

FORMER PREMIER

Christian show to broadcast

Manning funeral

Calg Herald ☐

Feb 23-1996

■ **What's happening:** Funeral today for former premier Ernest Manning.

■ **What's new:** Christian TV program, 100 Huntley Street, to handle television news coverage.

GORDON LEGGE

Calgary Herald

The producers of the Christian program 100 Huntley Street will handle the television coverage for today's funeral of former Alberta premier Ernest Manning.

The longtime Social Credit premier died in his home Monday at 87.

The family contacted Rev. David Mainse, host of 100 Huntley Street, on Wednesday and made the request, Mainse told a breakfast meeting Thursday of the Calgary Renewal

Pastors' Fellowship.

Initially, the Manning family decided against television coverage because they didn't want a media circus in the church, Mainse said.

After some reflection, however, they decided to ask Crossroads Christian Communications, which produces 100 Huntley Street.

"We're committed to be very discreet," Mainse said.

Calgary television producer Ted Arnold will have a single camera in the centre of the balcony overlooking the sanctuary of First Alliance Church, 1201 Glenmore Tr. S.W., where the funeral begins at 1 p.m.

The television coverage will be fed into a media room within the church where local stations can pick it up.

CBC, Channel 3 and Channel 7 have all said there will be no live coverage but plan full reports during their dinner-time news programs.

In exchange, Crossroads will get access to archival film about Manning's life for a one-hour television special Monday to be broadcast at 9 a.m. on Channel 7.

Manning preached on radio across the country for more than 50 years, Mainse noted.

Preparations are in place for an overflow crowd at the funeral service which is open to the public.

Eulogists are Reform Leader Preston Manning, Rev. James Blackwood, of Canada's National Bible Hour, and Preston and Sandra Manning's eldest daughter, Andrea.

The honorary pall bearers are: Reform MP and former Social Credit MLA Ray Speaker; Alberta Ethics Commissioner and former Social Credit MLA Bob Clark; former Calgary MLA Speaker of the Alberta legislature during much of Manning Sr.'s tenure Art Dixon; Dr. George Govier, who authored a book on Manning; Everett Wickens of Edmonton; David Mitchell of the Manning Foundation; Edmonton businessman Tim Melton; Liberal Senator Joyce Fairbairn; former Manitoba Premier Duff Roblin; Premier Ralph Klein; former premiers Don Getty and Peter Lougheed; former prime minister Joe Clark; long-time Socred Orvis Kennedy and Reform MP Deborah Grey.

MANNING FUNERAL

Albertans bid final farewell



ERNEST MANNING
1908 — 1996

SHELDON ALBERTS
Calgary Herald

One elderly woman arrived at 10 a.m., three hours early, to pay solemn tribute to her province's former leader.

Ninety-three-year-old Grant MacEwan, walking gingerly with two canes, came to mourn a respected political adversary.

There were about 1,300 others — people with big names and big titles, and ordinary folks who knew Ernest Manning only when they marked an X beside his name at the ballot box.

They all came to say a final farewell Friday to Alberta's longest-serving premier — a man honored as a servant to his province, his family and his Lord.

"He and I sat on opposite sides of the legislature, but that didn't prevent me from respecting him and admiring him," said MacEwan, a former Alberta Liberal leader who clashed with Manning's Social Credit government in the 1950s and later sat as Alberta lieutenant-governor.

"He proved that a man could be a statesman and a successful political operator, too."

Manning, who governed Alberta from 1943 until 1968, died Monday at his Calgary home.

He was honored in a 90-minute service that was alternately full of emotion, wit, humor, respect and spirituality.

Premier Ralph Klein, former premier Peter Lougheed, Mayor Al Duerr, and Liberal Senator Joyce Fairbairn were among the mourners at the First Alliance Church, 1201 Glenmore Tr. S.W.

Muriel Manning, Ernest's widow, sat in the front row, flanked by her son, Reform Leader Preston, his wife Sandra and the couple's five children.

"Grandpa provided a consistent and powerful example of love, patience, integrity, gentleness, wit and incredible wisdom," Andrea Manning, Preston and Sandra's eldest daughter, said in a tearful eulogy.

"He was not achievement-oriented, yet he achieved great things. He was



Larry MacDougal, Calgary Herald

FUNERAL: Preston Manning arrives at church with his mother Muriel

not proud. He was humble."

At one point, Andrea Manning fondly recalled her grandfather as "the one who carved the bird at Thanksgiving and at Christmas" and who delighted in receiving homemade cinnamon buns from his grandchildren.

Avryll Fuller, another of Manning's granddaughters, stood clutching the Bible in both hands, her voice faltering,

as she read the former premier's favorite psalm.

Preston delivered a salute to his father's political legacy, calling him a "builder" who approached his job with balance and a trust of the people.

Manning was first elected as an MLA in 1935, during the Depression.

See MANNING, Page A10

Ordinary folk pay respects

Years of political service touch a chord with Albertans of every description

BOB BERGEN
Calgary Herald

Ordinary Calgarians who had never set foot in the Alberta Legislature and many who had never even met former premier Ernest Manning nonetheless flocked to his funeral Friday.

"I really respect Ernest Manning as a person," said Carol Miller, pushing her nine-month-old son, Charlie, in a stroller with her daughter, Christina, 3, at her side.

Miller said although she's met Manning's son, Reform Leader Preston, she's only read about his father, who governed the province for 25 years.

"I've read a lot about him and helped my daughter do research on him," Miller explained. "I wanted to be here, just to be part of history."

For Bonnie Clark, an administrative assistant at Xerox, it was the first time she's gone to a dignitary's funeral.

"I just wanted to show some respect for a man who really made a difference in this province," Clark said.

Henry Esau, 77, said he not only respected the former premier, who died in his home Monday, for the legacy of honesty and integrity he left as a politician, but for Manning's religious con-



DOROTHY HOPE: Manning's secretary for 40 years



GRANT MacEWAN: Pays respects to political foe

victions as well.

Esau was in Alberta for all of Manning's years in office, from 1943 to 1968, with the exception of 4½ years when he served overseas during the Second World War.

"I appreciated his radio ministry," Esau explained.

Manning was a graduate of William Aberhart's Prophetic Bible Institute and carried on "Bible Bill's" national Back to the Bible Hour radio broadcast every Sunday, which sometimes featured Preston.

Harvey Sauve said he grew up in Alberta while Manning led the province, and was a teenager when the premier retired from politics in 1968.

"I would say as an ordinary Albertan, I came to pay respect to a man who devoted a substantial part of his life to Alberta," Sauve said.

Dr. Hans Kivisild said he met Manning through the Manning Foundation, a privately-funded, non-profit organization named in honor of the former premier, which rewarded innovation.

"I did some work that was appreciated by the foundation. I met him and talked to him about it. That's why I'm here," Kivisild said.

ERNEST MANNING FUNERAL



Bill Herriot, Calgary Herald

FUNERAL: Honorary pallbearer Ralph Klein is flanked by Art Dixon, left, who was Speaker during Manning's reign and Senator Joyce Fairbairn

LIFE AND TIMES

A thumbnail sketch of Ernest Manning's political career:

■ **Sept. 20, 1908** — Born in Carnduff, Sask.

■ **Aug. 22, 1935** — First elected to Alberta Legislature.

■ **1943** — Manning is elected premier of Alberta and also assumes directorship of the Christian radio ministry known formally as Canada's National Bible Hour.

■ **1967** — Manning publishes the book *Political Realignment*, in which he describes his political philosophy as "social conservatism" — the marriage of a strong private enterprise economy with a strong commitment to social responsibility.



ERNEST MANNING

■ **December 1968** — Retires from the office of Premier.

■ **1970** — Appointed to the Senate.

■ **1983** — Retires from the Senate and from Canadian politics.

■ **1987** — Finds the Reform Party of Canada with son Preston, who later leads the party to a strong showing in the 1994 federal election.

■ **Feb. 19, 1996** — Manning dies at home after a year-long bout with cancer.



Bill Herriot, Calgary Herald

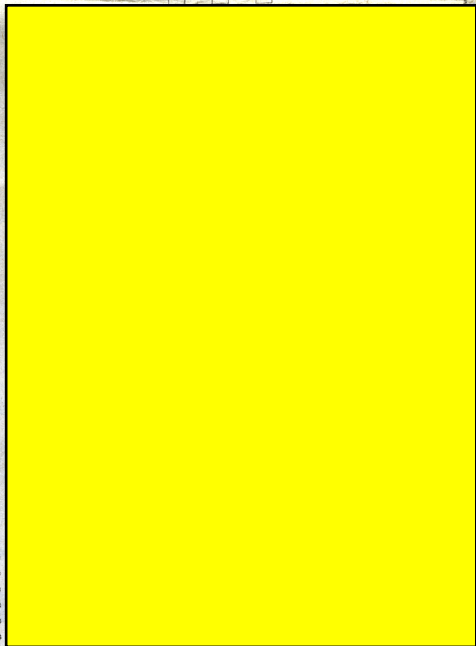
RESPECT: Former premier Peter Lougheed leaves the church after funeral service.

'Manning's life was a sermon'

GORDON LEGGE
Calgary Herald

A SON'S EULOGY

Reform Leader Preston Manning delivered a eulogy at his father Ernest Manning's funeral service Friday in Calgary. Here is a partial text of the tribute:



Ernest Manning's life was a sermon.

That is how Rev. Wendell Grout, Manning's long-time pastor at First Alliance Church, summed up the religious legacy left by the former Alberta premier.

"His life was so eloquent it speaks for itself," Grout said after leading the funeral service Friday.

In a meditation during the service, Grout drew parallels between Manning and Moses, the Old Testament prophet and lawgiver who led the Israelites out of slavery through the wilderness to the edge of the Promised Land.

While Manning is gone, his lifetime achievements guided by a faithful walk with God in the person of Jesus Christ, will endure, said Grout.

At the end of his sermon, Grout drew together the elements of Manning's life with a short poem: "Only one life/This soon will be past/Only what's done for Christ will last."

Earlier in the service, Rev. James Blackwood eulogized about Manning's life as a committed Christian.

He recounted how Manning, as a teenager, made a commitment to Christ after listening to lay preacher William Aberhart on a radio broadcast.

Manning came to Calgary in 1927 to study for Christian ministry and became a lifelong student of the Bible.

After Aberhart's death in 1943, he took over Canada's National Bible Hour, the longest continuous Bible broadcast in Canada, and preached until Jan. 1, 1990.

There are books filled with letters from countless people across Canada, from shore to shore, who were influenced by Manning's preaching, said Blackwood.

"We salute a great committed Christian statesman who lived the life that walked the talk throughout his entire life," said Blackwood.

The English poet John Milton defined a statesman as someone who had first learned the government of himself, and thereby became qualified to govern others.

My father learned the government of himself by studying for the Christian ministry under William Aberhart. As a minister of the Crown, he displayed three special qualities which served the people of this province in good stead. . . .

First, he had a unique sense of balance. Many people remember him as a fiscal conservative . . . But it is also important to remember that what really motivated him to enter public life . . . were social concerns — the poverty, the despair and human tragedy of the Great Depression.

Economic reforms, balanced budgets, private enterprise, sound government — for him these were important means to a more important end . . . the betterment of the lives and living conditions of hundreds of thousands of people.

When he first became a cabinet minister in 1935, the annual budget of the Alberta government was \$17 million, \$9 million of it going to debt-service charges. By 1938, the province . . . was technically bankrupt.

My father devoted the first 15 years of his public life to rectifying that situation, and the remainder seeking to ensure Albertans would never find themselves in that position again.

And there was another sense in which he had balance . . . He integrated his faith and his work, rather than keeping them in separate compartments . . . His view was that your faith, if it was real, had to influence your politics, your business and your religion. And if it did, you ought to say so.

Today, people would be uncomfortable with a premier who publicly preached the gospel. . . . They would suspect religious extremism. But in yielding to that suspicion, we run the risk of going to the other extreme — of excluding spiritual values and truths from political discussion and government altogether.

Secondly, in addition to his Christian faith, he had a deep faith in the common sense of the average citizen. In other words, he trusted people

In a time when there is so much cynicism and mistrust of politicians, we might well ask what can be done to restore public trust. . . . And he would answer, "If you want the people to trust you, you need to trust them. And demonstrate your trust in practical ways." . . .

I have tried to find an appropriate phrase to express his love of Alberta and Canada . . . the best phrase I can think of is, simply — he was a builder . . .

If Ernest Charles Manning the builder could have one last political word on this day . . . he would say . . . "Do not let internal discord do to Canada what wars and depressions and hard times were unable to do. Continue to build! Continue to build!"

MANNING from PAGE A1

"Many people remember him as a fiscal conservative and he was," said Preston.

"But what really motivated him to enter public life in the first place were social concerns — the poverty, the despair and human tragedy — of the Great Depression."

He credited his father with rebuilding the economy of post-Depression Alberta, laying the foundations of a modern educational and health-care system and establishing the province's booming oil industry.

But he also spoke of how his father used his religious beliefs to guide his decision making, and suggested it's sad there's no longer room for leaders who balance faith with politics.

"Today people would be uncomfortable with a premier who publicly preached the Christian gospel every Sunday and on other occasions," Preston said.

"They would suspect religious extremism. But in yielding to that suspicion, we run the risk of going to the other extreme — of excluding spiritual values and truths from political discussion and government altogether."

At times, the junior Manning's tribute to his father's politics sounded familiar to his own political speeches — with good reason.

Andrea Manning spoke of the bond between father and son. "In watching the relationship between my dad and grandpa, I have witnessed a depth of love, camaraderie, mutual respect and pride which I do not expect to witness again," she said.

Though Preston remained composed during his eulogy, his voice cracked when he told mourners he believed his father's last political wish would be a plea for Canadian unity.

"He would say on behalf of himself and all the many others who have toiled to build this country from sea to sea — through wars and depressions, through boom and through busts: 'Do not let internal discord do to Canada what wars and depressions and hard times were unable to do. Continue to build. Continue to build.'"

Rev. James Blackwood said Manning touched thousands of Albertans not only with his politics, but his faith.

Blackwood, who heads Canada's National Bible Hour, the religious broadcast on which Manning preached for years, called him a "true Christian statesman."

Ernest C. Manning was buried Friday in a memorial garden southwest of Calgary, facing the Alberta foothills and Rockies.

Alberta's 'master

Premier Ernest Manning presided over

builder'

HERALD
Saturday Feb 24

rebuilding of the province

*Tribute to Ernest Charles Manning
given in Calgary Friday by his son Preston Manning.*

The Manning family sincerely welcomes you all here today, not to mourn the passing of Ernest Charles Manning, but to celebrate his long and productive life.

We especially want you to join us in remembering him as a husband, father and grandfather, as a committed Christian, and as a statesman.

The English poet John Milton defined a statesman as someone who had first learned the government of himself, and thereby became qualified to govern others.

My father learned the government of himself by studying for the Christian ministry under William Aberhart. But as a minister of the Crown, he displayed three special qualities which served the people of this province in good stead, and which I would like to share with you today.

First, he had a unique sense of balance.

Many people remember him as a fiscal conservative, which he certainly was. But it is also important to remember that what really motivated him to enter public life in the first place, were social concerns — the poverty, the despair, and human tragedy — of the Great Depression.

Economic reforms, balanced budgets, private enterprise, sound government — for him all these were important means to a more important end. And that more important end was the betterment of the lives and living conditions of hundreds of thousands of people.

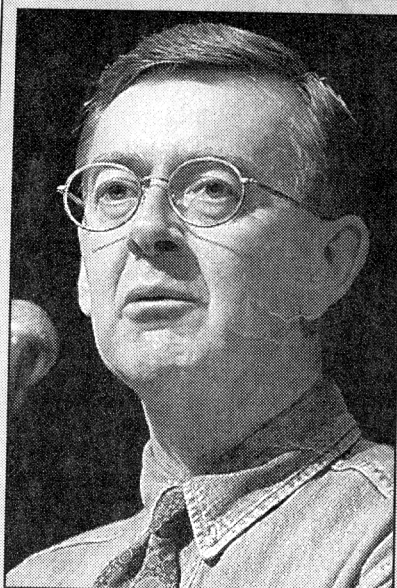
When he first became a cabinet minister in 1935, the annual budget of the Alberta government was \$17 million, \$9 million of it going to debt service charges. By 1938, the province was unable to met its debt obligations and was technically bankrupt.

My father devoted the first 15 years of his public life to rectifying that situation, and the remainder seeking to ensure that Albertans would never find themselves in that position again. He had the hard head of a fiscal conservative and prudent administrator, but balanced by a heart for people.

And there was another sense in which he had balance, although few would recognize it as such. He integrated his faith and his work, rather than keeping them in separate compartments.

I once met a man who said he liked attending a certain church because nothing they did or said there interfered with his politics, his business or his religion. But that was not my father's idea of faith. His view was that your faith had to influence your politics, your business and your religion. And if it did, you ought to say so.

Today people would be uncomfortable with a premier who pub-



File photo

"Many people remember (Ernest Manning) as a fiscal conservative, which he certainly was. But it is also important to remember that what really motivated him to enter public life in the first place, were social concerns — the poverty, the despair, and human tragedy — of the Great Depression."

— Preston Manning

licly preached the Christian gospel every Sunday. They would suspect religious extremism. But in yielding to that suspicion, we run the risk of going to the other extreme — of excluding spiritual values and truths from political discussion and government altogether.

Somehow we must find a better balance for our generation.

And if reflection on my father's attempts to integrate his faith and work prompts us to search for that balance — if it forces us to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, but to God the things that are God's — then he would be most pleased.

Secondly, in addition to his Christian faith, he had a deep faith in the common sense of the average citizen. In other words, he trusted people.

My mother worried that he was sometimes too trusting. He would come away from a meeting with a delegation, usually taking their representations at face value until given reason to do otherwise. And it would be my mother who would say, "Ernest, I wouldn't trust those so and so's as far as I could throw them."



File photo

Ernest Manning in 1970: "A master builder" for 33 years with the Alberta government

In a time when there is so much cynicism and mistrust of politicians, we might well ask what can be done to restore public trust in political people and institutions.

And he would answer, "If you want the people to trust you, you need to trust them. And demonstrate your trust in practical ways — by asking their opinions, by actually listening to them, and by giving them influence over public decisions that affect their lives."

If you came to him with a policy or legislative proposal — and many Albertans did so over his 33 years in

government — he would invariably ask what good will it do and how much will it cost. But he would also ask — and this is the exact phrase he would use — "Can it carry the judgment of the people of Alberta?"

Finally, I have tried to find an appropriate phrase to express his love for Alberta and Canada — a practical, not a sentimental, phrase — for he usually expressed his affections by doing things for, rather than talking about, the object of his affections.

And the best phrase I can think of is, simply, that he was a builder.

All the old populist movements of

the West — the Progressives, the CCF, Social Credit — had their colorful and bombastic “wrecking crews” — politicians who could attack and demolish the old political establishments and obsolete ideas and systems they were trying to displace.

But to make the transition from mere protest movements to governing parties required builders — less colorful than the wrecking crews, but constructive and even more essential in the long run.

Ernest Manning was a master builder, and these were some of the building projects to which he devoted himself:

- The rebuilding of the economy and finances of the province after the depression, while reminding Albertans that man does not live by bread or wheat or oil alone.

- Laying the foundations of a modern educational, health care and social services system (human resources development, as he called it, in his latter years).

- Establishing the regulatory and legislative framework for the oil and gas industry, and trying to inoculate it against the political corruption that has so often accompanied oil booms in other parts of the world.

- Turning the valves on the old original Interprovincial Pipe Line, the Alberta Gas Trunk Line, the Trans Canada Pipe Line, the Trans Mountain, and the Alberta and Southern.

- Shaking hands with old J. Howard Pugh on the banks of the Athabasca River, where Peter Pond and Alexander Mackenzie may have stood 200 years before, and promising:

“If you’ll build the first commercial oil sand plant here, we’ll carve out a market share for the oil of the future.”

And last but not least, Ernest Manning the Builder attended every First Minister’s conference from the day they were instituted in their modern form by Prime Minister Mackenzie King until the commencement of the Trudeau administration.

He presided over a change in the role of Alberta — the maverick province of western Canada — from a bearer of grievances to an advocate of solutions to national as well as regional concerns.

And if Ernest Charles Manning the builder could have one last political word on this day, I think I know what it would be. He would say on behalf of himself and all the many others who have helped build this country from sea to sea — through wars and depressions, through booms and through busts — “Do not let internal discord do to Canada what wars and depressions and hard times were unable to do. Continue to build! Continue to build!”