

MANNING DYNASTY LOOMS AS SON EYES LEGISLATURE

By JIM STOTT

[Herald Legislature Bureau]

EDMONTON — Preston Manning, the son of Alberta's premier, has thrown his hat into the political ring and it may be the first step toward establishment of a Manning dynasty in Alberta.

The 24-year-old economics graduate is expected to run in the next provincial election and observers here are even predicting the riding he will run in.

Floyd Baker, the 65-year-old member for Clover Bar, is expected to bow out of politics

before the next election leaving an opening for the premier's son.

Preston got his first taste of practical politics last fall as a federal Social Credit candidate in Edmonton East.

He was solidly beaten by Conservative incumbent William Skoreyko but the outing served notice that he plans a political career and provided experience which couldn't be gained any other way.

On the provincial scene, Manning junior would be a safe bet to win a seat in the Legislature unless there was a

radical change for the worse in the fortunes of Social Credit.

Several terms as a back bench MLA, a few years in the cabinet ranks and he would have established the necessary political base to assume the mantle of office from his father.

Premier Manning has indicated he won't stand in the way of a political career for his son and Preston would enjoy the full support of the party and the not intangible asset of his family name.

See Page 2—MANNING

April 9 - 1966

Manning Dynasty

Once in the Legislature, of course, Preston's progress would depend entirely on his political ability.

Premier Manning would never permit the opportunity for political opponents to charge that he was favoring his son and Preston's performance would have to meet the highest standards.

There's every indication, however, that the premier's son has inherited much of the political and intellectual capabilities which have kept his father in office for 30 years.

At the Social Credit convention last fall, Preston gave a rousing speech to delegates and if you shut your eyes it wasn't hard to imagine it was the premier himself speaking.

After the speech, a senior Social Credit cabinet minister was heard to comment:

"There goes the crown prince."

attempt to have Preston eventually succeed his father.

Liberal Leader Adrian Berry also feels that the public wouldn't allow a Manning dynasty to develop.

"Albertans still believe in progress by merit and although Preston is the premier's son, he would still be judged by what he is capable of doing," Mr. Berry said.

The Liberal leader said he would not be surprised to see Preston run in the next provincial election.

"It's obvious to me that he has political ambitions after he ran in the federal election."

next page..

In fact, there are several cabinet ministers who see Preston as a political successor to his father.

There's only one flaw in the theory of the Manning dynasty and it's a major one.

Preston himself laughs at the idea.

He says he hasn't given any serious thought to running in the next provincial election and laughs at press suggestions he may run in Clover Bar.

"I'm interested in politics. That's why I ran in the federal election, but I certainly haven't made up my mind about a political career," he says.

Preston could be keeping his intentions to himself but his answers to this reporter's questions sounded genuine and he is at the moment working for a research firm in Edmonton.

Opposition politicians view the possibility of a Manning dynasty as a threat to their own ambitions and throw cold water on the idea.

But Neil Reimer, provincial leader of the New Democratic party, says he sees such a development as a possibility.

Mr. Reimer says Preston Manning's bid for office in the federal election is an indication he will run in the next provincial election.

"We haven't got a Social Credit government. We've got a Manning government," he says.

"There are many people in the cabinet who hope that Preston and the Manning name will carry them forward."

The NDP leader adds that the voting public would be resentful and would never accept any

Social Conservative Philosophy Described By Premier's Son

By **DON SELLAR**
(Herald Staff Writer)

Similar technological tools can team up private enterprise and government forces to build lethal missiles . . . or help them to combat urban rot and put roofs over homeless people.

This was Preston Manning's message Wednesday to a Calgary audience as he sketched a new humanitarian political ideology called Social Conservatism.

The 26-year-old son of Alberta's premier said the United States government builds missile systems using methods which could be adapted to social purposes.

"The U.S. aerospace industry has developed unique methods of harnessing the private and public sectors to the attainment of certain national goals which are anything but humanitarian," he told a joint meeting of the men's and women's Canadian Clubs here.

"But why do we not use mechanisms like these to co-operatively harness industry and government in the pursuit of not just physical goals, but social ones such as the remedying of Canada's housing crisis, urban renewal projects and certain other development projects in depressed areas?" Mr. Manning asked.

The youthful researcher is employed by the privately-controlled National Public Affairs Research Foundation to conduct various studies for Premier Manning, the provincial cabinet and the Social Credit League.

The speaker explained how the U.S. government issues an RFP (Request For Proposals) to interested corporations, universities and individuals when it wants to build a missile system or send a man to the moon.

The RFP spells out government guidelines ranging from what day the rocket should be launched to an estimate of what the unit should cost.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The responses are evaluated, adjustments made, negotiations carried out and contracts signed

with the successful bidder — in roughly the same way private contractors build public roads and buildings in Alberta, he explained.

The co-operative effort between government and private enterprise is an example of what Social Conservatism might achieve in social development or "people" programs by combining the humanitarian ethic of socialist ideology with the free enterprise ideals of small-c conservatism, he contended.

Mr. Manning emphasized his belief that Social Conservatism can translate its basic principles



PRESTON MANNING

. . . outlines philosophy

into practical policy—"not something up in the sky". He also said the Alberta government's human resources program most closely approximates the Social Conservative approach.

The human resources program, said Mr. Manning, attempts "to ensure that the larger portion of the efforts of both government and industry go into the development of persons, particularly persons with deficiencies in physical and mental health, deficiencies in values and aspirations and deficiencies in knowledge and skills."

Later, during a question period, Mr. Manning emphasized the importance of getting more citizens involved in the political process through the RFP approach he had outlined.

"When we talk about involvement of people in their political affairs, we're trying to talk about an involvement that goes much beyond people going to the polls every four years and putting a scratch on a piece of paper and calling that participation in the governing process."

Mr. Manning said the premier's new ideology attempts to get more citizens involved in helping the government to formulate goals, even if their connection with officialdom is an unsophisticated, limited one.