

Aberhart Charges King Broke Election Pledge

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Social Credit Promises Still Stand— Obstructions Must Go

EDMONTON, Feb. 26—The Alberta legislature late today adopted the speech from the throne by a standing vote and cleared the way for introduction of the budget Monday after hearing Premier Aberhart in an hour-long address answer opposition charges his Social Credit government had not kept its promises.

Making his first House address of the session, Premier Aberhart declared Social Credit promises would be fulfilled just as soon as Prime Minister King made good the promises Mr. Aberhart said Mr. King had made at Prince Albert, Sask., in 1935.

He quoted Mr. King as saying that "Mr. Aberhart has the whole province in his hands and if a Liberal government is returned to power at Ottawa, he will be given the fullest opportunity to work out his plans."

'NOT THROUGH YET'

"Did the prime minister keep his promises?" Mr. Aberhart asked. "Just read the story of disallowances and ultra vires decisions and you can know the answer. How unfair and utterly foolish then, is the belated cry, 'You didn't keep your promises!'"

"I may be old but I'm not through yet. I've still not changed my mind. The promises still stand, but we must remove the obstruction."

Lionel Tellier (Ind. St. Albert), Premier Aberhart and C. E. Gerhart (Sc. Acadia-Coronation) were heard in the windup of the Throne speech debate before the question was put to the House, creating the first division of the week-old session.

Independents offered no amendment to the Throne speech, but voted solidly against it with one of their members absent. Also absent were A. J. Morrison (Lab. Edson), E. E. Roper (CCF Edmonton), C. A. Reynolds (Ind. Sc. Stettler) and J. H. Tremblay (Lib. Grouard), who is overseas. Adoption of the Throne speech was carried 29-15, with five Social Credit members absent.

RAPS BEVERIDGE PLAN

Mr. Gerhart told the House that the problems that will face Canada after the war cannot be cured by full employment, as had been suggested by Mr. Roper previously. Employment of young people coming back from the war would be a problem because "we cannot use the production capacity of their labor."

Speaking of Canada's war loans he said "anyone can get their money by turning their bonds in to the banks, but the total war debt will never be paid."

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Mr. Aberhart criticized the Beveridge plan as "the most miserable compulsory insurance scheme that has ever been offered to a suffering people."

After a discussion of the courts and their interpretation of legislation, in which he quoted Prof. John Willis, acting dean of Dalhousie law school, the premier said, "The people of Canada must be free from bureaucratic domination, whether it be financial or judicial. I hope this may be done by peaceful methods and not by revolution."

Recalling that Opposition Leader J. H. Mahaffy (Ind., Calgary) had stated the government "might have known that our legislation was ultra vires at the time we proposed and enacted it," Mr. Aberhart said:

"Fortunately we happen to have an attorney-general's department to advise us and I am pleased to say that the members of this department have a very enviable reputation among the best informed lawyers in the province, if not in all Canada."

CHALLENGES MAHAFFY

He said Mr. Mahaffy had created the understanding in the debate that it was generally conceded the courts should be supreme in the country.

"If the courts are to rule, then as the judges are not elected, we cannot claim to have representative government, much less democratic freedom," the premier declared.

The premier noted Russia's financial system had been brought up by the opposition and said, "From what I can hear there is only one

reason for selling bonds to the Russian people. It will help bind the people to the government after the war. They will want to get payment of the bonds."

Mr. Aberhart said election of a C.C.F. member (Mr. Roper) to the House would give Albertans the opportunity to "know exactly what the policies of the C.C.F. are."

As for Mr. Roper's suggestion of putting everyone to work to cure unemployment, Mr. Aberhart said "surely it is evident to everyone that if we are going to put everyone to work, we will not be able to employ labor-saving machinery. In fact, it might be necessary to pass legislation treating the manufacture of labor-saving machinery as a criminal offence.

"I call that the prison house system."

Public Works Minister W. A. Fallow tabled an agreement showing that Northwest Airlines, Inc., can occupy Government House for the duration and six months after at a rental of \$2,000 a month.

The agreement between the government and the United States airline company was tabled at the request of J. Percy Page (Ind., Edmonton).

The return showed gross receipts from Government House furnishings sold at auction recently totalled \$19,642.

Terms of the lease include a clause that it can be broken if the government sells the house and property providing three months' written notice is given and then the firm claims first right to purchase the home and property at the same terms offered to the government by other prospective purchasers.
