

TELE-FACTS

Vol. 4

No. 17

Positive Action - The Answer To Political Dishonesty

AN ADDRESS BY

Hon. E. C. Manning

May 12th, 1967



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

Single Copies 15¢

PUBLISHED BY

ALBERTA SOCIAL CREDIT LEAGUE

9974 JASPER AVENUE

P. O. BOX 2300

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

BRADBURN PRINTERS  LIMITED, EDMONTON

Hon. E. C. Manning:

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen:

There are three matters of public interest and importance that I would like to talk over with you.

First of all, I would like to say a few words about what I have called "the negative mind". You have found, I am sure, in your own experience, that there are those whose reaction to any sincere effort on the part of others to do something constructive and worthwhile is always negative. Let somebody in a community propose to do something for the boys and girls, or for the older people, and there is always someone to come along and say, "That's no good", or this is wrong with it, or that is wrong with it. It is interesting to note that people with negative minds very seldom accomplish very much themselves. This negative attitude of mind shows up very clearly in the political field where parties in opposition to the Government are always against whatever the Government proposes or does, no matter how worthwhile it may be. The negative mind, unfortunately, is an affliction from which some news media often suffer. They convince themselves that there is something clever or noble about being against whatever a Government does or proposes to do, on behalf of the people whom it tries to serve. As a result, a person or a political organization that voices a negative criticism of a Government proposal can always be sure, of course, of getting far more publicity than the proposal itself, no matter how constructive the proposal may be.

Fortunately, people are not generally very impressed by the negative mind. In this Province especially, our people are noted for their drive

to get things done, and they are anxious to see that constructive programs are developed and put into effect. They are far more interested in that than they are in negative criticism. The constructive drive to constantly improve on what we have already accomplished, is what has made this Province the most advanced, the most progressive, and certainly the most prosperous of any Province in Canada. We, who serve you in your Government, share this constructive outlook and attitude, and that is why we have no time to waste on the negative critics — the negative mind. Instead, we want to concentrate wholly on the further improvement of the many constructive, new ideas that are embodied in the Government's White Paper, which I tabled at the last session of the Legislature.

I want to make it quite clear that what I have said about criticism does not mean that we are not anxious to have your constructive criticism of the ideas that we have set out in the Government's White Paper. I want to emphasize this because we very definitely do want your constructive criticism. We want the value of your experience, your opinion and your judgment. We don't have all the best answers, but we have found out that the best way to get worthwhile things done is to develop a constructive program — the best that you can — and then improve it in the light of the constructive criticism of those who share a common concern to do for this Province the very best that it is possible for us to do.

Ladies and Gentlemen, speaking for your Government, this is our one and only objective and desire. It makes me laugh when I hear some of these poor politicians talking about me having some great love for power — or some-

thing of this kind. I can tell you in all sincerity, I can't think of anything that means less to me than political power. I am not interested in that at all, but I am interested in this Province, its future, and its people; and in the more than 30 years of experience that we have gained in the work of government on your behalf, we have certainly learned a lot of answers that it is very obvious that many of our political critics have yet to learn. And so, we want your help to make the proposals that we are advancing in this election still better. Whether you are a Social Crediter, whether you call yourself a Liberal or a Conservative, or what have you, we want, and we invite your constructive help to keep this Province in the lead, where it certainly is today.

Probably the worst example of the negative mind is when men tell you that you should use your hard-earned franchise to elect more Members to the opposition side of the House. Now, why in the world would you want to do that in a general election? When you vote in a general election, you vote, not to elect an opposition, but to elect the Government which is going to handle your affairs for the next four or five years. In other words, you vote for the positive, not for the negative. The thing that is really important to you is, who is going to be responsible for the administration of your public affairs. The answer, of course, is those whom you elect, not to the opposition side of the House, but to the Government side of the House. To have an effective voice in the work of government, your Member naturally must be a member of the Government team. To select a Government team is what a general election is for. So don't be misled by this foolish, superficial political propaganda that tries to persuade you to settle for a negative critic in

the opposition when you can, and you should have a positive, constructive, effective voice in the Government itself. So much for the negative mind.

The second thing I want to mention to you is the matter of political honesty. You can call me old-fashioned if you like, but I believe that political honesty is an absolute necessity if we are going to have a successful future in this, or any other Province of Canada. There is a form of political dishonesty that often is not recognized; or even intended as such; and yet it is political dishonesty in a very real sense. I refer to the political parties which tell you that if they were your Government, they would increase public services, or pay a larger share of the cost of existing public services, without increasing your taxes. Some say that they would actually reduce your taxes. They tell you they would pick up two-thirds of the cost of Education, that they would do away with tuition fees in the University, that they would provide millions of dollars for subsidized housing, millions of dollars more for hospitalization and care of the mentally ill. All of these things are splendid — we have no argument against them at all — but what I want to draw to your attention, Ladies and Gentlemen, is this. It is completely politically dishonest for any party to tell you that they can do any of these things, without increasing Provincial taxation in this Province.

The facts are these. In our present fiscal year, the revenue of Alberta is \$767 million. We are expending this year \$834½ million — \$67½ million more than we will be taking in in revenue. We are making this up from our Provincial reserves. This, Ladies and Gentlemen, is after paring from our Budget, before it was submitted, over

\$70 million of other expenditures which were recommended to us. These people tell you that they would expand the Provincial economy and thus generate more revenue to take care of these additional expenditures that they would make. Of course, we plan to expand our Provincial economy, but all of these projections and the present deficits we face, take into account a very substantial expansion of our Provincial economy. The increased revenues from the best expansion we can produce is not going to keep pace in the future with the increased costs of present services because of the population increases and the inflationary pressures on costs. This is why I want to emphasize to you that it is completely dishonest for political parties to give the impression that the Province can pay more and spend more, without increasing taxation. Some say we should get this additional revenue from our natural resources — our gas and oil. We have repeatedly increased the amount of revenue that we take from these sources, but there is a limit beyond which you cannot go without destroying the development of those resources, or in other words, without 'killing the goose that lays the golden eggs'.

I want to give you a few figures which illustrate what I mean by the worst kind of political dishonesty. You are being told by some politicians in this election that if they were the Government, they would develop the Athabasca Tar Sands by a Crown corporation, and that this would produce enough profit to pay all Provincial taxes for a thousand years, or pay every man, woman and child in Alberta \$400 a month for life. Let's just take a moment to discuss this.

One plant, that is now being built in the Tar Sands, will produce about 16½ million barrels

of oil a year. The capital investment in that project is going to be \$235 million. Even if you took the exorbitant profit of \$1.00 a barrel, which is far beyond what they will actually make in profits, this represents about 7% return on the investment, or about the same as you can get in any good industrial stock or debentures that you can buy on the market today. There are roughly 330 billion barrels of oil in the Tar Sands. With the size of plant that we are talking about here — 16½ million barrels a year — it would take 200 such plants 100 years to develop the Tar Sands; and on the basis of the capital cost of this initial plan, that would represent a capital investment of some \$47 billion. Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, when anybody tells you that there is enough profit in the Tar Sands to retire that kind of a debt, and to pay any returns of any great amount to the investors, they simply demonstrate their complete ignorance of the whole subject about which they speak, purely for the purpose of political effect.

This is what I mean by the worst kind of political dishonesty. Let's stick with the facts — let's face the truth as it is. We have got the greatest Province in Canada through the development of these resources that we can get for you; and we intend to get for you results and benefits far beyond what is reached in any other Province in Canada. Let us not be misled by this political dishonesty which tries to tell you that if you had a Crown corporation to develop your Tar Sands, it would do away with your Provincial taxes for a thousand years.

We won't have time to discuss the other matter which I did want to mention — the total resources development, both physical and human, that is the keystone of our Government White

Paper, and the tremendous program for the new technological age that we are entering in this Province. We will have more to say about this in the future. In the meantime, there is available to you in this Province in the future, opportunities that far exceed anything we have known in the past. If we take advantage of the experience we have gained in all these years of public administration — if we stick to sound, truthful, constructive policies, then the future for Alberta is bright indeed. This is why we ask your continued support, for your Social Credit government and your Social Credit candidates.