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The White Paper

AN ADDRESS BY

Hon. E. C. Manning

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Hon. E. C. Manning:

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since I presented to your Legislature your Government's White Paper on Human Resources Development, we have been flooded with inquiries from all over Canada asking for further information about the Paper and what it contains. Since this telecast series is for the express purpose of keeping you, the shareholders in "Alberta Unlimited", accurately informed on the work and programs of your Government, I would like to take this evening to give you a quick outline of what the White Paper is all about, and something of what it contains.

The White Paper contains some one hundred pages of carefully researched material, dealing with matters of very, very vital importance to you, the people of this Province — not only for today, but for tomorrow. I would like to try to tell you briefly the thinking behind the White Paper, what we are trying to accomplish, and what its significance is as far as you, the people of this Province, are concerned.

I do want to emphasize, at the very outset, that this paper is not a political manifesto, as some of our critics would like you to believe. It has, for a long time, been our view, as your Government, that we are living now in times when many changes are taking place very rapidly. Everybody is familiar with the tremendous technological progress and scientific progress of recent years, and the great changes that this is bringing about in our economy and in our society. Sometimes I think we forget that comparable changes are also taking place in our social structure — in the social consciousness of men and

women. If we are going to keep this Province in the forefront of Canada, where it is today, then we need to assess all of these matters and be quite certain as to what steps we should take in the future to meet the changing circumstances that you and the other people of this Province and this country will face.

What we have tried to do in this White Paper is, first of all, make an accurate assessment of just exactly where we are in this Province and country at the present time. How far are we advanced in our development of physical and human resources? Where are the gaps in our programs that need to be filled? Where are the duplications that could be eliminated, thereby saving the taxpayers money? What are going to be the requirements of the very different set of circumstances which you, and your children especially, are going to face in the future?

In our research to this end (and by the way, this has been going on for two years - don't be fooled by this propaganda that this is something which we got ready for a possible election this year or next year - we have been working on this, as I say, for over two years), one of the things that has impressed us is this. In the early years of a country or Province, it is only natural that the greatest attention is given to the development of the physical resources of the country or Province. This is necessary because, in the early years, people have to open up the new frontiers, they have to cut down the forests, they have to build the roads, they have to build the factories, drill the oil-wells, and do all the other things that are needed for their physical sustenance. Surely now, that Canada has reached her hundreth birthday, our development has progressed to the place where, in our second century, as a country,

we very properly should put the emphasis not so much on the physical resources development (although this has to go on, of course), but on the development of our human resources — the things that pertain to the development of individuals, as such. This is what we have attempted to do in the research work that has gone into the preparation of this paper and in the product that we have produced.

The paper is divided into two parts. The first part spells out foundations for government programs and policies. The day is past when it is good enough for politicians or governments to simply put together, on the spur of the moment, programs that will meet some immediate condition, in which there is an element of political expedience. If we are going to give our people the opportunity to get out of the future what they are entitled to get from it, my argument is that, from here on, all government policies and programs must be based on a sound set of principles and value judgments that can be used as a yardstick against which to measure the value to the people and the effectiveness of whatever programs and policies may be proposed.

So, in the first half of the White Paper, we have endeavoured to spell out some value judgments and principles that could become the foundation stone for appraising all future policies.

In the second part of the paper, we have dealt with the government policies and programs as they now exist, and as we feel they have to be re-organized to meet the changing conditions of tomorrow. The most significant thing that you will find in the second part of the White Paper is a re-orientation, or a shifting of emphasis, from

physical resources development to a greater emphasis on men and women. We are giving the greatest priority to the individual, rather than to society collectively. This is in keeping with our conviction that the individual is the most important unit in organized society.

In the Paper, we have attempted to illustrate this relationship between physical and human resources development by a few charts in which I think you will be interested. Chart No. 1 is headed: Human Resources Development. In the centre of the Chart you see the words, "Human Resources". There are two things necessary for Human Resources Development. One, we have called, "Social Manpower". By this we mean all of those individuals who engage in the task of helping people develop themselves as individuals. This takes in the teachers, the lawyers, the professional people, social workers, and a thousand and one others, who help men and women in their

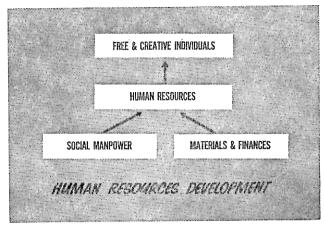


Chart No. 1

development as individuals. The second thing necessary to Human Resources Development is Materials and Finances. This includes consumer goods and purchasing power to buy consumer goods. It includes capital goods to produce more products for human beings. These are the two essentials.

As Human Resources Development takes place, the product should be free and creative individuals, and they are what make up a free and creative society. All through the White Paper, we have developed our Social Credit concept that the ideal form of society is not a society that has been planned by a government, or by some state planners, but rather is the kind of society that grows automatically out of free, individual men and women developing their own potentials, their own aspirations, their own ideals, in a free manner as they themselves choose to do, with the state playing only a supporting role of helping them in that development.

Chart No. 2 deals with Physical Resources Development. You will notice the words in the centre of the Chart. It requires two things to develop our Physical Resources. There must be Industrial Manpower — that is, the people engaged in industry. Here again, there must also be Materials and Finances — that is, the capital to operate industry, and the capital goods — the factories and the equipment needful to develop Physical Resources, you produce more materials and finances. These are the materials and finances needed by individual men and women for their own welfare, and good, and development.

Chart No. 3 combines these two things into one. At the bottom, you see the Physical Re-

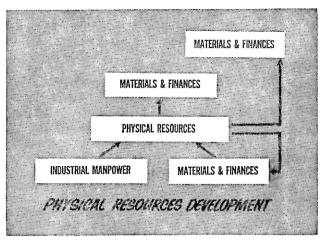


Chart No. 2

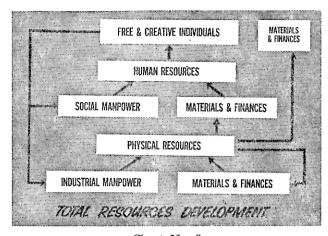


Chart No. 3

sources part, with the Industrial Manpower and Materials and Finances necessary for Physical Resources Development in turn producing the Materials and Finances needful for Human Resources Development, which when combined with Social Manpower, tend to produce free and creative individuals, who in turn, make up the kind of free and creative society that we have established as our goal in this Province.

I won't have time to deal with the second part of the White Paper, in which we have attempted to outline the policies and programs that presently exist in this Province and the gaps that presently exist which have to be filled in. In some areas, we have found that there is over-lapping and duplication, and we will now be able to eliminate such duplication. In the second part of the White Paper, we have dealt with these policies and programs under six important headings:

- (1) The matter of development climate that is, the kind of climate in which physical resources can be developed (this is the free-enterprise society) and the kind of social climate in which men and women can develop their individual personalities.
- (2) Research which is going to have to play a far more important role in both physical and human resources development in the future.
- (3) Materials and finances both for physical resources development and for human resources development.
- (4) Manpower the new role that Labour should play in the technological age into which we have now entered. We are convinced that, as productivity is increased by greater mechanization and automation, a fair share of the increased

financial returns from such productivity should go to the men employed in industry. We are suggesting a "productivity index", to which wage increases could be automatically related, to make sure that the wage-earner gets a fair share of benefits accruing from greater automation and technological progress.

- (5) Services all the services required for physical resources development and for human resources development.
- (6) Finally, we have dealt with the importance of co-ordinating all of these matters.

This has been a very rapid summary of a hundred pages which make up this important document, but I hope it has given you some idea of what we are trying to get at. This, I repeat, is not a party political document at all. This is a sincere attempt to spell out for the people of Alberta, and for that matter, the people of Canada, a fresh, new, constructive approach to the whole field of public affairs — both physical and human. We must get above the pettiness which has characterized so much of party politics in the past, and as citizens concerned with the future welfare of our Province, our country, and especially our children, pool our judgment and our thinking and our ability and our experience to see that this kind of development does take place and that our children and those who come after them, reap the benefits in the days to come.

There is built into this White Paper all the guidelines needed to keep Alberta in the lead in all of Canada in this important field.