

# *'The sad destruction of youth'*

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For Ernest Manning, former premier of Alberta, today's growing drug culture is a source of sadness.

"There's nowhere near a turning point in my view," he says quietly. "It's getting worse."

"I feel badly today to see so many well-meaning people write off Christianity as a relic."

"There is no generation gap in true Christianity." The things young people are working towards — such as peace, equality, the ability to live side by side — "gracious, there is nothing in the world that can do that more effectively than Christianity."

Asked for his opinion on the so-called "hippie" movement, Mr. Manning comments: "The tragedy of that is they talk about love and peace but they leave out the person of Jesus Christ."

"Human nature in its natural state leans toward de-

struction. Man is basically evil.

"It's ridiculous to talk about destruction — whether in peace or war — as being the work of a small handful of people. If it was a small handful, it wouldn't happen."

"Everybody has those (destructive) tendencies."

"And as long as the hippies want to philosophize Jesus Christ from a living person into an ideal, they'll never get anywhere."

Mr. Manning, who directs Canada's National Back to the Bible Hour, views the drug cult as "one of the most serious problems of our time."

He sees two factors as con-

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tributing to its birth and growth — “There’s a sense of frustration, particularly on the part of young people who want fundamental change, at the slowness of change.

“And secondly, there is a tendency for the pressures and frustrations to prompt wanting to opt out of reality.

“It’s understandable. But it’s sad.

“After all, what do you come back to?

“You can escape, but you have to come back. The trip has to end.

“And they come back with impaired bodies, impaired minds.”

Discussing the theory that the full effects of drugs on

the human body may not be known in the first few years, Mr. Manning said “The problem is that it’s going to be 10 years or so down the road that the full consequence of this kind of thing will be seen.

“By then it’ll be too late. The damage will be done.

“What will be inflicted on the children (of these drug users)?

“I suppose if they (the users) want to kill themselves, modern theory at least is to let them do their thing.

“But what about the helpless child (who follows). That’s the end that disturbs me.

"If the present rate of acceleration of indiscriminate use of drugs continues, then society, I think, will destroy itself."

Asked if increasing law enforcement and punishment would end the problem, Mr. Manning replied: "I don't think that's the answer in itself."

"There must be a genuine spiritual awakening."

"But recovery is a personal decision." God doesn't force an individual to accept Him as the Saviour, he said.

"It's both fortunate and unfortunate that it is a personal decision — fortunate in that the individual is not dependent on others going along (before he can reach the state of spiritual awakening).

"On the other hand, if only a minority go along then the majority can still mess up society pretty well."



ERNEST MANNING

# Religion

## *No anti-Christ*

By EVA REID

There are a few signs developing in world conditions which point to the emergence of the anti-Christ, Senator Ernest C. Manning, Ottawa, said this week in Calgary in an interview on prophecy.

He and Mrs. Manning were here Sunday to participate in the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Bible Institute Baptist Church, now Bethel Baptist, 3325 49 St. S.W.

An exponent of the prophetic scriptures, Senator Manning, a westerner, directs the National Back to the Bible Hours from Edmonton. He is deeply concerned about the conditions in the Middle East.

There is deception over the peace pact signed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and of course U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Senator Manning warned.

"The pact is not completed and it is a mistake to think of it in terms of a peace treaty when so many issues such as the Golan Heights claim and the independent Arab state in Israel are not resolved."

Pointing out the greatest possibility of a breakdown could come with the giving up on one point, he noted the sacred Temple so dear to the Arabs lies in the city of Jerusalem which is part of this deal.

"It is all the beginning of a process and I think President Carter stressed this, rather than any final solution of the problem in the Middle East."

This student of Bible prophecy discussed the economic crisis that developed in Egypt 3,700 years ago when relationships between Israel and Egypt were strained by reason of Abraham having deceived a previous Pharaoh.

He recalled the service of Joseph to another Pharaoh when the lad who had been sold into Egyptian bondage by his brothers, was in time placed in the highest position of authority in Egypt.

"Anwar Sadat is not the first Egyptian head of state to go contrary to public expectations. Perhaps there is even a parallel between the reasons why both Egyptian leaders decided to do what they did.

"Pharaoh was acting to insure his own survival and the survival of Egypt's economy. Sadat today is in the same position." He ran through the plenteous years and the years of dearth, the disasters and finally the state taking over the peoples' possessions and their freedom as well.

"This is the ultimate end of those who make economic security their number one priority and think the way to get it is through subservience to a supreme welfare state" said the former Premier of Alberta.

He drew a parallel in today's cry for more bread, leisure, more cars, more televisions, more subsidies, more pensions, etc., with less and less concern for the loss of individual independence and freedom.

"It is significant that the prophetic Scriptures tell us the ultimate end of this attitude and trend will be the ruthless Socialist world government of the coming anti-Christ."

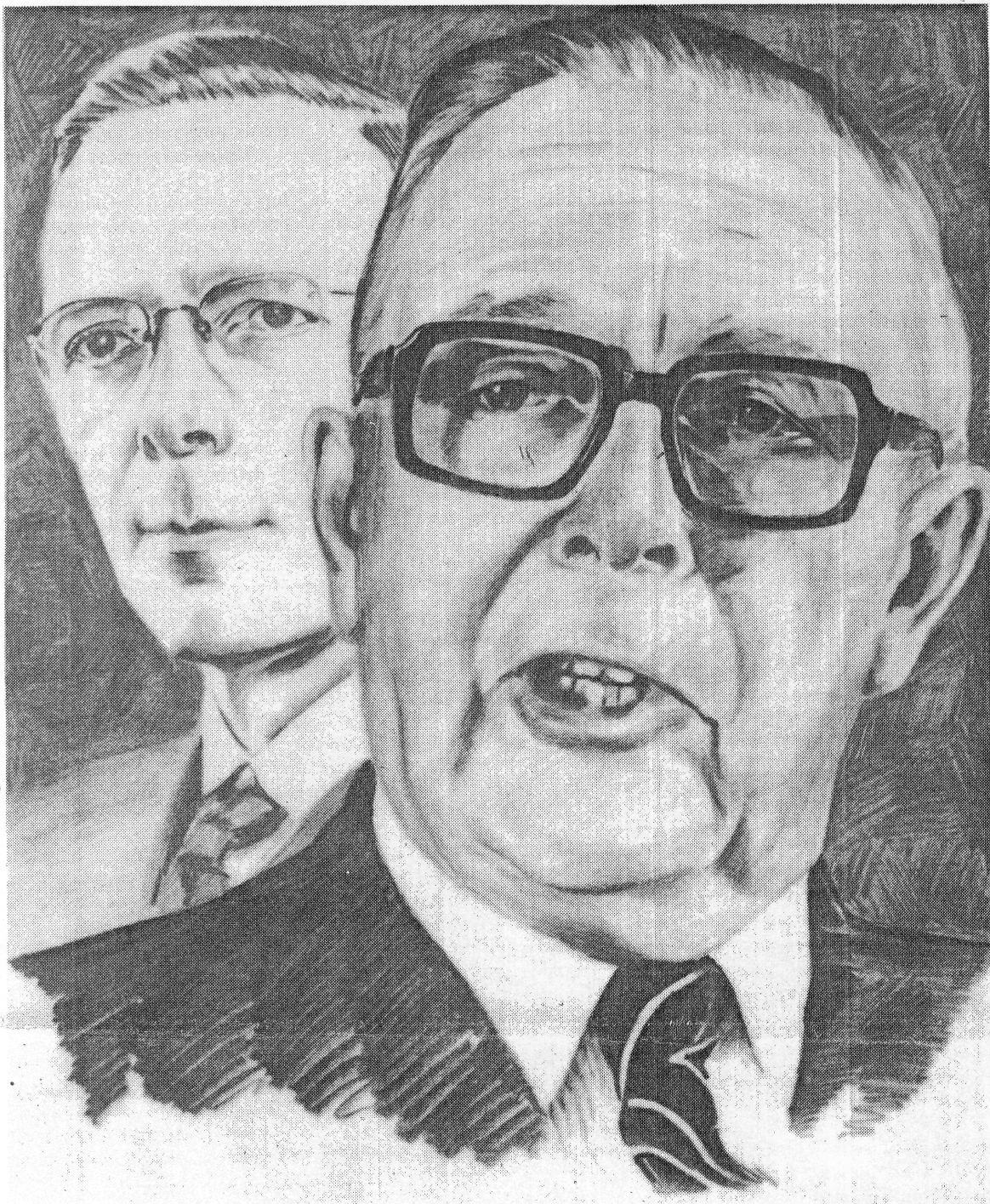
Quoting Revelations Senator Manning gives a grim picture of the "beast" who will require all to receive his mark in order to buy or sell.

Ending on a more positive note the Senator said "God intends people to be free" and he can be through Jesus Christ.



# Profile

*At 75, Ernest Manning  
still enjoys his 'duty'*



Nick Pearce, Calgary Herald

Senator Ernest Manning retires from senior chamber on Tuesday

"I'd appreciate it, Bill, if you would make clear that this interview was done at your request.

"I don't give many interviews. If I have a statement to make I prefer to go on radio or television or make a speech."

Ernest Manning is too polite to say so directly, but he doesn't much care for newspapers. Never has.

The papers savaged Social Credit before and after it formed the Alberta government in 1935. To this day they largely ignore the Senate of Canada.

Ernest Manning — Mr. Manning to most who know him, "Ernie" to precious few — was 26 when he was sworn into the Aberhart cabinet as provincial secretary on Sept. 3, 1935.

He was the youngest minister in the British Parliamentary family since William Pitt the younger in 1783.

This Tuesday he turns 75 and automatically retires from the Senate in which he has served since Oct. 7, 1970.

Fittingly, the occasion will be marked by the fourth annual dinner of the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation in Edmonton. The foundation, which was established by a group of Alberta businessmen, presents an award of \$75,000 or more to the most innovative Canadian of the year.

He welcomes that dinner much more than this interview, which was granted only after much pestering and presuming on a 25-year acquaintance between journalist and politician.

Manning doesn't greatly like that word, either. "Politics" is uttered, if at all, in stern tones and with pejorative inflection.

Social Credit was always a "movement" and politics was something done by politicians, usually to confuse and obscure issues.

In the Alberta Legislature, where he sat for 33 years, 25 of them as premier, politics was the province of the various opposition parties he faced, usually puny in size, who were given to "carping, negative criticism."

In nine elections, seven as leader, he seldom attacked his opponents and only once, in 1955, did the opposition form more than a corporal's guard.

Today, looking years younger than 75, he is less restrained. The federal Liberals have reduced Parliament in general, and the Senate in particular, to a neglected state while national policy reposes with "the prime minister and a handful of his friends."

As always, he articulates with crystal clarity, speaking



**William Gold**

**Herald Associate Editor**

in precise sentences, listing his points in logical sequence. The problem is first carefully defined, then a solution is offered.

Manning won't do one without the other. He will not criticize without being constructive. What he asks of others he demands of himself.

Collectively, his speeches in the Alberta Legislature could serve as a textbook for aspiring communicators but, alas, they are not available. It was left to Peter Lougheed to establish a full Hansard in 1971.

Publicly, Manning didn't want to spend the money on it. Privately, he felt most of the words uttered in the place weren't worth writing down, anyway.

This is a quietly confident man who inspires enormous confidence and respect in others. He seems to have no need at all for the trappings of power and glory.

His life is, and always has been, carefully compartmentalized and awesomely busy. During all the long years as premier his radio Bible hour was a Baptist institution.

His opponents (he never has had enemies; the people who wanted his job always respected him too much) listened to these broadcasts for years in the hope of finding a political message in with the scripture.

They never did. Politics and religion were and are separate always. Manning accepts the literal truth of the Gospels and does not smoke, drink or gamble.

Jokes were made of this in years past, but in point of fact he never sought to impose these views on others. A couple of his cabinet ministers, and a good many of his back-benchers, were heroic drinkers.

He did not censure them, and helped them personally when they needed it, which was quite often in a couple of cases.

He led his confident life, and let others go their own way. When it was clear that the public mood favored liberalization of the drinking laws in the '50s, he made the necessary changes with good grace and no moralizing.

The same confidence permitted a man of limited

formal education to simultaneously hold the portfolios of attorney-general and mines and minerals during much of that decade. That was on top of being premier.

Probably his biggest achievements were managerial. By the time he became premier in 1943, the Social Credit economic vision had been torn to tatters by the courts.

Alberta needed management, and it got the ultimate manager. No one could have been more suited the the challenge of Leduc in 1947 when the province entered the big leagues of oil and gas.

The basic management of the industry by the province has since served as a model for oil-producing countries all over the world. And it was done without pocket-stuffing or other dishonesty.

But by 1968 he decided he had had enough of a job that even then only paid about \$25,000 a year. Manning retired, with a princely pension of \$12,000 per annum.

Not surprisingly, he looks askance at the much more substantial public service salaries now common, most of them raised on the rationale that "good people" would be attracted thereby.

"I'm not sold on the idea that you get better people by paying them these amounts . . . I don't think it has improved the calibre of people in public service," he says dryly.

There was a brief career pause after he left the premiership. His book, *Political Re-Alignment in Canada*, came out and for a while Manning was busy trying to reorganize national politics.

Over-simplified, there would be a party of the right (Scoreds and most Tories) and one of the left (NDP and some Liberals) and Canada could get down to sensible business.

But the idea didn't fly. So in 1970 he accepted an invitation to the Senate (as an independent) to the undisguised horror of some of his previous political associates, among whom abolition of the place was accepted doctrine.

It has been a mixed experience.

"The quality of debate is much higher than people realize; higher than in the Commons, for instance.

"People also don't understand the degree to which the Senate improves the legislation which comes from the Commons, and of course you people (the press) don't cover what goes on.

"I learned early on that the Senate is no place to put across ideas. No one pays any attention. It's much better to

get a speaking engagement at a meeting outside. Then it gets reported.

"The Senate's real work is done in committee. I would say I got most satisfaction from my work on the banking and national finance committees," he says.

But he has concluded that the place should be changed. If it can't be changed, then it should be abolished.

He has set out his ideas for this as part of a report for the Canada West Foundation, with which he has been associated from the beginning.

Senators would be elected province-wide on a proportional representation basis with probably six to 10 from each province. Terms would last two Parliaments, normally about eight years. Half the Senate would stand for re-election at every general election.

This, he feels, would do much to assuage the regionalism that plagues the country, and to erase the distortion of today where the national government has virtually no representation in the West and must cater almost exclusively to Ontario and Quebec to get re-elected.

The elected senators, he feels, could then exercise the very considerable power which the Senate now possesses but doesn't use because the appointed status of its incumbents doesn't legitimize such use.

And that Senate would not be run on party lines. The distrust of the "old-line political parties" still runs deep.

I spoke to one of Manning's Senate colleagues, not from Alberta:

"I don't think he made a great impact on the place. You know, it's a friendly sort of place like a private club and he was always a bit of a loner. I think it hurt him to sit as an independent; you really get things done as part of the party process."

This senator, of course, did not want to be identified. He respects Manning too much, he says.

These words are unlikely to ruin Manning's day. He has absorbed criticism steadily for 46 years in public life, and if it bothers him at all, he doesn't show it.

His biggest crusade in the Senate was against the Trudeau constitutional package. He spoke against it repeatedly, and was one of 23 senators to vote against it.

He is philosophical about the defeat. After all, he opposed the introduction of medicare in the '60s. A conversational reference now to the great debate about medicare costs only produces a wry smile.

While Manning won't criticize Lougheed directly, he is concerned about the province he used to lead:

"We've built up a level of expenditures that is way beyond the rest of Canada. It's frightening. Now we are facing deficits, which is unbelievable in light of the revenues we still have."

And:

"There's a very serious political vacuum in Alberta. No government lasts forever and the spans seem to be getting short. I'm concerned about what will happen when the Conservative support wanes. There is no one to turn to."

That may seem a bit paradoxical coming from a former premier who often had majorities every bit as thumping as Lougheed's, but it is true that his oppositions, first Liberal, then Conservative, were always established parties with coherent platforms and organization. The "socialists" don't count.

Is he happy?

It is the only question during more than an hour that brings a blink of surprise. He is a man one associates more with the word "duty."

"Oh yes, I'd say I'm very happy. There is a great deal of satisfaction in public service, particularly when you're doing something to solve the problems of people."

And yes, he'll be busy in the future, keeping active, lots to do. But the time is up. We can talk about that another day.



# Calgary has lured back Manning after 56 years

**By Jim Cunningham**

(Herald writer)

Ernest Manning has come home again.

The man who for 25 years was premier of Alberta has moved back to Calgary after living in the Edmonton area for 56 years.

"I'm smothered in cartons right now," a slightly out-of-breath Manning said Wednesday morning as he unpacked boxes of belongings at the family's new home in northwest Calgary.

The 82-year-old former Social Credit premier and senator, who lived in Calgary from 1927 to 1935, moved here last weekend from St. Albert, a suburban community on the northwest edge of Edmonton.

Manning explained he and his wife Muriel decided on the move because his son Preston lives here. Preston Manning, leader of the Reform Party, moved to Calgary with his wife Sandra and their five children more than a year ago from the Edmonton area.

Manning said the move had nothing to do with wanting to get away from

the provincial capital after more than half a century.

"We like Edmonton very much," he said.

The former premier left Calgary the year he and William Aberhart, his mentor and teacher at the old Prophetic Bible Institute on 8th Avenue S.W., went to Edmonton to form the first Social Credit government.



## MANNING

Manning came to Calgary to study at the institute after hearing Aberhart's radio sermons while a young man on his parents' farm near Cardiff, Saskatchewan.

Manning recalled that when he moved north in '35, Calgary was still a foothills city of about 80,000 people. Things have changed a lot since those days, he said, noting that he kept in close touch with his former home town during his years as premier.

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