

# TELE-FACTS

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## *This is Your Alberta*

AN ADDRESS BY

**Hon. E. C. Manning**

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## Hon. E. C. Manning

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is the closing telecast of our present series. I sincerely hope you have found these programs informative and interesting. Tonight, in this closing talk, I hope that I can convey to you something of the pride and enthusiasm and optimism that you have a right to feel as we contemplate our present lot in this great and booming province and our almost limitless potential for the future.

I realize, as you do, that there are some people who are always negative in their thinking. They spend their time whining and complaining and finding fault with everything and everybody. They are quick to support any cause as long as it's against something. You will have noticed that this is the chief characteristic of the leaders and the spokesmen of the NDP and other Socialist organizations and politically biased groups. Whenever they talk it's always to complain and find fault or to criticize or oppose something. They're against the government you have repeatedly chosen by the free and democratic exercise of your franchise. They're against a free-enterprise economy and the encouragement of individual initiative and responsibility. They're against business corporations or anyone who has made a success of his business. They're against the United States and the Americans' efforts to block Communist aggression in Viet Nam. When they run out of things to be against, they slander individuals they dislike by insinuations and innuendoes and outright falsehoods. They whine and complain about our school system, our voluntary Medical Services program, our resources development, our farm

programs, and so on, and so on. I heard a man describe this type very well the other day when he said if these people ever got up to heaven they would soon start complaining about the altitude.

These are not the people who make any country or any province great. Fortunately, they are an insignificant fraction of the people of this province, and that's one of the reasons why Alberta has become the leading province in Canada. Sure we have problems, individual problems and collective problems, but none of these problems are beyond solution, and when we compare our lot with that of people in other parts of the world today, and even other parts of Canada, you'll agree we have a tremendous number of things to be grateful for. So let's leave the handful of negative complainers to their whining, while we consider a few reasons why Alberta is the best province in Canada in which to live, to raise your family and to operate your farm or business.

A good place to start is with the obvious. We have a vigorous climate — you'll all agree on that. We have a lot of excellent productive soil. We have vast and diversified natural resources, which have been retained for and developed for the benefit of you, who are the citizens of this province. We have thousands of miles of hard surfaced and all-weather roads. We have an excellent province-wide system of municipal administration; a good sound school system, with more modern school facilities than any other province in relation to our population. We have a booming industrial economy, affording a wide variety of employment opportunities for thousands of wage earners. We have unequalled provision for our senior citizens, and those requiring nursing home care or chronic or active hospital services. We

have a comprehensive, voluntary, prepaid medical insurance program second to none, subsidized by the government to bring the cost of medical care within the financial reach of all our people.

Now, let's look at a few facts that may not be so obvious or so well known to many of you. Here are a few interesting points about taxation in Alberta as compared to other parts of Canada. As you know, we are one of the two remaining provinces in this country with no sales tax, Manitoba being the other, although they do have a sales tax on certain restricted products. Our gasoline tax at 12c a gallon is the lowest in Canada. Our provincial income tax is lower than either Saskatchewan or Manitoba, our corporation income tax is lower than Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba or Saskatchewan. Our municipal property taxes are well below the average rates for Canada, and this year, every home owner in this province, living in his own home, will enjoy a \$50.00 tax discount, which will be made up to our municipalities by the provincial government.

Here are a few interesting figures, you might like to jot down. If Alberta had a sales tax equal to the national average, our people would be paying \$76 million a year more taxes than they are paying today. If our people were required to pay a sales tax at the rate in force in British Columbia, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, you would be paying \$93 million a year that you are not paying in this province. If we had a sales tax at the rate in effect in Quebec or New Brunswick, which is 6%, our people would be paying some \$112 million in taxes that you are not required to pay in Alberta. If our gasoline tax was equal to the national average, you would be paying fifteen and a half mil-

lion dollars more each year in gasoline tax than you pay today. If we had a gasoline tax at the rate in effect in Manitoba, you would pay \$19 million more a year, or if we had a rate equal to what people have to pay in the Maritimes, for gasoline tax, you would be paying \$25 million each year more in gasoline tax than you pay at the present time. If Albertans were required to pay personal and corporation income taxes at the rate prevailing in Manitoba, it would cost you another \$13,400,000 a year; or if at the rates prevailing in Saskatchewan it would cost you \$15,400,000 more a year. If the Saskatchewan sales tax, personal and corporation income tax rates and gasoline tax rates were in force in Alberta, our people would be paying over \$100 million a year more in these taxes than they are required to pay today.

Now look for a moment at the expenditure side. Alberta's expenditures for education last year amounted to \$97 per capita for every man, woman and child in this province. This compares with \$40 per capita in New Brunswick, \$48 in Prince Edward Island, \$53 in Nova Scotia, \$59 in Newfoundland, \$60 in Manitoba, \$64 in Saskatchewan, \$72 in British Columbia, \$79 in Ontario and \$80 in Quebec. The national average expenditure per capita on education last year was \$75. Alberta's expenditure was \$97 per capita. This year, including capital expenditures for education, we will be spending \$138 per capita for the education of our children. A publication, called "Financing Higher Education in Canada, Government Support of Universities and Colleges", published by Torrance J. Wylie, points out that since 1963 the Alberta government has provided the highest level of financial support for the operation of Universities of any province in Canada. I think

this should be noted by the handful of carping critics who are constantly trying to down-grade your Social Credit Government's role in support of higher education, in this province.

All this relates to the present picture. I have had the privilege of being intimately associated with public affairs in this province for 31 years, and I am convinced that what the future holds in store will make what we have achieved thus far seem insignificant in comparison.

Next year is our Centennial Year. As I have told you, we intend to concentrate our efforts on the development and enhancement of our human resources. At the recent session of the Legislature, your representatives passed a great deal of sound, progressive, forward-looking legislation—the Child Welfare Act, the new University Act, the Department of Youth Act, Pensions Benefits Act, Home Owners' Tax Discount Act, Livestock and Livestock Products Act, marketing of agricultural products, and so on. These are but a few of the preparatory statutes that we already have on the books in planning for the future program to place the emphasis on the development of our human resources.

One of the interesting things dealt with at the last session was the resolution authorizing the government to proceed with the elimination of Estate Taxes. This isn't a proposal to help the wealthy — they're able to look after themselves. It is a practical step to further advance Alberta and benefit the people of Alberta. At the present time we receive 75% of the federal Estates Tax paid back by the federal government to the province. We don't have any provincial Estates Tax or Succession Duties. What we propose, is to

rebate this 75% back to the beneficiaries of the estates, and to seek, at the same time, the complete elimination of Estates Taxes. Now, why are we doing this? First of all, we want to benefit the small Alberta estate. Today, we have many cases where, for example a farm, by the time you put the evaluation on the land, the equipment, the livestock, the automobile, the machinery, and then if there is any life insurance, if there should be any pension funds or investments, it is a very easy thing for the widow to find that she has to pay a very substantial sum in Estate Taxes. This is why we want to get the tax abolished.

Our second reason is to attract to this province large estates that presently are leaving Canada. This will make more money available here for industrial and economic expansion. The benefits to the people will be more employment opportunities, expansion and diversification of the economy, new markets for our primary products, and so on. There will also be a revenue compensation because more employment means more income tax, more corporation tax. New plants and factories mean more municipal assessment, and this in turn means more municipal revenue. Somebody says, "Well why don't you just make the rebate in the case of the small estates?" We could do that. If we did, we would lose approximately the same amount of revenue, because most of our estates are small, but we would lose the benefit of attracting large estates here, that will produce these other results that I have mentioned.

Our time is running out. Let me say as we close — this is your Alberta. All these things concern you and your future. You can look forward with confidence and enthusiasm to Alberta

remaining the greatest province in Canada. As far as we in the government are concerned, we are already planning two and three and five years ahead, which I think is what a government is responsible to do, so that we can give leadership and make sound recommendations to you.

As we close this final telecast, I would like to thank the management and staff of CFRN-TV, who produced these programs, and the management and staff of the stations throughout the province, who have brought these programs to you.

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good Night, and God bless you.