

TELE-FACTS

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"Highlights from . . . Alberta's 1967 Throne Speech"

AN ADDRESS BY

Hon. E. C. Manning

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Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since our last "Tele-Facts" program was video-taped, the current session of your Legislature has been convened and your representatives are busily engaged dealing with a large number of important matters affecting your interests and welfare. I have explained to you before that these programs are pre-taped about ten days before they are carried on your local TV station. For this reason, by the time you see this telecast, the Legislature will, in all probability, have completed debating the Speech from the Throne, and perhaps will be dealing with the Provincial Budget or other similar matters of importance. However, because of the far-reaching importance of the program spelled out in the Speech from the Throne this year, I would like to talk to you about it.

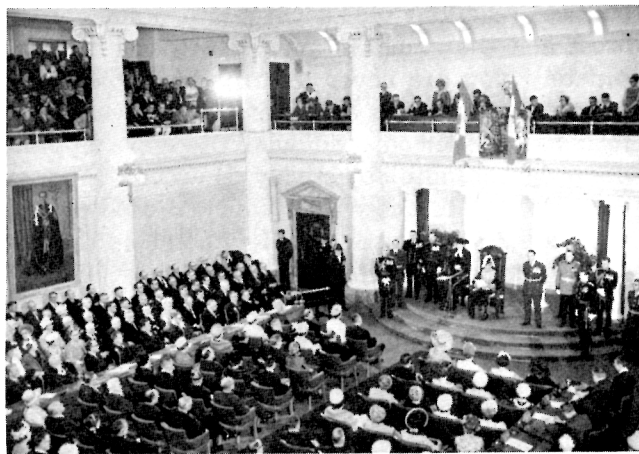
In matters of this kind, there is a regrettable lack of objective reporting through the ordinary news media on which many people must depend for information on these government programs. Some media do conscientiously report, without their own embellishments, on official government documents, such as the Throne Speech, and let you, the people, draw your own conclusions. Unfortunately, there are many who cannot resist the temptation to employ headlines or descriptive comments which suggest the conclusion that they want the people to draw, and so the Throne Speech of this year has been described as a "bargain basement program", a "vote-catching program",

and all of these various descriptive phrases that are added by the news media. The prominence, of course, is usually given in matters of this kind to the political assessments, which are made of any program announced by a government, by opposition party leaders or spokesmen who naturally are anxious to influence the people to form an unfavourable conclusion, no matter how constructive or worthwhile the proposals in question may be. Your Government's program for the coming year as set out in this year's Speech from the Throne is a good example. Opposition party leaders, before they had even had time to read the speech through for themselves, were branding it as 'disappointing', 'totally inadequate', 'a speech for yesterday's bureaucrats instead of for tomorrow's builders', and these, of course, are the biased political reactions which get the headlines in the press and the emphasis on the newscasts. Unfortunately, you are never told the favourable reaction of the hundreds of citizens who have no political axes to grind, and who therefore appraise the program more objectively. However, these are the kind of obstacles with which democracy has always had to contend and they point up the need for a direct contact between the people and their government, such as we are trying to provide through these weekly TV meetings.

Let's get down to business with our shareholders' meeting for tonight. First of all, I think you might enjoy a quick look at some pictures which were taken on the day your Legislature was opened.



His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor arriving at the steps of the Parliament Buildings.



The Legislative Assembly during reading of the Speech from the Throne, showing Members and guests.



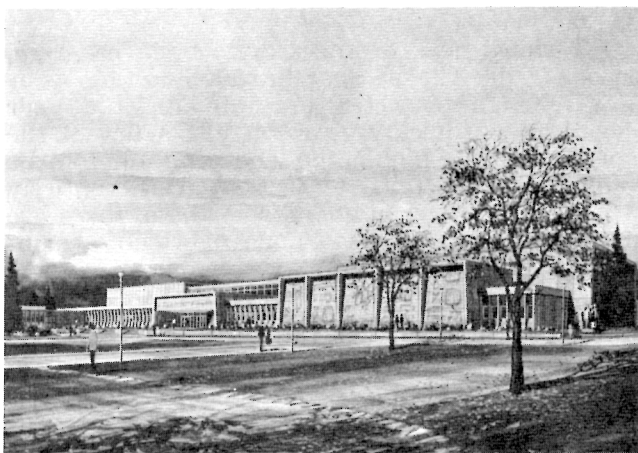
His Honour, Grant McEwan, reading the Speech from the Throne.

Turning now to the Government program, set out in the Throne Speech, which outlines your Government's projected program for the year ahead, may I quickly give you just a few of the more important highlights. The program for the coming year contains at least fourteen entirely new proposals, and in addition to these, there are at least another fourteen matters which are important expansions or enlargements of existing programs and facilities.

1. There is the matter of the big Centennial project — the Government's Archives and Museum, which is being provided to commemorate our Centennial Year, and you can see it in the next picture. This will surely be a fitting tribute to the people of this Province in the years ahead.



Centennial Project —
The Government's Archives and Museum



Picture of the Museum as it will look when completed.



A closer view of the Museum.

2. A comprehensive program designed for the development and conservation of our human resources. This is the first program of this kind in this entire nation. It includes a Council to co-ordinate and supervise all programs relating to human resources development, and it also includes a Human Resources Research Council. One of the most important phases of the Human Resources Research Council's work will be educational research, which has been requested by many individuals and groups for some time. It will also deal with research in the field of social sciences and the fields of economics and sociology.

3. The announced proposal for a fourth University in the Edmonton area, and the expansion of the existing University facilities in Edmonton, Calgary, and the new campus at Lethbridge.

4. An experimental program in educational television. This again is something modern and up-to-date.

5. Legislation to provide for a Provincial Ombudsman, who will be selected by a special committee of your Legislature and appointed before the end of the session. I might mention that this is the first Province in Canada to provide for the office of Ombudsman. This is hardly a program for the bureaucrats of the past! I think this is one of the most up-to-date moves that has been taken by any government in Canada.

6. A comprehensive program to modernize our mental health facilities, which will include a Community Health Centre to be located in the city of Calgary.

7. A bill providing for the rebate of estate taxes, where the deceased was a resident of Alberta. Here again, your Province of Alberta is the only Province in Canada to make this progressive, up-to-date provision. This again, is hardly something for yesterday's bureaucrats! It seems to me that it is very definitely something on the side of tomorrow's builders.

8. We are introducing a new Trust Company Act and a new Securities Act to insure greater protection for those investing their life savings in Trust Companies or in various forms of securities.

9. A new Act authorizing government loans to municipalities to assist in acquisition of land for development of freeways, expressways and for urban renewal. This again, has been requested by our municipalities — it is one of the most up-to-date programs in Canada.

10. A new program to assist towns and villages in street and road construction.

11. A quota system for the orderly development of Alberta's forests, and the re-forestation of all permanent forest land where timber is cut.

12. A provision for the right of appeal to the courts for compensation orders under the Right-of-Entry Arbitration Act and the Surface Reclamation Act.

13. An enquiry into all phases of agricultural extension carried out by government, educational, industrial and producer agencies.

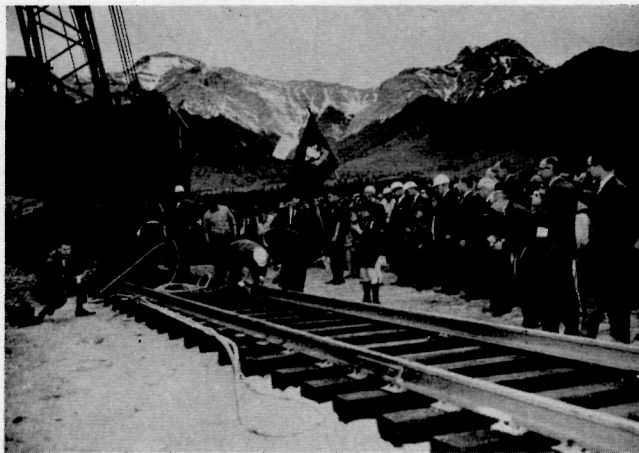
14. A study to develop a program of compensation for citizens injured by criminal acts while aiding law enforcement officers in the discharge of their duties.

All these, Ladies and Gentlemen, are brand-new programs.

In the second part of the program are fourteen features which are expansions or improvements of existing programs.

In the field of the Youth Ministry, there is a new Recreational Development Act and expanded youth program. Community development projects are being expanded with special attention to the needs and problems of citizens of Indian ancestry. There is an expanded program of scientific research for livestock producers. There is an expanded program of water resources development and conservation, and also, in this regard, we are giving special attention to pollution control.

And then there is a substantial increase in appropriations for the Education Foundation Fund; the revision and simplification of Alberta's voluntary subsidized Medical Services program; an expanded educational program for the prevention and treatment of alcoholism, including new in-patient treatment facilities; expanded preventive work in the field of public welfare. Five new grazing reserves are being established. Alberta



The official opening of the line — there are 29 miles of steel already laid. Here you see the last spike being driven.

I've only had time to give you a few of the brief highlights of fourteen brand-new programs — progressive and up-to-date, many of them first for Alberta among all the Provinces of Canada. Certainly, there has not been a more progressive program presented this year to any Legislature in this country. These, backed up by the expansion and enlargement of the fourteen existing programs and facilities, I think you will agree, round out our program for 1967 into something that very definitely will further the interests of every one of you, the shareholders in "Alberta Unlimited", and speak well for the continued progress of this great Province in the years that are ahead.

Let us look at these things constructively and be proud of "Alberta Unlimited".