

# “The Unfinished Crusade”



by

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# NATIONAL CONVENTION SOCIAL CREDIT WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

## “The Unfinished Crusade”

Madam Chairman, Distinguished Guests,  
Delegates and Friends:

We Social Crediters have waited a long time for this unforgettable occasion. Many of us from the Province of Alberta have waited 28 years for the day when we would gather with Social Crediters from all across Canada to take part in the birth of a National Movement of our party—just as we took part in the organization of a Provincial Movement way back in 1933. It's been a long time, but we're finally here and we are simply delighted to meet so many of you from our sister provinces of this great country.

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local committee for their warm hospitality. You made us most welcome!

I would be remiss indeed if I did not also pass on a word of hearty congratulation to Mrs. Smith (Alta.), Chairman of our Women's Auxiliary National Action Committee, Mrs. Gough (Ont.), Mrs. Merriam (B.C.), and all those responsible for the planning of the program and the innumerable details necessary to make a convention of this magnitude a success. They certainly deserve our most sincere appreciation for all the work they have done.

I, for one, am enjoying every minute of it! I'm sure you are too! In all, it is an unforgettable experience.

I count it a privilege to be asked to give the main address, and I trust that what I have to say this afternoon will be of some inspiration and help to you as we together, take up the tremendous task ahead of us as Social Crediters in the days which lie ahead.

I have taken as the theme of my talk "The Unfinished Crusade".

In the autumn of the year 1822 a brilliant young Austrian composer of 25 years of age, Franz Schubert by name, wrote two movements of what has since become known as "The Unfinished Symphony".

A symphony usually has three or four movements, but this one has only two—hence the title "The Unfinished Symphony".

This work is thought by many to be the most profound of all the works of Franz Schubert—and he was a prolific composer.

The story goes that he composed it for a specific purpose and for a specific conductor, but it was never finished.

In the winter of 1822, after he had completed the first two movements, he fell ill. He was forced to enter a hospital and when he did, he gave the manuscripts to a friend to keep for him. The friend put them aside, hoping that Schubert would complete them when he recovered. The friend also put with the two completed movements, some sketches which the composer had made for a suggested third movement.

But he never got around to finishing it. After his recovery he started writing other things, songs particularly, and the greatest of all his works went unfinished. No one knows why!

—Perhaps he felt it didn't need anything more.

—Perhaps he felt he couldn't live up to the standard he had set in the first two movements.

Who knows! The fact remains it is still the "Unfinished Symphony". After such a splendid beginning—the world is left to wonder what the great finale or climax might have been.

Schubert died in 1828 without even hearing the first two movements of what might have been his finest achievement.

Ladies—Social Credit can be likened to that symphony!

The Social Credit philosophy of life and government is a great masterpiece, designed to bring economic harmony to the affairs of the nation and well-being and security to its people.

The struggle toward its implementation in Canada, is **THE GREATEST CRUSADE FOR ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY WHICH A FREE PEOPLE HAS EVER KNOWN!**

But it is, as yet, an **UNFINISHED CRUSADE!** Born many years ago as an idea in the minds and hearts of those who felt there must be a better way than the old discordant, destructive cycle of economic "Booms and Busts", the Social Credit Crusade in Canada has now completed two phases in its development, just like the two movements of the "Unfinished Symphony".

For the benefit of those who have become interested in Social Credit only recently, I would like to trace the history of these two phases as I have seen them unfold.

The first phase was like the first movement of a symphony or sonata. It introduces the theme.

The early days of Social Credit in Alberta, the birthplace of Social Credit in Canada, saw the enunciation of the theme or the statement of what Social Credit was all about!

In the fall of 1932 Mr. William Aberhart, the founder of our movement in Canada, read a book by Maurice Colbourne on the theory of Social Credit as proposed by Major C. H. Douglas, and its definite concrete proposals for economic security with freedom. This was in the midst of the great depression of the 30's.

The proposals or theme went like this:

- i. The goods that we produce, not the money the bankers supply, should decide the standard of living of our people.

- ii. What is physically possible and morally right can and should be made financially possible.
- iii. Our goal must be not merely security, but security with freedom.
- iv. It is the responsibility of democratic government, to equate the nation's money supply with the national production of goods and distribute purchasing power in a manner that will enable each citizen through his own enterprise to attain security without surrendering his individual freedom.

Mr. Aberhart's first task was to teach the people these Social Credit proposals. He, together with Mr. Manning, his young assistant, travelled up and down the province telling the story of Social Credit over and over again till the people began to catch a glimpse of what it could mean to them by way of economic recovery in those dark depression days.

Next, he went to the Legislature of the day to attempt to persuade them to institute the Social Credit reforms for the relief of our people. They listened politely—and steadfastly refused to do anything about it.

Upon their refusal, the people of Alberta said—Mr. Aberhart, we believe you've got something worthwhile. If the government of the day won't do anything, then you do it. We'll support you in the formation of a new political party. Go to the people, with Social Credit as your platform, and let's get this thing going! And so began the great Social Credit crusade!

In 1935 an election was held in Alberta, and what an election! Mr. Aberhart's Social Credit party was swept into power by a tremendous majority—57 out of 63 seats . . . the world's first Social Credit government came into being and so began the greatest period of growth and expansion that any Canadian province has ever seen. We have literally gone from RAGS to RICHES in the space of 25 years!

Thus began too, the second phase of the great Social Credit crusade! Just as the second movement

of a symphony or sonata is usually the slow, broad movement, so began the slow, orderly development and transformation of a province, so deeply in debt it hadn't enough money in the treasury to pay the salaries of its civil servants, to the place where its level of services to its people, and its financial standing are second to none in the whole of Canada.

This development period covered three main divisions of time.

- i. The Depression period
- ii. The War interval
- iii. The Boom conditions

In the depressed conditions of the 1930 economy, something had to be done about the crushing debt, both personal and provincial.

Emergency measures were taken to prevent citizens from losing their homes and farms.

The province adopted a pay-as-you-go policy and at the same time proceeded to gradually reduce its crushing burden of debt.

A series of acts were passed in the legislature to give the province effective control over its credit resources but they were either disallowed by the Federal government or ruled ultra vires by the courts.

Then came the war with all its disruption when provincial plans had to be shelved, and rightly so, in order that freedom for our people from the tyranny of military dictatorship could be assured.

The war over, the province turned again to its own development. Remembering that it had been thwarted in its efforts to secure a source of revenue apart from taxation (control of credit resources), the government turned its attention to the development of its mineral resources as a source of public revenue. Its success in this direction is made clear by the fact that in the past 14 years Alberta has collected from the development of oil and gas alone over 1¼ billions of dollars.

It was in this period of the history of Canadian Social Credit that British Columbia joined the

fight—1952 to be exact. British Columbia has gone through the same **two phases**:

- Acquainting its people with the theme of Social Credit.
- The broad general movement to transform their province from a debt-ridden community to one of the wealthiest, most progressive provinces of Canada.

Under all of these conditions Social Credit has stood the test and the people of Canada know it. Certainly the people of Alberta showed they appreciated it, for in our last election, after 25 years in office, Social Credit was returned with the biggest majority in its history, bigger even than in 1935. They gave us 61 out of 65 seats, with no other party electing more than one member!

And so we are approaching the end of the second movement of our great crusade!

So much for the past!

What of the future? Will Social Credit be like that unfinished symphony? Will it go down in history as the unfinished crusade? Like Schubert, do we feel that perhaps we don't need another part to complete the work? Or do we feel the task is too great—that on a Canada-wide scale we cannot hope to live up to the achievements of the first two phases in Alberta and British Columbia.

The third movement of a symphony is the finale—the climax! We are met here today to commence the last movement—a grand, majestic climax to the splendid beginning we have made. We are met here today, as Social Credit women, to help plan that last phase of this great Crusade for economic democracy in which we will win the parliament of Canada for Social Credit, and the principles for which we have fought so long will be slowly and carefully but surely applied to the economy of our great land, that it too may see the expansion and buoyancy, which two Social Credit governments have already proven are possible.

How about it? It's up to us!

## CONCLUSION

A Crusade is defined in the dictionary as vigorous, concentrated, action for some cause or idea.

We have the cause—one well worth fighting for.

As to the vigorous action—we have shown that we are capable of giving years of vigorous, dedicated action to this Social Credit Cause—with spectacular results.

But we dare not rest on our laurels. We must not quit now after such a splendid beginning—and leave the world to wonder what great gain might have come to Canada, if we had finished the task.

Now we have the help and fresh vigor of all those who have joined the crusade in the last few years.

Let us then look back at the past and rightly evaluate what has been done and then . . . may we together, launch out into the future with full energy, devotion and service to our cause, that with God's help we may bring to a grand finale this greatest crusade for economic democracy which a free people has ever known!

And now as I close, I cannot do better than leave with you the words of the well known humorist and poet, Edgar A. Guest, who said:

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be  
done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure;  
There are thousands to point out to you one  
by one,  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "cannot be done", and you'll do it!