

Socred Expert Sees Party Rising From Dissatisfaction With Tories

Monetary Reform Appeal Said Greater Today

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By **BILL GOLD**
[Herald Staff Writer]

Social Credit could move into a federal political vacuum created by growing dissatisfaction with John Diefenbaker, an independent expert on Social Credit said in Calgary Monday.

Professor John A. Irving of the department of philosophy at Victoria College, University of Toronto, is author of the newly published book, *The Social Credit Movement in Alberta*.

He is in Calgary to address the 25th annual convention of the Alberta Social Credit League in the Palliser Hotel this evening.

Professor Irving told *The Herald* he believes the Social Credit party could, depending on a number of factors, gain considerable ground on the federal political scene during the next few years.

These factors included:

● A leader of great calibre, ideally Premier E. C. Manning of Alberta although it is most likely he would not accept owing to religious commitments in Alberta.

● The extent to which the Liberal party revives.

Professor Irving said that on a recent trip through the Maritimes, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and Quebec, he found growing dissatisfaction with the Conservative government.

MONETARY REFORM

"Social Credit monetary reform policies have never before embraced so many aspects of people's problems as now," he said.

"They have the same appeal in the inflation-ridden 50s as in the depression ridden 30s."

"The people are very disillusioned with Diefenbaker, but they don't know who to turn to; not the CCF, and not the Liberals, at least not yet.

"Supposing the Social Credit mounted a considerable federal offensive, it is possible they would attract great federal support," he continued.

"It would depend on how much of a federal campaign they could launch, and upon the leader," he added.

ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT

He agreed that he would consider Alberta's Premier E. C. Manning an essential ingredient in any such Social Credit expansion.

"But I must comment on the fact that Manning is very heavily committed to religious interests in Alberta . . . and it might be next to impossible for them to prevail on him to leave Alberta.

"I have often thought religion means more to Manning than politics.

"I consider Manning's religious appeal exceptionally strong. If he became a full-time evangelist he would be much more influential than our most famous evangelists of today, such as Billy Graham," Professor Irving said.

SECOND CHOICE

He regarded Premier Bennett of British Columbia as the next choice after Premier Manning, but added: "Bennett of British Columbia is a forceful speaker and a dynamic personality, but he is not a man of the national stature of Premier Manning."

Professor Irving said that on his travels throughout the country he had found many persons, persons who thought seriously about affairs, who would endorse Premier Manning "on any ticket except CCF."

"He is regarded by many persons as the most respected man holding public office in Canada today," Professor Irving said.

He believed that Premier Manning could remain premier of Alberta "for the foreseeable future."

He said in his experience the Social Credit movement is "not at all discouraged by the loss of its MPs in the last election."

"I wouldn't be surprised if in the next few years they approached the federal scene with redoubled vigor," he added.

25th ~~Annual~~ 1959 Convention
Alberta NOV 25 1959

Philosophy Professor Praises Social Credit

"Social Credit grew out of the depression; out of farmers's complaints against unjust tariffs and low prices for their products out of unemployment and out of the unjust fiscal and monetary policies," 800 Social Crediters were told Tuesday in Calgary.

Professor John A. Irving, the author of The Social Credit Movement in Alberta, was speaking to the 25th annual convention of the Alberta Social Credit League.

From the point of view of a philosophy professor rather than a Social Crediter, he explained the psychological reasons for the rise of Social Credit and its continued success in Alberta.

William Aberhart through his personal appeal as an educator and religious leader became the prophet of the new social order with his study groups, pamphlets and radio broadcasts.

Social Credit offered "an active attempt to realize a new social order, and an escape to a better world," the speaker added.

"It gave the lower and middle class a chance to raise their status in life."

ALTERNATIVE

Social Credit can show young people of today that with reform the present system of government can distribute wealth and can of-

fer an alternative to Communism, Solon Low, the national leader of the party told the convention.

Mr. Low said, "we are raising our young people with doubts about God, society and materialism that leave them open to Communism."

"If we don't give the monetary policy the same kind of attention we give public utilities and if we go on raising Godless children and helping Russia, we have lost the battle," Mr. Low said. "We can get those young people to join us and fight Communism, by demonstrating the worth of our system."