

TELE-FACTS

Vol. 3

No. 18

Setting the Record Straight

AN ADDRESS BY

Hon. E. C. Manning

March 19th, 1966



Extra copies may be obtained from the Alberta Social Credit League, 9974 Jasper Avenue, or Tele-Facts Publications, Box 2300, Edmonton, Alberta.

Single Copies	\$.10
12 Copies	\$1.00
100 Copies	\$7.50

PUBLISHED BY

ALBERTA SOCIAL CREDIT LEAGUE

9974 JASPER AVENUE

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

P. O. BOX 2300

Hon. E. C. Manning:

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have three matters of public interest to talk to you about tonight. In the first place, I would like to comment briefly on some of the observations that have been made concerning our new provincial Budget for the coming year. Secondly, I want to talk to you about the development of human resources in this Province, which is the next focal point in Alberta's dynamic program for our new generation of progressive people. In the third place, I would like to say a few words on the subject of educational research.

Turning first to the matter of the Budget, there are very excellent reactions to Alberta's Budget that has been outlined to the people of this Province and Canada. Two features are being prominently mentioned. (1) Many people are amazed at the dynamic growth in our Provincial economy, which has made a Budget of this size possible. (2) Many are pointing out the preferred position we enjoy as a Province, to be able to have a Budget program of this magnitude with no new taxes and with no increase in our Provincial debt.

There are three other points that are being mentioned prominently in the comments on Alberta's Budget across Canada. One is the fact that all this is being done in this Province without any Provincial Sales Tax. Another is the fact that the Gasoline Tax in Alberta is the lowest of any Province in Canada; and it is also pointed out that only 32% of Alberta's Budget comes from taxation fields. This compares with an average of 65% for the other Provinces of Canada. Truly, we are in a very strong and enviable position.

There have been two or three political criticisms of the Budget, and perhaps I might touch on these for just a moment. We are being told that this year Alberta's Budget is too big—that the Government is planning to spend too much, and that we shouldn't be drawing on our Provincial reserves. This is a rather interesting kind of criticism, when you realize it is coming from the very same sources that for the past five years, and more, have been saying that the Government wasn't spending enough on Education. They were charging that we were being miserly in the amount of assistance we were providing for our municipalities; and we were constantly accused of hoarding our Provincial reserves. I think the obvious contradiction in this kind of criticism is such that we needn't spend time on it.

Another criticism that has been voiced about our Budget this year, is the charge that we are spending too much on things, and not enough on people. This, it seems to me, is a very irresponsible criticism, because anyone who has examined the Budget will realize that this just simply isn't true. For example, in the field of education, which takes the biggest part of the Budget (the biggest single expenditure), we are spending this year \$155 million (an increase of \$38½ million over last year), and all of this is being spent, not for things, but for the education of our young people. The same is true of the \$24½ million in grants for the operation of our Universities, and the \$47¾ million that have been allocated for the construction of additional facilities at our Universities at Edmonton and Calgary. Certainly, these expenditures are definitely for the interests of people. The same is true of the \$5 million that is being spent for Junior Colleges, over \$6 million for Technical Institutes, nearly \$2 million for the

training of unemployed, and over \$2 million for Apprenticeship training. The same can be said about the expenditures for Public Health—\$145 million—an increase of \$25 million over last year. This includes incidentally, over \$10 million to subsidize prepaid Medical Services for the people of Alberta. Surely, this is an expenditure that can rightly be said to be for the benefit and interests of people, not things. In the Welfare Department, we are spending \$21 million, again in the interests of people. In fact, in Education, Public Health and Public Welfare—the expenditures in these three Departments alone make up 66¼% of the total Budget expenditures for the coming year, and all of these expenditures are for the interests and welfare of people, not things. If you want to add on top of that \$15 million for homeowners' tax discounts—this is going to benefit people. The new Youth Ministry is certainly for people. Over \$22½ million in municipal grants is to help municipalities meet the needs of the people in their jurisdictions. In this latter respect, you might be interested to know that the total direct municipal assistance for the coming year from the Provincial Treasury is \$176½ million—an increase of \$40½ million over last year. The total amount collected from the people of Alberta, through property taxation (and this includes industrial, commercial, as well as private property) is \$140 million. This means the direct municipal assistance from the Public Treasury to the municipalities of this Province is \$36½ million more than the total collected by municipalities through all property taxes combined.

Now a word about this matter of human resources. It is our intention, as your Government, in the coming year, to make the development of the human resources of Alberta the focal point

in the next phase of our dynamic program for the further development of this Province. This year, we are rounding off the provision of the necessary physical facilities to take care of the legitimate needs and interests of our people. Next year, as I have said, our focal point will be the development of the human resources of Alberta. I think you will agree this is appropriate in our centennial year — both for Canada and for the Province. For a century, as a nation, Canada has spent much of her time developing her physical resources. In Alberta, we have done the same — our land development, our forest development, mineral resources development, and so on — is now well advanced. The next stage rightly should be a concentration on the human needs and the development of human resources and potentials. A great deal, of course, already has been done in this field — in Education, Health and Welfare, provision for the Ministry of Youth, the Bill of Rights that we are passing this year — but certainly, for the future, our concentration will be on human resources needs. You will be interested to know, in this regard, that one comprehensive study already has been authorized in conjunction with the Federal "War on Poverty" program. We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Dr. C. W. Hobart, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Alberta, to direct a comprehensive study we are having made during the coming year. Six communities will be selected for intensive analysis, during the summer. These will include probably an Indian community, a Metis community, a depressed mining community, a southern Alberta prairie community, a northern Alberta marginal area community, probably an urban community (that is, one of the smaller ones), and in addition, two parallel studies in the large urban centres of Edmonton and

Calgary. These studies are for the purpose of getting the information we need to round out our comprehensive program for the enhancement and development of the human resources of this great Province, which as I have said, will be the focal point of our program in the year ahead.

This emphasis on human resources leads us to the third matter — that is the question of research — especially in the field of Education. There has been quite a lot of controversy and comment in the press about this recently. Let me quickly bring you up to date on what has transpired. Representations were made to your Government to set up an Educational Research Foundation to go thoroughly into the matters in the field of Education that properly need to be researched. I want to make it quite clear that the Government hasn't rejected this proposal. We have expressed a very real and deep concern in it that we share with those proposing such research. We did not make any commitment that provision would be made in the Budget for the ensuing year for a program of this kind, because we are very concerned, if we go into this field, and when we go into this field of abstract research, to be sure that what is undertaken will be effective and worthwhile. Abstract research is not an easy thing in which to pinpoint the area to be covered and the results that you anticipate. Millions of dollars have been spent, particularly in the United States in recent years in this kind of research, much of which has produced very little in the way of practical beneficial results. I think it is true to say that many educational concepts imported into Canada from the United States are products of educational research on which millions of dollars have been spent, and many of these concepts are today being widely

criticized by the very people who are urging this kind of research in Canada. Let me repeat — we are in favour of, and recognize fully the importance of sound, constructive, educational research, and we definitely intend to do something in this regard. We do not want to rush into it, and in the interests of the taxpayers of the Province, we do not intend to rush into it, without being quite certain that the whole thing has been thoroughly canvassed and that we will be assured of getting some worthwhile results for the money spent.

We are concerned, frankly, with a broader and more comprehensive approach to this problem, for we think that abstract research should embrace the whole field of our human resources, and not be concentrated wholly on the educational field; and so this is part of our projected program for the future in the development of the human resources of this Province. As I say, we simply want to be sure it is sound and effective, and something that will produce worthwhile results. I hope this has made clear to you the Government's position in this very important question.

Before we close, I would like to urge you to send us any questions which you would like to have answered — questions relating to matters of general public interest (we can't deal with personal or individual things, of course). We want to make this program as valuable as possible to you, and I really think that by answering your questions we can perhaps accomplish this in an interesting and a constructive way. When you write, please sign your letters. We obviously can't deal with anonymous letters. We won't use your name if you don't want it used . . . but we invite your questions on any matters of public interest,

and will make these programs just as interesting as possible, as we try to give you the answers to your enquiries.

We hope you will join us again next week, the same time, the same channel; and in the meantime, if you have anything you would like to ask that you feel would be of interest to have discussed on the program, please write and let us know.

Thank you, and Good-Night.