon's joining the company, oil drilling equipment was hauled to Turner Valley by horses and wagon. Tractor trailers and trucks came later.

Art's parents will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary in April, 1980. Their seven children are all living, five in Calgary.

Many Calgarians will remember Art's concentrated efforts toward establishing a university in Calgary and his helping it become autonomous.

He was equally zealous in the formation of the Senior Citizens Accommodation Act which resulted in better housing for older folk.

He worked very hard on changing the Workmen's Compensation Act and was successful in raising pensions to offset the rising costs of living. He chaired committees, conducted surveys and spent many hours revising the Act.

He was president of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Alberta branch, and was noted for the annual dinners held in Mr. Speaker's Chambers. The foods of sister nations were a specialty — and always a conversation-piece, even among the members of the opposition.

I remember the Christmas parties he and his wife, Dorothea, hosted for his constituency of Calgary-Millican.

While some dug in their pockets to put money in the pot, and entertainers and Salvation Army gave away free services, the bulk of the financial burden was born by the Dixons. Those parties were great fun, especially the political skits.

Art was usually quite serious about his job as Speaker, but he chuckled when he recalled the day a member rose to ask, "Mr. Speaker will you please recognize the honorable member from . . . ? I have heard his speech four times."

This member, said Art, had a habit of rehearsing out loud what he proposed to say to the legislative assembly.

While he misses his political career, he is very busy in the community and is a director of the SPCA, president of the South Kiwanis Club, active in the Calgary Convention and Tourist Association, of which he was president for a year, and active in the Salvation Army and Humane Society.

Art is often referred to as the "man of the people's project."

His latest project is on the back burner. He is working on the preliminaries of forming a William Aberhart Historical Society. Art is anxious that the name of the world's first Social Credit premier be perpetuated. More of this later.

Art Dixon, Alberta Local man named to Order of Canada

A local man will be invested as a member of the Order of Canada next Wednesday in Ottawa.

Art Dixon, 59, former speaker of the Alberta Legislature, is among 62 Canadians to receive the country's highest distinction.

The Order of Canada was initiated in 1967 to praise Canadians of outstanding achievement and service.

Dixon was born in Durham, England and emigrated to Canada with his family in 1928. He has lived in the Okotoks and Calgary area since then.

He was first elected to the provincial legislature in 1952 and remained a member for 23 years.

He was appointed Deputy Speaker in 1955 and was elected Speaker in 1963. He served in that office for eight years.

Aside from his political activities, Dixon has been active in community affairs.

He has served on a number of bodies, including the Calgary and Alberta safety councils, the Calgary Tourist and Convention Association, the Humane Society, the Calgary South and East Kiwanis Club and the Salvation Army.

June 30, 1979

Calgary, Alberta

1. Dix
2. Order of Canada

In the news

*'Ordinary person' Art Dixon feels
great pride in Order*

of Canada appointment

By Robin Lee

(Herald staff writer)

Calgary's former Speaker of the Alberta legislature is one of 62 people awarded the country's highest distinction — the Order of Canada.

"I'm very, very happy," Arthur J. Dixon, 59, says of the Gov.-Gen. appointment Friday. "But not just as an individual.

"I'm very proud," he says, "to receive the honor as both an Albertan and Calgarian.

"My mother and father live in Calgary, so as well as for my own family, it's been nice that they can share it with me, too."

A month ago, Dixon received a letter from Esmond Butler, secretary-general of the Order of Canada, telling him he was on the list of those being recommended for the decoration.

Now, he is officially a member of the Order of Canada, although the date has not yet been set when Dixon will go to Ottawa to receive the award from Canada's Gov.-Gen. Edward Schreyer.

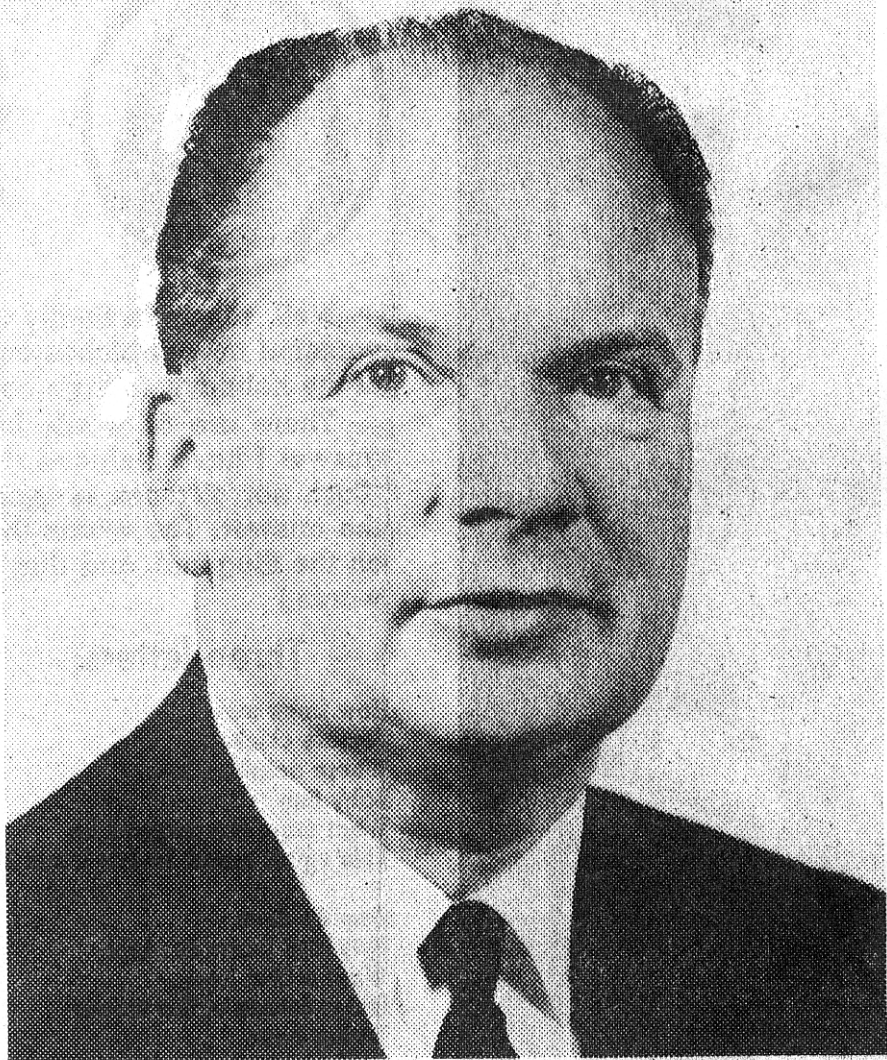
"I'm a coal miner's son, and when I look back to my beginnings . . . well, I'm very proud that an ordinary person is recognized in this great country of ours," Dixon says.

But on July 1, 1967, the Order of Canada was designed to honor its citizens each year who have served the country or "humanity at large".

Despite Dixon describing himself as an "ordinary person", his accomplishments seem to suggest he has served his country in the spirit of the award.

The real estate and insurance agent was first elected to the Alberta legislature as Social MLAs in 1952. Just three years later Dixon assumed the position of deputy Speaker from 1955-63.

Then he became Speaker-elect of



**FORMER ALBERTA SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATURE ART DIXON
... awarded country's premier honor, the Order of Canada**

the legislature, serving for the
Socred government in this capacity
until 1971.

His concerns inside and outside
the provincial legislature have been
diverse.

Dixon chaired two legislative
committees to review changes to
Alberta's Workmen's Compensation
Act. He was one of the original
founders of Calgary's first winter
work campaigns in 1955 which was

SOUTH SIDE



THURSDAY, APRIL



Speaker of the House A. J. (Art) Dixon performed his final task of the session Tuesday after members had left the House. Every year one of the Speaker's duties is to remove the plant from the table in the centre of the chamber and take it to his apartment in the legislative building. A plant is always on the table while the House is in session.

to spark similar programs in other parts of Canada.

Dixon has shouldered several government sponsored projects such as the establishment of the University of Alberta, Calgary (now the University of Calgary), the new court house and the building of Foothills Hospital.

Dixon himself is most proud of his achievements in establishing housing for senior citizens.

"Senior citizens need a spokesman, and I guess my long suit is that I can talk to people of any age, in all walks of life.

"I've been active in my work with the young, too," Dixon adds. "The schools invite me throughout the year to come and speak to their students, which I do. I talk to them about our political system."

Last March, Dixon was defeated in the provincial election by David Carter (PC — Calgary-Millican).

"But I'm still active in politics — behind the scenes, you know — but still very active.

"I'm a great believer in having patience in politics. You need that.

"To have a healthy democracy, it can't be one-sided," Dixon says, referring to the current 74 seats of the 79 total won by the Progressive Conservative Party in the last election.

"I don't know that I will run again. But if I don't personally, I certainly would encourage others in the various parties to do so," he says.

Aside from Dixon's political activities, he's running full tilt on the home front.

Dixon is vice-president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, president-elect of Calgary south and east Kiwanis Club and past-president of the Calgary Tourist and Convention Association.

HERALD MAGAZINE Friday, Aug. 22, 1969

Baby, Daily, Divina, Best

AUG 22 1969

Persons of the Week:

Art Dixon Has Won An Undisputed Reputation For Fairness As Speaker Of The Legislature

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Week:

AUG 22 1969

Art Dixon Has Won An Undisputed Reputation

For Fairness As Speaker Of The Legislature

His election in 1955 was by



ELECTION DAY, 1967

... Mr. Speaker chalks up another win

By DON SELLAR

(Herald Staff Writer)

It's a long trek from a tiny English coal mining town to Mr. Speaker's chair in the green-carpeted Alberta Legislature chamber at Edmonton.

But it's a path travelled cheerfully — and without regrets — by a diminutive, blue-eyed politician named Art Dixon, who launched his career as a Social Credit MLA on election day 17 years ago this month.

"If you can show me in black and white that something works, I'll be your greatest supporter," is the way Art Dixon, MLA for Calgary South, sums up his pragmatic political philosophy.

"I'm not a great researcher and while I believe we have to look into the future to determine public needs, we need to worry about the issues of today, too."

'A lot of decisions affect individuals'

There is a wealth of political experience in Art Dixon's eyes as he notes how Alberta politics have changed over the years.

"In the past, the decisions were related to matters like bridge locations, university sites and so forth. Today, a lot of our decisions affect individuals."

Contemporary political issues, therefore, no longer centre on decisions involving physical things. "It can cost money to make a wrong decision on a highway, but you can correct it," he says. "If you make a wrong decision involving people, it's a lot harder to correct."

So it's not hard to understand why Art Dixon sacrifices large chunks of his time to help Calgarians — whether they live in his constituency or not.

His wife Dorothea serves as personal typist, but as the 49-year-old politician puts it, "I try to do a lot of personal contact work. There really are no constituency boundaries, because when your name is before the public, people from all over the city will phone."

As Speaker of the Legislature, Art Dixon operates politically with a handicap borne of the fact he must serve as non-partisan referee of political games in Edmonton.

But when the House isn't in session, Speaker Dixon reverts to Sacred politician Dixon. "The idea some people have that the Speaker is unable to look after problems in his own constituency is wrong. As a matter of fact, I have people from other constituencies who contact me as their last resort."

Squeezed into his schedule of duties as Speaker and MLA is the Arthur J. Dixon Real Estate and Insurance Co. Ltd. operation he conducts on the Macleod Trail.

He finds that even though hard work is needed to be a successful real estate agent, it is possible to mix politicking into his working day without too much dislocation.

'A lot of people were laid off'

For Art Dixon, however, things haven't always dovetailed as neatly as they do today.

He began life in the English county of Durham, at Windlestone, the son of a coal miner who lost his job in 1928 when coal production hit a slump.

When the coal mines shut down, the Dixon family wasted little time throwing its belongings together for a trans-Atlantic move which took it to Okotoks, where a relative was in business.

There, in the small community, the large (four boys and three girls) Dixon family found temporary relief. Art's father found work in the Royalite warehouse.

But the crash of 1929 and other economic dislocations soon took their

toll. "My father and a lot of other people were laid off because of a lack of markets," Art recalls.

What saved the Dixons was their ability to pull together. "As soon as any of us were able to get out to work and make a few dollars, our first thought was to bring them back home to help the family out."

Art recalls his first real job — a \$50-a-month position as a flunkie or bull cook in a construction camp. He was 15, and had ended his formal schooling at the Grade 9 level.

'It's all right to attack policies'

"I was the first to get up in the morning to get the fires going and the last to get to bed at night because I had to do the dishes."

His family survived, with a minimum of relief money. Like other Okotoks families in the Depression, the Dixons scraped through. And when legions of men riding the rails in a relentless search for work hit town, "somehow even they got fed."

There was fun, too, in the 1930s. Art remembers earning \$5 "plus a 50-cent tip" for playing the part of the New Year's baby at the Okotoks Elks Hall one night.

And there was politics. His parents lured him to political meetings which accompanied the rise of Social Credit to power in 1934 and 1935.

It was the oratory of Social Credit prophet William Aberhart which entranced Art Dixon at the Okotoks arena one night.

"I was intrigued with his speech-making and the way he could handle the huge crowd, even when a trouble-maker tried to take over the platform. When Mr. Aberhart said, 'You sit down,' usually the chap sat down."

The bombastic father of Social Credit also presented his solutions to "poverty in the midst of plenty" and the electorate of the day turned on. "The people said, 'Here is a man who is going to do something for us.'"

Art Dixon's youthful days as a store clerk and meat cutter in Okotoks came in handy when the Second World War arrived.

Ruled ineligible for air crew work by his shortage of formal education and lack of physical stature, he eventually climbed to the rank of sergeant in the RCAF food services division and hospitals division, where he made up special diets.

After the war, he opened a small hardware store on 14th St. S.W. and attempted the impossible task of upsetting Conservative MP A. L. Smith in the 1949 federal election.

Finishing third in a three-way contest, Art Dixon did manage to convince 8,500 voters of his qualifications and, in the bargain, made an important friendship.

It was victor A. L. Smith who made the novice politician promise to try again. Again in 1951 — when illness forced Mr. Smith to resign — Art Dixon failed to win a federal seat, losing this time to Carl Nickle.

The Dixon political style was evolving, however. "I've learned to stay away from personalities," he says. "I'm not interested in personalities, but it's all right to attack a person's policies. You waste a lot of time and you hurt your effort by running the other fellow down."

The 1952 provincial election brought success, as the political aspirant gained a Legislature seat. Politics, he found, hurt his hardware business so he moved into the real estate trade to free more time for his constituents.



ART DIXON

... in the Legislature

His re-election in 1955 was his closest scrape with defeat in provincial politics. But he remained a winner at the polls, recapturing his seat in three elections after that.

In 1955, Art was named Deputy Speaker and in 1963 he assumed the Speaker's role, "because it was the only way we could shut him up in caucus," former premier Ernest Manning used to quip.

Even today, however, Art Dixon is an active Socred caucus participant, specializing in health and welfare fields because of his interest in people.

This, incidentally, is where he believes Premier Harry Strom excels. "Mr. Strom is a much easier man to meet than was Mr. Manning. He's more of a listener," Art observes, adding he believes it's important for contemporary politicians to deal with human problems face-to-face.

'The Speaker has to be a bit more political'

In the Legislature, Art Dixon has gained a reputation for fairness which opposition parties do not dispute.

Socreds and Tories had launched angry volleys of accusations against each other, only to find they both had boxed themselves in. A peace-making Mr. Speaker calmed the troubled waters with a humorous, diplomatic speech which left everyone laughing again.

As Speaker, Art Dixon finds himself in charge of the Legislative library, relations with the press gallery and matters involving the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, to which every Alberta MLA belongs.

CPA conventions take him to all corners of the world, as politicians gather to learn more about international parliamentary traditions and practices.

It takes a fair amount of homework to become well informed in this field, and Art Dixon does the job with enthusiasm at a time when many MLAs aren't exactly wrapped up in parliamentary rights and wrongs.

He is concerned about the Speaker's role in Alberta, although he doesn't favor a permanent Speaker's position being established.

Noting that the federal government and provincial administrations in Quebec and Manitoba are attempting to guarantee the Speaker's neutrality in various ways, Art says he doesn't think a permanent appointment should be made unless the individual has been elected for at least two terms in the Legislature.

"But at the same time, I think the Legislature members are going to have to realize the Speaker has to be a bit more political outside the House or he's going to have a tough time getting re-elected even as an independent member," he says. "As long as the Speaker is impartial in the House, this is all that counts."

Claims

Mr. Dixon conceded many towns in Alberta are in debt, but the debts are mostly what he termed self-liquidating assets in the form of water and sewer installations.

"We've done the best we could with what we had for the development of the province," he said.

In concluding, Mr. Dixon advised the young Social Crediters: "With our large majority we must remain humble and progressive in our attitudes."

Albert Ludwig, MLA for Calgary Northeast, outlined students' aid available under the Students' Assistance Act.

"Social Credit has always been interested in helping those who need help, and this extends especially to the student," he said.

Frank Brown, president, Glenmore constituency, explained the government's system of letting crown leases to oil companies.