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PLATFORM STATEMENTS  
ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
MARCH 1975 ELECTION

1 NDP Platform Statement  
New Democratic Party

March 1971 election

LEGISLATURE LIBRARY

AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Policy

The development of meaningful farm policy is extremely difficult. Farm policy thus can only be stated in the most general terms, and is therefore, disappointing to many farmers who are on the brink of elimination or young people starting out.

However, one very important point should be borne in mind. The New Democratic Party is not hampered by any loyalties to existing institutions such as food chains, machine companies, etc. in its efforts to transform general into specific policy.

First and foremost, the NDP is committed to the family farm. We are opposed to corporate farming. The NDP is committed to a policy of opposing the take-over of farm land by either agribusiness or foreign corporations.

Orderly Marketing

The NDP is committed to placing all coarse grains and oil seeds under the Canadian Wheat Board. New Democrats support the re-introduction of the Coarse Grains Act. Central to the policy of the party is the use of effective marketing boards. By effective, we mean boards that are made up of producers and designed to serve the needs of producers, rather industrial consumers such as packing plants.

Government Assistance

Banks and trust companies have been robbing farmers long enough. It is time the government got into the business of lending money for land and machinery. Low interest long-term loans for

agriculture/ 2222

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for beginning farmers could be provided through the mechanism of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation.

#### Machinery

The NDP supports the establishment of a central testing station for farm machinery. This would provide farmers with information on the relative merits of machinery so that farmers can make informed decisions when purchasing machinery.

#### Emergency Aid

The existing crop insurance schemes are good in principle but inadequate in practice. The NDP is committed to improving benefits and making the premiums cheaper for farmers in high risk areas which at present are prohibitive.

When fluctuations do occur in markets, the NDP believes that farmers should be compensated for the loss. The form that compensation would take is a grant to cover the costs of production. This would also prevent glutting of markets.

#### Transport

NDP policy in this area is to exert the maximum possible pressure on Ottawa to maintain and if possible improve the present statutory rate structure. We are firmly opposed to the policy of rail line abandonment being pursued by both railways.

#### Rural Land Policy

Land for agriculture production is an irreplaceable resource of increasing scarcity and value. However, land is currently being subdivided at the rate of some 70,000 acres per year. In a world faced by starvation, this is criminal folly.

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Within a general system of classifying and zoning land the NDP calls for:

- (1) Set up a land bank to ensure that farms can pass from parent to child or from retiring to new farmers and at the same time to ensure the farmer the means to retire with dignity.
- (2) Provide Alberta farmers with the option of leasing land at low rates now prevailing in the "special areas" with security of tenure in return for good farming of the land.
- (3) Assign the responsibilities now undertaken by Agricultural Development Committees to democratically elected councils of improvement districts with full compensation for the extra work involved.
- (4) Forbid transfer of land to corporations and land speculators by restricting land tenure to active farmers (eg. small farmers, co-operative groups, family farm corporations, etc.).
- (5) "Provincialize" land which is owned by foreign individuals (not landed immigrants) and foreign-controlled corporations. The New Democratic Party would actively pressure Ottawa for changes in the Canadian Citizenship Act which would exclude foreigners from land in the province.
- (6) End the subdivision of farmland for acreage development by zoning for such development in areas unsuited to agricultural development.



WELFARE

There are individuals who are unable to care for themselves and must depend on the community. In Alberta the vast bulk of welfare recipients tend to be single women with children (often deserted wives) and the aged. Central to the philosophy of the NDP is a belief in equality - that everyone is entitled to a share of the nations goods, regardless of their power in the market place.

The socialism of the seventies calls for a radical, new approach to the desperate plight of the poor in our society. Our approach is that of a guaranteed minimum income. This is a beginning not a cure-all. Those who advocate a guaranteed minimum income as a complete answer for all existing welfare programs are playing a cruel hoax on the poor.

Mincome (guaranteed minimum income) offers an opportunity for re-distributing income. The method for determining eligibility would be through the income tax form.

The basis of NDP policy is to increase the disposable income of the poor. There are two ways of doing this: increasing social services and reforming the taxation system.

Tax reform to make the overall taxation system truly progressive is essential. The tax system should be integrated with minimum income so that no income taxes are paid by persons below the poverty level. The poverty level would be determined by the cost of living index with a built-in cost of living escalation factor.

URBAN AFFAIRS

Social and economic well-being for urban Alberta must be based on policies that ensure:

- (a) local autonomy
- (b) high level of public services and utilities
- (c) adequate financing to ensure the development of local industry and services

At the heart of NDP policy on urban affairs is the realization that cities lack the power that they must possess if they are to develop. The The constitutional arrangements of 1867 are simply inadequate today. In terms of cities this means constitutional changes to enlarge the powers of urban governments. The crucial point is the enlargement of taxation basis of cities and the elimination of property taxes as the major source of municipal revenue.

Canada's cities strangle on their own growth dominated by expressways and high rise apartments; in cities and towns throughout the country, land prices have skyrocketed. The price of land has risen beyond the means of ordinary people. Central to the urban crisis is the housing crisis. Solving the housing crisis is essential if our cities are to be made livable. Therefore, NDP policy is to eliminate tax advantages that favour high rise office towers, shopping centres and land speculation when housing is in desperately short supply.

urban affairs/ 2222

EDMONTON

# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429-0797

APR 29 1975

RELEASE TIME 9:00AM MST 24--2-75

Calgary news conference: Subsidized petro-companies

Secret documents released today in Calgary show that several petrochemical companies are demanding the Alberta government subsidise the cost of a world scale petrochemical industry in the province. The contents of the documents were released by Alberta NDP leader, Grant Notley.

The documents are labeled as confidential briefing notes supplies to the Alberta cabinet November 1st, 1974. Notley said they prove that Dow, Dupont, CIL and other companies have demanded the government underwrite 85 percent of the overall cost of the development. The subsidies would be made in the form of cheap feedstocks, debt financing through low interest loans and guarantees, location payments, and so called "front end costs."

"Whose heritage are we protecting," Notley said, "Ours, or that of the Rockefellers and the Duponts?"

"The government's policy on hasty industrialization will diminish Canada's available natural gas supplies at a moment when the nation is threatened by shortages. The government is in effect increasing natural gas exports and subsidising shortages."

Notley added the plan, as outlined in the briefing notes, will strain the province's manpower supply, weaken locally controlled businesses, and accelerate inflation. Notley said he would be making further disclosures which he said indicates the government realizes the adverse effects of the policy but is pressing ahead in spite of them.

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Contact Brian Coulter 264-7750 Calgary 9-10 am  
or Howard Leeson 429-0797

# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429-0797

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
9:00 a.m. MARCH 7, 1975

SUBJECT: EDUCATION RELEASE

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SPEAKING AT AN EDMONTON PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING, N.D.P. LEADER, GRANT NOTLEY, BLASTED THE LOUGHEED GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF EDUCATION SPENDING. NOTLEY CHARGED, "THE TREND IN EDUCATION WE SEE UNDER THE LOUGHEED GOVERNMENT, IS A SHIFTING OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCING TO THE LOCAL LEVEL, AND A PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT SHIRKING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO EQUALIZE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL ALBERTANS." "ACCORDING TO PROVINCIAL BUDGET FIGURES, THE PROVINCE SPENT 22.2% OF IT'S BUDGET ON EDUCATION IN 1972-73, THIS YEAR IT IS DOWN TO 19.2%; PROOF THAT THIS GOVERNMENT VALUES INVESTMENT IN THE TAR SANDS MORE HIGHLY THAN IN OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURES." "AT THE SAME TIME, SCHOOL FUNDS RAISED THROUGH THE SUPPLEMENTARY LEVY ON PROPERTY TAX MORE THAN DOUBLED, FROM \$43 MILLION TO \$91 MILLION BETWEEN 1971 AND 1975."

EQUALIZATION

"EVERY CHILD IN ALBERTA, IN CITIES OR ON FARMS, IN THE PEACE RIVER REGION, OR PINCHER CREEK, RICH OR POOR, DESERVES THE SAME EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. RIGHT NOW THEY DON'T GET THEM." ~~MR.~~ NOTLEY SAID.

"WE NEED EQUALIZATION GRANTS, ON THE BASIS OF ISOLATION, SPARSE POPULATION, OR HIGHER OPERATING COSTS, AVAILABLE TO ALL BOARDS ACROSS ALBERTA. THE PRESENT 'SPECIAL CASES SYSTEM', PRONE TO PARTISAN HANDOUTS IS JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH."

"THE PROVINCE SHOULD PROVIDE GRANTS TO AREAS WITH SHIFTING NOT JUST DECLINING POPULATIONS. HERE IN EDMONTON, THERE IS NO MONEY AVAILABLE TO COPE WITH RAPID GROWTH IN THE SUBURBS AND A DECLINE IN ENROLLMENT IN THE INNER CITY."

"RURAL BOARDS THAT FACE HIGHER TRANSPORTATION COSTS, SHOULD BE AIDED IN THAT AREA. NORTHERN BOARDS WITH HIGHER GENERAL OPERATING COSTS NEED ASSISTANCE TO BALANCE THAT BURDEN."

"THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD INSTITUTE INCENTIVE GRANTS TO BOARDS WHO HIRE BETTER QUALIFIED TEACHERS, TO HELP RURAL BOARDS COMPETE IN THE JOB MARKET FOR THE BEST TEACHERS."

FUNDING:

NOTLEY DECLARED THAT EDUCATION FUNDING WAS PRIMARILY A PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONLY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT IN THE PROVINCE WITH A PROGRESSIVE TAX

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BASE, AND BECAUSE IT COULD EQUALIZE OPPORTUNITY THE MOST EFFECTIVELY.

HE ATTACKED THE RETURN TO MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX AS A REGRESSIVE STEP BY A GOVERNMENT ANXIOUS TO LOAD THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISING EDUCATION COSTS.

REFERRING TO THE PROJECTED PROPERTY TAX REVENUE OF \$91 MILLION NEXT YEAR, NOTLEY ASKED, "WHY WITH MORE THAN A BILLION DOLLARS IN OIL REVENUE CAN'T THIS GOVERNMENT SHELL OUT \$91 MILLION FOR EDUCATION?"

"WHY HAS THIS GOVERNMENT PLACED INCREDIBLY UNREALISTIC SPENDING CEILINGS ON LOCAL BOARDS WHEN INFLATION HAS CLIMBED AT MORE THAN TEN PERCENT?"

"WE'LL PUSH FOR A REORGANIZATION OF THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM, TO MAKE SURE CEILINGS ARE ADEQUATE IN TERMS OF INFLATION AND THAT SERVICES ARE NOT BEING CUT BACK TO PAY FOR PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND OTHER EXTRAVAGANCES OF THIS GOVERNMENT."

STANDARDS:

ALBERTA HAS ALMOST NO PROVINCIALLY ESTABLISHED STANDARDS IN EDUCATION. NO CLASS SIZE REGULATIONS, NO SPACE PER STUDENT GUIDELINES AND NO CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL GRANTS. A PATCHWORK OF PERSONAL DIRECTIVES FROM THE MINISTER IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A PLANNED SET OF MINIMUM STANDARDS." NOTLEY REMARKED.

HE DECLARED HE WOULD PUSH FOR A PUPIL TEACHER RATIO OF 22:1 IN THE PROVINCE, A MINIMUM EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL FOR ALL LOCAL BOARDS TO BE SUPPORTED THROUGH PROVINCIAL REVENUES AND LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER SCHOOL AND THE NUMBER OF MILES THAT STUDENTS MAY BE BUSSED.

HOWEVER, THE N.D.P. LEADER ADDED, "WHEN SETTING DOWN THESE GUIDELINES WE MUST KEEP THE POWER OF LOCAL BOARDS TO MAKE DECISIONS ON BEHALF OF THEIR COMMUNITIES IN MIND. WE MUST NOT ERODE THE AUTHORITY OF ALBERTA'S ELECTED SCHOOL OFFICIALS - THE LOCAL BOARDS."

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

ALBERTA IS ONE OF THE FEW PROVINCES WHICH DOESN'T PROVIDE SCHOOLS FOR ALL CHILDREN BETWEEN FOUR AND SIX YEARS OF AGE. THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM HAS THE LOWEST PER CAPITA GRANT OF ANY GRADE LEVEL IN THE PROVINCE.

NOTLEY SAID, "OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN ARE OUR MOST IMPORTANT, THEY'RE THE MOST SENSITIVE, AND THE MOST IMPRESSIONABLE. YET, WE SPEND LESS MONEY ON THEM THAN ANY

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OTHER AGE LEVEL. WE DEMAND LESS TRAINING FROM THEIR TEACHERS."

"WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT ALL OUR CHILDREN HAVE A CHANCE TO ATTEND EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES, AND THAT THE PARENTS CAN REALLY BE INVOLVED IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT, NOT RELEGATED TO BABYSITTING. THE N.D.P. WILL PUSH FOR BETTER INTEGRATION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM AND DAYCARE TO ALLOW WORKING MOTHERS TO ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN IN BOTH PROGRAMS, WHICH THEY CANNOT NOW DO."

ADVANCED EDUCATION:

NOTLEY STATED THAT THIS WAS AN AREA TOO BROAD TO TACKLE IN A WIDER STATEMENT OF POLICY IN ANY DETAIL. HE DID, HOWEVER, STRESS THREE POINTS. FIRST, CALLING FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALBERTA UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION TO ACT AS A BUFFER BETWEEN THE INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT. HE CITED THE EXAMPLE OF FAIRVIEW COLLEGE AS AN INSTITUTION FIGHTING FOR THE KIND OF AUTONOMY THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD PROVIDE. THE N.D.P. LEADER WILL BE DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF FAIRVIEW COLLEGE IN FAIRVIEW ON SATURDAY NIGHT. SECOND, THAT TUITION FEES SHOULD BE PHASED OUT AND THIRD THAT THE POOR AND MINORITY GROUPS SHOULD HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

NOTLEY CLOSED HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WITH A FEW PHILOSOPHICAL REMARKS ABOUT EDUCATION: "OUR CHILDREN, AND NOT OIL OR PETROCHEMICALS, ARE OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE, LET'S SPEND A LOT OF DEVELOPMENT MONEY ON THEIR FUTURE."

"NO GOVERNMENT WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS, AND ITS OWN PEOPLE CAN SHIRK ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO FUND, GUIDE AND IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO THE YOUNG."

"THIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT BEHAVING RESPONSIBLY IN THOSE AREAS."

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FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

ROBIN SEARS  
(454-7241)

BRIAN COULTER  
(424-9594)

# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 -97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429-0797

TO: ALL MEDIA  
FROM: THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ALBERTA)  
DATE: MARCH 18, 1975  
RELEASE TIME: 9:00 a.m. M.S.T.

SUBJECT: ALBERTA'S POSITION AT THE APRIL, 1975 ENERGY CONFERENCE

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NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER, GRANT NOTLEY, HAS UNVEILED A LIST OF DEMANDS WHICH ALBERTA SHOULD MAKE ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR MAINTAINING LOW PRICES FOR ALBERTA'S CRUDE OIL.

"HIGHER PRICES ARE NOT THE ANSWER TO CANADA'S ENERGY TROUBLES," HE SAID, "THEY MERELY REPRESENT AN UNFAIR BURDEN TO CANADIAN CONSUMERS, INCLUDING ALBERTANS." NOTLEY SUGGESTED A QUID PRO QUO WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, UNDER WHICH ALBERTA WOULD MAINTAIN A \$6.50 WELLHEAD PRICE FOR OIL IN EXCHANGE FOR A NUMBER OF CONCESSIONS WHICH WOULD BENEFIT THE WEST.

THE NUMBER ONE DEMAND WOULD BE ACTION TO REDRESS HISTORIC GRIEVANCES IN FREIGHT RATES. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO SHELTER FREIGHT RATES ON MANUFACTURED GOODS LEAVING ALBERTA, ESPECIALLY FOR PROCESSED AGRICULTURAL GOODS.

"WE WOULD ALSO REQUIRE A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE THE CROWSNEST FREIGHT RATES AND TO SET UP A JOINT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMISSION ON RAIL LINE ABANDONMENT."

SECONDLY, "WE WOULD DEMAND A GUARANTEED NET INCOME PLAN FOR FARMERS WITH MASSIVE FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT, WHICH WOULD REPLACE THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF INADEQUATE PRICE SUPPORTS."

THIRDLY, WE WOULD DEMAND A PUBLICALLY-OWNED BANK SET UP BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD FOSTER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES. THIS WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF POOLING CANADIAN CAPITAL TO STIMULATE DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN CANADA, THE MARITIMES AND THE NORTH.

"THE \$6.50 PRICE WOULD BE MAINTAINED ONLY ON THESE CONDITIONS, AND WOULD BE KEPT IN FORCE UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT THE TRUE REPLACEMENT COST OF OIL IS IN THIS COUNTRY."

IF THE REPLACEMENT COST IS OVER \$6.50, THE PROCEEDS SHOULD GO INTO AN "ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FUND" WHICH WOULD BE USED FOR OIL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA, AND IN CANADA ONLY.

CANADA'S OIL EXPORTS SHOULD BE PHASED OUT WITHIN THREE YEARS, ADDED NOTLEY. "WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO PRESERVE CANADA'S OIL FOR CANADIANS."

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MARCH 18, 1975 NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ALBERTA) ALBERTA'S POSITION AT THE APRIL, 1975  
ENERGY CONFERENCE

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SIMILAR ACTION SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO NATURAL GAS EXPORTS. AN N.D.P. GOVERNMENT WOULD OPPOSE ALL NEW GAS EXPORT CONTRACTS AND WOULD TAKE STRONG MEASURES TO RENEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF EXISTING CONTRACTS.

"THESE MEASURES CAN HAVE THE EFFECT OF ACHIEVING FULL PARTNERSHIP FOR ALBERTA WITH- IN CONFEDERATION AND ACHIEVING ALBERTA'S ECONOMIC GOALS, WITHOUT SUBJECTING ALBERTANS AND THE REST OF CANADA TO UNNECESSARY PRICE INCREASES." NOTLEY SAID.

"THERE ARE OTHER, MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO SOLVE CANADA'S ENERGY PROBLEMS WHICH DO NOT ENTAIL HARDSHIPS SUCH AS THIS FOR LOW-INCOME CANADIANS. SUCH HARDSHIPS ARE THE INEVITABLE RESULT OF MASSIVE PRICE INCREASE, SUCH AS LOUGHEED IS GOING AFTER."



# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429-0797

TO: ALL MEDIA  
FROM: NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ALBERTA)  
RELEASE TIME: 6:00 p.m. M.S.T. 25-2-75  
SUBJECT: FARM INCOME

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PREMIER LOUGHEED WAS ACCUSED OF CREATING A FALSE IMPRESSION ABOUT THE THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE'S FARM INDUSTRY BY THE LEADER OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ALBERTA), GRANT NOTLEY, IN A SPEECH TUESDAY NIGHT IN BONANZA, 60 MILES NORTHWEST OF GRANDE PRAIRIE. NOTLEY WAS REFERRING TO STATEMENTS MADE BY THE PREMIER IN THE LEGISLATURE THE DAY THE ELECTION WAS CALLED. PREMIER LOUGHEED SAID ALBERTA HAS THE LOWEST FARM INPUT COST OF ANY AREA IN CANADA.

NOTLEY USED THE FIGURES PREPARED BY STATISTICS CANADA THAT SHOWED INPUT COSTS IN ALBERTA FOR 1973 WERE ON THE AVERAGE 20 % GREATER THAN COSTS IN SASKATCHEWAN. IN THE SAME YEAR THE FIGURES SHOWED NET FARM INCOME IN ALBERTA WAS ABOUT 600 DOLLARS LESS THAN NET FARM INCOME IN SASKATCHEWAN. 11,570 DOLLARS COMPARED TO 12,195 DOLLARS IN SASKATCHEWAN.

THE N.D.P. LEADER ALSO ATTACKED LOUGHEED'S STATEMENT THAT THE NET FARM INCOME IN THE PROVINCE HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE THE CONSERVATIVES CAME TO POWER. NOTLEY SAID, "IT'S A MEANINGLESS STATEMENT, FOR EXAMPLE IF MY INCOME RISES TO \$4,000 A YEAR FROM \$2,000. I'M STILL POOR. IT'S LUDICROUS TO SAY I'M BETTER OFF BECAUSE MY ANNUAL INCOME HAS INCREASED BY 100%."

HE ADDED THE PREMIER HAS CREATED A FALSE IMPRESSION THAT FARMERS ARE TWICE AS WELL OFF AS FARMERS IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. "WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE FIGURES," MR. NOTLEY SAID, "THEY SHOW THE FARMER'S NET REALIZED INCOME HAS BEEN FALLING IN COMPARISON WITH SASKATCHEWAN SINCE 1970. LAST YEAR THE NET REALIZED INCOME IN THE PROVINCE WAS 20% LESS THAN SASKATCHEWAN'S."

NET REALIZED INCOME ACCORDING TO STATISTICS CANADA REPRESENTS THE AMOUNT OF INCOME THAT FARMERS HAVE LEFT FOR FAMILY LIVING, PERSONAL TAXES, INVESTMENT, AFTER PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR OPERATING EXPENSES.

MR NOTLEY ADDED "IT IS OBVIOUS THAT AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE IN ALBERTA IS NOT CONSISTENTLY BETTER THAN THE OTHER MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PROVINCES. AND IF WE LOOK AT SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE PROVINCE'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY FOR EXAMPLES IT IS ONLY NECESSARY TO LOOK AT THE DESPERATE ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE COW CALF OPERATORS AND THE 12% DROP IN LAST YEARS HOG PRODUCTION OF 12.4% TO REALIZE THE PREMIER HAS MADE A FALSE IMPRESSION."

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CONTACT: HOWARD LEESON (429-0797) BRIAN COULTER - SPIRIT RIVER (864-3750)  
FAIRVIEW (835-2886)

# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429--0797

TO: ALL MEDIA

FROM: NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ALBERTA)

DATE: MARCH 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: DAY CARE

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PROVINCIAL HEALTH MINISTER NEIL CRAWFORD WAS CHARGED TODAY WITH NEGLECTING THE NEEDS OF OVER 2,000 PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN HIS RIDING.

BRIAN FISH, N.D.P. CANDIDATE OPPOSING MR. CRAWFORD IN EDMONTON PARKALLEN, CITED PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SHOWING THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE PUBLICLY-SUPPORTED DAY CARE CENTRE (CAPACITY 60 CHILDREN) FOR A POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 2,000 PRE-SCHOOLERS IN THE RIDING.

MR. CRAWFORD'S DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING DAY CARE THROUGHOUT ALBERTA.

"THE FACT THAT PUBLIC DAY CARE IS AVAILABLE TO ONLY 3 PER CENT OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN IN THE MINISTER'S OWN RIDING IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF HIS CALLOUS APPROACH TO SOCIAL PROGRAMS," MR. FISH CHARGED.

"APPROXIMATELY 70 PER CENT OF THE WOMEN IN THE PARKALLEN RIDING BETWEEN THE AGES OF 20 AND 34 ARE EMPLOYED," MR. FISH SAID. "THESE WOMEN ARE THE MOST LIKELY TO HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN WHO REQUIRE DAY CARE SERVICES."

THE CONSTITUENCY ALSO CONTAINS OVER 4,000 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE MARRIED WITH YOUNG CHILDREN IN NEED OF CHILD CARE SERVICES.

DAY CARE SERVICES CAN BE BOTH PREVENTIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL, MR. FISH SAID. HE ADDED THAT THE COST OF QUALITY PUBLIC DAY CARE IS LARGELY RECOVERED BECAUSE IT PREVENTS COSTLY FUTURE SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND AT THE SAME TIME ALLOWS PARENTS TO JOIN THE LABOUR FORCE.

BRIAN FISH CAN BE CONTACTED AT: 489-1401 FROM 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
OR VIA HIS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS: 439-5038.

BF/bn

THE LOUGHEED BALANCE SHEETWHAT LOUGHEED SAYSWHAT LOUGHEED DOES1. OPEN GOVERNMENT

A consistent theme in the 1971 Tory campaign was "open government".

"Public laws should be made in public" was the heading of guidepost #1 in the Tories main campaign leaflet. Lougheed promised to protect "against the comfortable drift to government by cabinet or through Order-in-Council."

We were treated to such fine sounding slogans as "the public has a right to know." (Above quotes from Guideposts of the Progressive Conservative Party, published during the 1971 campaign).

Again, in the Legislature on March 29, 1972, Lougheed promised "to assure that the public is better informed." He declared that "open government is for the whole province of Alberta."

(Hansard, March 29, 1972)

2. PRIORITY FOR EDUCATION

Lougheed told Albertans in 1971 that "expenditures on all aspects

The fact is that no Alberta government has ever carried on so much business behind closed doors in the secrecy of cabinet.

One indication of this is the amount of money spent by special warrant. (Special warrants are funds spent by cabinet without prior legislative approval).

Keeping in mind that the Tories were elected in August 1971, the following list indicates the growth in special warrants.

1970-71	\$42 million
1971-72	\$51 million
1972-73	\$94.8 million
1973-74	\$97 million
1974-75	\$310 million

(the 1974-75 figure could still go higher).

Prize examples of closed-door policy making were the purchase of P.W.A. and the purchase of 20% of IPSCO, both of which were never approved by the legislature.

Tory use of cabinet regulation was brought to task by the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly on Regulations in November, 1974. It concluded that the cabinet was giving itself too much power in the legislation it drafts and put forth 41 recommendations to put a stop to it.

Needless to say, the report hasn't even been discussed in the Legislature, let alone acted upon.

The Lougheed government's record of funding for education is nothing



EDUCATION (cont'd)

of education must be given the highest priority to equip younger Albertans to compete in the decades ahead." (Guideposts)

At a public meeting in Red Deer, he also promised "a 5th University in Red Deer" (Edmonton Journal, July 29, 1971).

The Tories also vowed to promote "educational opportunities without penalty to those of limited economic means" at the post-secondary level. This was to be done through "a complete re-evaluation of the present mix of tuition fees, grants and loans." (New Directions the P.C. Party Platform, 1971.)

short of atrocious. Most Albertans are aware of the inconveniencies brought on by the Tories "freeze" on new school construction and their ridiculous expenditure guidelines.

Since taking office, School Foundation grants have consistently fallen behind average increases in wages and in 1974 even fell behind the consumer price index.

Increasingly, school boards are pushed to the limit of supplementary requisitions and are unable to provide decent salaries for teachers.

They have made a joke out of University autonomy, with the abolition of the Universities Commission and the imposition of "direct rule" by the Department of Advanced Education. Severe budget restraints have shattered the morale and dashed the expectations of the University Community.

Noedles to say, there is no 5th University in Red Deer.

The first thing the Tories did to revise Alberta's student finance system was to abolish grants and revert to straight loans. This merely heightened the disadvantages and barriers that lower-income students have in getting a good education. From the students viewpoint, Alberta has the worst student loan plan in Canada.

3. STRENGTHEN LOCAL AUTONOMY

"We believe in local government" sang the Tories in 1971. "We do not believe that alleged central efficiency;" they added, "should always be allowed to override the special judgement of one's elected neighbours." (Guidepost #2)

Lougheed also promised "more financial authority (to municipalities) to keep their own house in order." (Edmonton Journal, July 27,

The Lougheed government's attitude to local government is typified by the passage of Bill 55, The Northeast Alberta Regional Commission Act in Spring, 1974. The Bill empowers cabinet to give the Northeast Alberta Commissioner complete and absolute power to exercise any or all of the powers, duties and rights of local government in the area. Under this Bill, in other



LOCAL AUTONOMY (cont'd)  
1971.)

4. CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Tories really jumped on the bandwagon here, seeking "to recognize that a provincial government has a major role to protect consumers in today's free enterprise economy." (New Directions, P.C. Party Platform.) Lougheed spoke of a "consumer protection emphasis". (Edmonton Journal, August 4, 1971).

Lougheed also made a specific promise. He would "give people access to their credit records as maintained by credit reporting agencies." They would also have power to correct any false information included in their files. (Albertan, August 10, 1971).

5. AUDITOR GENERAL

One of the "strongest" Tory moves, said Lougheed, would be the "appointment of an Auditor General to replace the existing Provincial Auditor." (Edmonton Journal, August 10, p.3).

6. GOVERNMENT SPENDING

On July 23, 1971, Lougheed proclaimed quite proudly that a major Tory goal was "controlling cost of government." (Edmonton Journal).

words, local autonomy does not exist.

Every citizen knows the strain that all of Alberta's municipal authorities are under at budget time. The Lougheed government has consistently refused to share new revenue sources with municipal governments. Instead, there is an increasing reliance on regressive property taxes and a consistent situation in which local authorities do not have enough money to do their job.

The Lougheed government has yet to pass a single piece of consumer legislation. "The Unfair Trades Practices Act", a watered-down carbon copy of similar legislation in B.C. and elsewhere has been introduced in the Spring, 1975 sitting of the Legislature. This represents a significant delay, especially for a "now" government.

There is currently no legislation which requires credit agencies to open their files to private citizens.

The "existing Provincial Auditor" still exists. Lougheed's Auditor General does not.

Lougheed's record on this score is at the very least inconsistent.

It is true that he has held the line on spending for human resource

## 6. GOVERNMENT SPENDING (cont'd)

programs. He disbanded the Human Resources Research Council, he starved Education and he has not introduced major new social service programs.

On the other hand, he has been very free with taxpayers money when it comes to the oil industry. In April 1974, when oil prices went up, he gave the industry \$600 million. In December, 1974 he felt moved to hand out another \$500-600 million in incentives. By February, 1975 he had committed well over \$1 billion in public funds to the Syncrude project.

Another favorite item of expenditure has been consulting fees. In the past three years, some departments have increased their allocations for consulting fees six-fold. (See Hansard, January 27/75). In 1975-76 the government will spend more than \$33 million in consulting fees.

Perhaps more shameful is the way in which Tories like to spend money - by way of special warrant. (See "Open Government" above.)

## 7. NATIVE PEOPLE

The Tories promised "to co-operate with the Indian-Metis of Alberta in reaching their own goals and aspirations."

They also offered "to back up the Native people in their legitimate demands for recognition of Treaty Rights by all levels of government." (New Directions, P. C. Party Platform, 1971).

The living conditions of most Metis & non-treaty Indians (those under provincial jurisdiction) are still appalling. Many native communities are still without a safe water supply; housing conditions are so bad that government initiatives are not sufficient.

The Lougheed government has decided to oppose the land claims of the Stony Indians and drag them through the courts. They have done this in spite of federal government recognition that the Stony's claims are valid. In spite of Lougheed's claim to "non-advocacy" this must be

## 7. NATIVE PEOPLE (cont'd)

## 8. OIL PRICING

The history of Lougheed's broken promises reveals the occasional outright lie.

When Lougheed returned from the energy conference on Marcy 28, 1974, he heralded the \$6.50/bbl. price as a great achievement for Alberta. "We concluded," he said proudly, "that an average price of \$6.50/bbl is in the public interest of Alberta at this time." (Hansard, March 28, 1974.)

He claimed to have gotten a concession of the \$6.50 price in return for giving up Alberta's share of the export tax. Thus the Edmonton Journal's headline on March 29, 1974 read "we got what we wanted."

## 9. WOMEN'S ISSUES

During the 1971 campaign, Lougheed made excessive and paternalistic promises to the women of Alberta. For example, he promised no less than to "end all discrimination and give them equal pay and equal opportunity." (Ed-

called rank hostility.

The callous refusal of the Lougheed government to grant funds to the Calgary Urban Treaty Alliance or to settle outstanding land claims by Fort Chipewyan natives are also indicative of their failure to live up to their policies.

There is overwhelming evidence that Lougheed mis-represented the entire character of the agreement. It seems clear that Lougheed gave up our share of the export tax and got nothing in return.

It is clear, for example, that the \$6.50 price was suggested, not by Lougheed, but by Mr. Trudeau. In a letter to Lougheed more than two weeks before the \$6.50 price was set, Trudeau suggested that "\$6.50 per barrel at the wellhead in Alberta would not be unreasonable". (Letter dated March 12, 1974)

A more revealing comment, however, come from Lougheed himself. In a letter to Trudeau on June 27, 1974 he said "I was unable to convince you and the other first ministers ... to reach an accord on a price higher than \$6.50/bbl." He continues to say "I reluctantly accepted the price of \$6.50/bbl."

Who is Lougheed trying to kid? We got exactly what Trudeau decided to give us and gave up our share of the export tax to get it.

Not only has Lougheed failed to adequately enforce his "equal pay" legislation on employees in the private sector, discrimination is still rife in his own civil service.

As of the end of May, 1974, "male civil servants earn 72% more



#### 9. WOMEN'S ISSUES (cont'd)

monton Journal, July 27, 1971). On July 28, he promised to appoint more women to boards and task forces as well.

As late as April 24, 1974, Lougheed reiterated that "real effort is being made towards progress in overcoming discrimination." (Hansard, April 24, 1974)

#### 10. EASTERN SLOPES

Lougheed made only one specific promise regarding the Eastern Slopes during the 1971 campaign. In Medicine Hat he vowed to establish major wilderness areas where "man would be only a visitor" in this 13,500 square mile area. (Edmonton Journal, August 10, 1971.)

Once gaining office, the Tories undertook a comprehensive review of the whole area under the auspices of the Environmental Conservation Authority. In so doing they promised a moratorium on all land use and resource developments until the review was finished. As late as July 11, 1974, Lougheed wrote "no approval has been given for coal exploration ... on the Eastern Slope of the Rocky Mountains in general." (Letter to M. Howe)

Once the E.C.A. report was completed, in fall, 1974, the Tories indicated that action would soon follow.

a year than female civil servants." (from a confidential government study.) The same study points out that while there are 1541 men in top executive posts in the civil service there are only 81 women.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council's task force on women in the Alberta labour force found that "despite the passage of the Individual Rights Protection Act on November 22, 1972, the rate of 'equal pay for equal work (had) decreased' (press release dated March 4/74).

Is this the result of "real effort"? Obviously Lougheed did not "give them equal pay".

No new wilderness areas have been established since the Tories took power.

In clear violations of the "moratorium", no less than 50 coal exploration permits were given out by the government while the East Slopes review was underway. (See Albertan, November 2, 1974).

No action has been taken on the E.C.A. report to date.



11. CIVIL SERVICE BARGAINING RIGHTS

Lougheed was silent on this point when he was still in the opposition. In a letter to the president of the Civil Service Association of Alberta, he promised civil servants "the same rights as organized labour."

No such action has been forthcoming. Civil Servants remain without full collective bargaining rights. They do not enjoy the same rights as other elements of organized labour.

In fact, it was not until February 12, 1975 - 3½ years after it was elected - that the "new" government got around to setting up a task force to look into the matter. (Hansard)

12. CLEAR STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES

Lougheed campaigned for office on the jargon of long range planning - "that a provincial government should always have a long range plan."

He assured Albertans that his government would "establish a set of legislative priorities in relation to its financial resources and publish these priorities for the scrutiny of the public at large." (above from Conservative Guidelines)

Once elected, Lougheed vowed not "to take the easy way out" and set up clear priorities. (Hansard, March 29, 1972)

Lougheed was still making promises of guidelines and priorities when it came to handling the "oil windfall". On March 28, 1974 he pledged to "present new fiscal policies for Alberta regarding the management of these additional revenues." (Hansard)

On April 23, 1974 the Provincial treasurer, Gordon McNeley promised that guidelines and estimates on the new oil revenue would be handed down "within the next two weeks." (Hansard)

This government's activities are best described as "flying by the seat of the pants." Lougheed has made some vague commitments to diversification of the Alberta economy and helping certain key groups, but, by and large they have followed the same incremental policies of their predecessors.

An obvious example of the "ad-hocery" of the Lougheed regime is the purchase of P.W.A. Apparently three cabinet members met on a patio one day. One had heard a rumour that the B.C. "socialist government was out to buy P.W.A. The result - we now own an airline.

Of course, Lougheed has never tabled estimates or even guidelines for the spending of our incremental oil revenues. No-one except the government knows what happened to our \$200 million windfall for 1974-75 and the government aren't saying.

# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429-0797

RELEASE TIME 1:30 PM MST 24-2-75

Edmonton news conference on petrochemical concessions

Alberga's NDP leader Grant Notley said today in Edmonton he has reason to believe that at least one large foreign oil company wants Alberta government involvement in a petrochemical project in order to influence future government energy policy. Notley based his statement on information leaked from the industry

He said Alberta Gas Trunk, Dupont, and CIL are requesting debt and direct equity financing from the Alberta government up to 300 million dollars. He also revealed the government will offer loans to petro-companies it wants to relocate. These loans would be offered at interest rates several points below the prime rate. The loans would cover up to 75% of the companies' total capital cost. "You can just see it," he said, "every petrochemical company wishing to set up shop in the province will pick the worst possible sites to qualify for relocation loans."

Notley said the companies are also demanding government financing through cheap natural gas. "The government is being asked to supply natural gas to Alberta at less than half the market price." He said the companies will only establish plants under their terms in return for starting construction immediately. Normally the companies would wait until the Canadian market demand increases.

Part of that demand he said was 100 million dollars to offset the front end costs, or costs incurred by building before there is sufficient demand. Notley said the companies will have to export. "This will only lead to one thing, shortages of natural gas in Canada within five years."

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Contact: Brian Coulter, Corona Hotel Edmonton 422-7106 1:30-2:30PM  
Howard Leeson, 429-0797

# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429--0797

TO: ALL MEDIA

FROM: THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ALBERTA)

DATE: MARCH 16, 1975

RELEASE

TIME: 2:00 PM, M.S.T.

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N.D.P. LEADER GRANT NOTLEY SAYS THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IS DECLINING AND TEACHER'S SALARIES ARE SUFFERING BECAUSE THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT IS STARVING EDUCATION.

SPEAKING AT THE A.T.A. LEADERS FORUM, MR. NOTLEY POINTED OUT THAT SCHOOL FOUNDATION GRANTS HAVE BEEN DECLINING AS A SHARE OF SCHOOL BOARD BUDGETS EVER SINCE THE LOUGHEED GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE. SCHOOL BOARD BUDGETS SHOW AN INCREASING RELIANCE ON SUPPLEMENTARY REQUISITIONS WHICH ARE LEVIED ON TOP OF LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES.

NOTLEY APPLAUDED THE TORIES' MOVE TO TAKE BASIC EDUCATION TAXES OFF PROPERTY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN BALANCED BY A GREATER INCREASE IN PROVINCIAL AID TO EDUCATION THROUGH THE SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM. BECAUSE SCHOOL FOUNDATION GRANTS HAVEN'T BEEN INCREASED ENOUGH, TWO THINGS HAVE HAPPENED -- THE BURDEN IS SHIFTING BACK TO PROPERTY TAXES AND THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IS SUFFERING FROM LACK OF FUNDS.

WITH PROBABLY THE RICHEST GOVERNMENT IN CANADA, SCHOOL FOUNDATION GRANTS HAVE NOT KEPT PACE WITH AVERAGE INCREASES IN WAGES OR, IN LATER YEARS, WITH THE COST OF LIVING. WHEN THIS HAPPENS, THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION SUFFERS.

THESE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS HAVE ALSO AFFECTED TEACHER'S SALARIES. TEACHERS HAVE NOT BEEN GETTING THE SAME WAGE INCREASES AS THE REST OF SOCIETY SINCE THIS GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE. IN 1973 AND 1974 THEY DID NOT EVEN KEEP PACE WITH THE COST OF LIVING. IT IS LITTLE WONDER THAT TEACHER'S ARE HOLDING OUT FOR MORE THIS TIME.

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IS TO BLAME FOR THE CURRENT UNREST AMONG TEACHERS. IF THEY HAD PROVIDED DECENT LEVELS OF SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION, WE WOULDN'T BE IN THE SITUATION WE FACE TODAY.

NOTLEY FURTHER POINTED TO THE HARDSHIPS CAUSED BY THE TORY GOVERNMENT'S SCHOOL BUILDING FREEZE AS EVIDENCE OF THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD EDUCATION. BUILDING FREEZES CAUSE BUSING OF CHILDREN TO ATTEND SCHOOL, EVEN INCITIES. YET THE TORY GOVERNMENT WILL NOT EVEN PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO RUN SCHOOL BUSES.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

BRIAN COULTER (ON TOUR)

HOWARD LEESON 429-0797

424-2904



# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429-0797

TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA  
FROM: GRANT NOTLEY, PROVINCIAL LEADER  
ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
FOR RELEASE: 8:00 P.M. M.S.T. MARCH 19, 1975

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N.D.P. LEADER GRANT NOTLEY HAS CRITICIZED THE LOUGHEED ADMINISTRATION FOR LACK OF ACTION ON COAL ROYALTIES AND ON PLANNING IN THE EASTERN SLOPES.

MR. NOTLEY TOLD A LETHBRIDGE RALLY THAT "ALBERTA CONTINUES TO COLLECT THE MEASLY SUM OF TEN CENTS (10¢) PER TON FOR ITS COAL WHILE THE COMPANIES ARE GETTING \$20.00 - \$30.00 PER TON". MANALTA COAL, FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY SIGNED AN EXPORT CONTRACT FOR \$28.23 PER TON.

MR. NOTLEY POINTED OUT THE B.C. GOVERNMENT IS CHARGING \$1.50 PER TON ROYALTY ON ITS COAL. KAISER RESOURCES AT SPARWOOD IS PAYING THIS ROYALTY AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, IS MAKING MONEY. "YET THE TEN CENT TORIES CONTINUE TO GIVE OUR COAL AWAY".

BY CONTINUEING TO CHARGE SUCH A LOW ROYALTY, NOTLEY ESTIMATES ALBERTA IS THROWING AWAY BETWEEN \$15 AND \$20 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY, "WE SHOULD RAISE OUR ROYALTY IMMEDIATELY TO AT LEAST \$1.00 PER TON".

NOTLEY ALSO ACCUSED THE LOUGHEED ADMINISTRATION OF "SITTING ON THE FENCE" ON THE ISSUE OF THE EASTERN SLOPES.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD THE FINAL REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR ALMOST SIX MONTHS YET HAS TAKEN NO ACTION WHATEVER TO PRESENT ITS POLICIES ON LAND USE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN SLOPES.

"INSTEAD, THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO DISH OUT COAL EXPLORATION PERMITS LIKE THEY WERE GOING OUT OF STYLE." MANY OF THESE PERMITS, NOTLEY SAID, "ARE IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S 'MORATORIUM' ON EAST SLOPES DEVELOPMENT."

MR. NOTLEY CALLED FOR SWIFT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE E.C.A. RECOMMENDATIONS ON LAND USE PLANNING IN THE EAST SLOPES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A PERMANENT EAST SLOPES PLANNING COMMISSION.

- 30 -

Contact: Brian Coulter, 429-0797 or 424-2904

# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429--0797

TO: ALL MEDIA  
FROM: GRANT NOTLEY - LEADER, ALBERTA N.D.P.  
SUBJECT: N.D.P. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE POLICY  
FOR  
RELEASE: 8:00 P.M. - MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1975

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SPEAKING TO A RALLY IN FAIRVIEW AT THE FAIRVIEW LEGION HALL, GRANT NOTLEY TONIGHT UNVEILED A COMPREHENSIVE N.D.P. HEALTH CARE POLICY AND LASHED THE TORY GOVERNMENT FOR ITS LACK OF CONCERN ABOUT THE HEALTH NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN ALBERTA.

"IF THERE IS ONE AREA THAT THIS TORY GOVERNMENT CAN BE SEVERELY CRITICIZED FOR NEGLECT IT IS THE AREA OF HEALTH CARE. WE'VE HAD THE RHETORIC AND THE TOKEN GESTURES OVER THE LAST 46 MONTHS BUT NEVER ANYTHING THAT APPROACHED A COMMITMENT TO UPGRADING ALL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN THIS PROVINCE TO THE POINT THAT WE COULD POINT TO THEM WITH PRIDE AS THE FINEST IN CANADA. WITH THIS POLICY WE CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT TO LIVE UP TO ITS RHETORIC.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE HEALTH CARE PACKAGE.

## I DENTICARE

The N.D.P. is committed to the creation of a universal Denticare system integrated with the Alberta Health Care system. The plan would begin with immediate coverage of children under 12 and those over 60. Particular emphasis, in consultation with the dental profession, would be on preventative care for young people. The program would expand over a period of years to cover everyone.

## II EXPANSION OF SERVICES IN OTHER AREAS

The long-run objective of an N.D.P. government would be to insure that all recognized medical treatments are covered under a comprehensive health care package. This includes pharmacare, the cost of which would be mitigated by the bulk purchase of drugs by the Alberta government and the prescription of generic medications. Chiropractic and Optic care would be included, along with other services, such as acupuncture, as their therapeutic value is recognized. Prosthetic devices and medical appliances would also be covered.

## III PREMIUM-FREE COVERAGE

The N.D.P. recognizes that the present health care "insurance premium" is a disproportionate burden on low-income families and individuals. It would therefore eliminate all health care premiums. Albert's health care services would be financed entirely through the people's oil revenues and through progressive income tax.

# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429-0797

An N.D.P. government would also make sure that payments for medical services would come entirely from the Health Care Commission, and that patients would not be subject to surcharges for medical services.

#### IV DECENTRALIZATION OF SERVICES

The aim of the New Democratic Party is to get health care services closer to the people who need them. This is of particular concern in rural areas. The N.D.P. is serious about providing incentives for Doctors to locate in rural areas through providing assistance to "set up shop" and providing training allowances in exchange for rural services.

A major effort will be made toward setting up community health care centre, where possible under the control of community and consumer groups. Such clinics would feature the effective use of nurses and para-medics as a device for cutting costs while providing adequate services.

More effective use of air and ground ambulance is also a device for getting people to the health services they vitally need. These would be publically funded.

#### V THE HANDICAPPED

The N.D.P. recognizes the special physical and mental health care needs of those who are handicapped. All direct medical services which they require will, of course, be made available without cost.

Further measures in support of the handicapped include amendments to the Provincial Building code to give wheelchair access to all public buildings. The N.D.P. would also set up a trust fund which would provide the handicapped with four years of free post-secondary education at the institution of their choice.

#### VI MENTAL HEALTH

Several steps can be taken which will help the mentally ill become usefull, happy members of the community. The emphasis should be on outpatient and aftercare, rather than institutionalization. Where confinement is necessary as a last resort, it should take place in smaller facilities, as close as possible to the person's home.

High priority should be given to research into the causes and cures for mental illness. This includes an "operations research" board of doctors who can supervise the implementation of new methods as they become available.

MR. NOTLEY CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT ONLY A NEW DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION IS COMMITTED ENOUGH TO PROGRESSIVE POLICIES TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO MOVE IN THIS AREA IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. "WE NEED A STRONG CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION TO KEEP RAISING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF ALBERTANS SO THAT THEY GET THE SAME ATTENTION AS SYNCRUDE AND OTHER PET GOVERNMENT COMPANIES. IN MY OPINION ONLY THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS STRONG ENOUGH TO DO THAT JOB," HE FINISHED.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

BRIAN COULTER (ON TOUR)  
HOWARD LEESON 429-0797  
424-2904



# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429-0797

TO: ALL MEDIA  
FROM: NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ALBERTA)  
DATE: MARCH 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: RURAL INCOME DIPARITIES

\*\*\*\*\*  
PREMIER LOUGHEED'S POLICIES ARE DIVIDING ALBERTA INTO A SOCIETY OF "TWO SOLITUDES" OF RICH AND POOR, N.D.P. LEADER, GRANT NOTLEY, TOLD AN AUDIENCE IN VEGREVILLE, FRIDAY NIGHT.

NOTLEY SAID THAT 1974 INCOME TAX RETURNS REVEALED THAT OVER 435,000 ALBERTANS EARN LESS THAN \$6,000 PER YEAR. THIS IS APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO THE POPULATION OF THE CITY OF EDMONTON.

NOTLEY EMPHASIZED THE VAST DIFFERENCE IN WEALTH BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN ALBERTA, POINTING OUT THAT INCOMES OF RURAL PEOPLE IN THE PROVINCE ARE ON THE AVERAGE \$4,000 PER YEAR LESS THAN IN THE PROVINCE'S CITIES. HEALTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES TO RURAL ALBERTA ALSO FALLS FAR BELOW STANDARDS IN URBAN AREAS, HE SAID.

"CENSUS FIGURES SHOW THAT THE AVERAGE WAGE OF WORKING WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS OF THE PROVINCE ARE BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL SET BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY", NOTLEY REMARKED.

NOTLEY INDICATED THAT WHILE HIGH INCOME EARNERS LIKE MEDICAL DOCTORS EARN MORE IN ALBERTA THAN IN ANY OTHER PROVINCE, AT THE LOWER END OF THE INCOME SCALE, WAGES ARE FAR BELOW LEVELS IN OTHER AREAS IN CANADA. TEACHERS, NURSES AND CIVIL SERVANTS ARE LEAVING ALBERTA IN DROVES TO TAKE HIGHER PAYING JOBS IN OTHER PROVINCES, NOTLEY CLAIMED.

"FOR EXAMPLE," NOTLEY SAID, "DOCTORS EARN MORE IN ALBERTA THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE COUNTRY, YET JANITORS WORKING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE PROVINCE EARNED ABOUT \$400 LESS THAN THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN B.C. AS OF JANUARY, THIS YEAR."

THE N.D.P. LEADER ADDED THAT THE PREMIER CHOSE TO ASK THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF CALGARY AND EDMONTON FOR ADVICE ON SPENDING THE HERITAGE TRUST FUND.

"HE TOTALLY IGNORED FARMERS AND WORKING PEOPLE", NOTLEY CHARGED.

"ALBERTA NEEDS A STRONG OPPOSITION IN THE LEGISLATURE TO REPRESENT THE MAJORITY OF ALBERTANS WHO DO NOT SHARE IN ALBERTA'S RESOURCE WEALTH," NOTLEY ADDED.

OIL COMPANY WELFARE

1. Six weeks after the Conservatives took office we were told the oil companies weren't getting enough money so the price of fuel went up 10¢ a gallon.
2. Then the rural communities were allowed a \$10 million grant for oiling rural streets. The oil companies then doubled the price of paving oil.
3. The next move was a restructuring of the Royalty Taxation and, according to Oil Week, the companies pocketed \$600-700 million.
4. Later the oil companies needed another increase so Mr. Lougheed allowed another 10¢ per gallon increase easing the burden by removing a 10¢ sales tax.
5. Next came the 50¢ Federal Tax on wxported crude and so started the feud with the Provinces on who should receive this income.
6. Next came an increase in the per barrel allowance as an incentive to keep oil drilling rigs in the Province. It was not tied to their exploration programs.
7. The Federal Government decided to disallow the Provincial Royalty payment as a tax deduction to the Oil Companies so Mr. Lougheed came through with another \$400 million.
8. Mr. Lougheed announced the deal with Syncrude. \$800 million would be put up by the oil companies and \$200 million by the public for a 50-50 profit sharing agreement, with the companies keeping the books. The oil companies also received 9% on 70% of the cost of the plant.

Then escalation took over and the 1 billion dollars became 2½ billion dollars.

Public Contributions to Syncrude as of February 4, 1975.

200 million - 10% equity share  
200 million - 100 million each to Gulf and City services  
320 million - infrastructural cost (Harnes report)  
350 million - 100% owned power plant. (Public power for people no,  
for oil companies yes.)  
100 million - Alberta owned pipeline  
+ - whatever it costs to pick up the 20% option referred to  
in original memorandum.  
300 million - for 15% share for Federal Government.  
100 million - for 5% share for Ontario Government  
\$1,570 million plus the following concessions.

1. Lifting export restrictions by National Energy Board.
2. The Companies will be able to write off all their investments in Syncrude against their other corporate earnings.
3. The Syncrude project is not only exempt from the royalty non-deductability provisions of the November Federal budget but also

...2...

benefits from a lower tax rate than any other petroleum and mining venture.

4. One of the most odious aspects of the deal is a special provision that permits an automatic depletion of up to 1/3 of production profits.

This is significant in that if Syncrude has insufficient profits, as is likely, to absorb all allowable tax writeoffs then the three oil corporations participating in the deal will be allowed to transfer these writeoffs to their non-Syncrude earnings.

5. The contract will not be tabled in the Legislature until after the election as any further give aways will be hidden until then.

6. We also have a copy of a letter from Mr. Spragins to Syncrude saying they didn't want to let Mr. Lougheed off the hook.

7. Please help us to take him off the hook.

March 26 VOTE Grant Notley N.D.P.



### OIL COMPANY WELFARE

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March 26 VOTE Grant Notley N.D.P.

N.D.P. MINI-BUDGET

The New Democratic Party ~~condemns~~ the Lougheed government for its failure to table Supplementary Estimates of the province's windfall revenue during the fall session of the legislature. It is the view of the Provincial Council of the New Democratic Party that the legislature must make the major decisions with respect to the expenditure of any windfall accruing to the province. The N.D.P. sharply disagrees with the cavalier disregard of our parliamentary system shown by the Lougheed government when they purchased P.W.A. under regulations pertaining to the Financial Administration Act. Major decisions of public policy should be based upon legislative debate and open discussion - not back room manoeuvring.

We find it shocking that under the terms of the Financial Administration Act the Provincial Treasurer now has the legal authority to commit the provinces windfall on his judgment alone. While in practice any decision would include the Premier and several other Ministers we believe this concentration of power in the hands of two or three people is inconsistent with the democratic system of government.

The New Democratic Party Provincial Council believes that it is time the people of Alberta began to engage in widespread public discussion on how the surplus revenue of the province should be allocated. To facilitate this discussion and to encourage the provincial government to live up to its constitutional responsibilities the Provincial Council recommends the following Mini-Budget.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Until recently estimates of total funds available put the figure at 900 million dollars. This, of course, is based on royalty rates announced by the government and does not assume any changes as a result of Federal-Provincial negotiations over Ottawa's taxing powers in the oil industry. It is a smaller amount than Albertans have a right to receive for their non renewable resources. If the province of Alberta were to adopt the same royalty rates as the province of Saskatchewan there would be an additional 700 million dollars accruing to the Treasury in 1975. (Alberta collects \$1.07 a barrel less than Saskatchewan based on Alberta's 1975 estimates. Production of 655 million barrels at a potential loss of 700 million dollars).

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The New Democratic Party Mini-Budget does not include this 700 million dollars but attention is drawn to it to underline the scandalous giveaw. of Alberta resources by the Loughheed government.

#### GENERAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE MINI-BUDGET

The mini-budget has three major sections. Tax Reduction and Reform, Human Resource Programs and Diversification and Ownership of the Alberta Economy.

The items contained in this budget are proposals made by the N.D.P. as a result of convention resolutions. It is our hope that by taking the lead the N.D.P. will stimulate all Albertans to become actively interested in the question of how this windfall revenue will be spent.

#### TAX REDUCTION AND REFORM

The Council recommends that the province consider using part of the windfall as an opportunity both to pass on substantial tax reduction to those Albertans who need it most as well as provide the province with an opportunity to reform the provincial taxation system.

There are many methods of tax reduction but implicit in the proposals of the Council is a commitment to reduce taxes for low income Albertans. 100 million dollars is being allocated to massive tax reduction setting as out objective the elimination of provincial income tax up to a maximum deduction of \$10,000 for each family of 6. A sliding scale of deductions would be provided for smaller families, couples or single Albertans.

The Council reminds individual Albertans that a simple indexing of the Special Senate Committee on Poverty to 1974 standards means that a family of 6 requires a minimum income of \$8,700 to move above the poverty line. When one considers the present rate of inflation, the \$10,000 figure becomes a minimum operative figure if we are to provide tax relief for people beneath the poverty level.

The taxation reduction proposal consists of a commitment to eliminate Alberta Health Premiums. The cost of such a move is estimated at 50 million dollars.

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**Tax Reform** - an equally important proposal is the need to immediately appoint a Royal Commission to examine Alberta's Tax structure and make recommendations to re-structure it consistent with the ability to pay principle. No sensible Albertan fails to recognize that present windfall revenues are based on a rapidly depleting non renewable resource. The cost of many of the programs proposed in our mini-budget will go up. In the future it will be necessary to pay for these programs through taxes collected equitably based on strict application of the ability to pay principle.

#### **QUALITY OF LIFE PROGRAMS**

A second and substantially larger percentage of the windfall should be allocated to quality of life programs. These programs would include an education equalization fund to provide rural areas, remote districts, inner city schools and disadvantaged groups equal opportunity to education.

Health Care Services will depend in large measure on decent salaries for public employees. A good example is the present situation regarding nurses where average Alberta nurse's income is \$2,200.00 below B.C. levels. As a result we are losing many Alberta nurses.

The N.D.P. believes that the time has come to introduce a universal denticare program.

It is clearly time that our provincial pensions such as permanent disability pensions under the Workmen's Compensation Act, Widow's Allowance and Health and Social Development payments be indexed to the actual cost of living rather than artificially low formulas which see a continual erosion of purchasing power.

Substantial expenditures are required for Day Care expenditures and the Party renews it's commitment to free tuition at Post Secondary Institutions.

One of the most important proposals of our Mini-Budget is a commitment to increase provincial pensions for senior citizens from the paltry \$10.00 by \$50.00 a month. Such a move would bring senior citizens now receiving the guaranteed income supplement up to an income level to put them above, rather than beneath the poverty line.

The N.D.P. also calls for a Land Bank venture for urban and rural land.

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## DIVERSIFICATION AND OWNERSHIP OF THE ALBERTA ECONOMY

The largest single portion allocated to the N.D.P. mini-budget is designed to deal with the major question of diversification and ownership of the Alberta economy. We recognize that only by developing the economic base of the province can we ensure a better quality of life for Albertans in the future.

The main thrust of this proposal is to shift development away from private, mainly foreign controlled corporations, to public control and ownership of industrial and resource development in Alberta.

In the first year the N.D.P. foresees three major expenditures.

- (1) The first is acquiring equity ownership of all major utilities in the province.
- (2) The second is the creation of an Alberta Development Corporation which will become the mechanism to develop future industry in Alberta. In its first year the Alberta Development Corporation will acquire equity in Syncrude.

The Council recognizes that it will take some time to properly establish the Corporation and staff it with competent people. In future years a much larger part of the budget would be allocated to the Alberta Development Corporation. Under a N.D.P. government it will become a Crown Corporation answerable to the legislature.

- (3) A third major area is a program aimed at dealing with regional disparities in the province. Such a program will be designed to meet federal cost sharing arrangements for Highways Transportation and Regional Development funds. It will be designed to attack the regional disparities which seriously jeopardize the quality of life in Alberta.

A major part of the program will be future investments by the Alberta Development Corporation to develop local community based industry to process renewable resources such as timber and agriculture.



# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429-0797

TO: ALL MEDIA  
FROM: GRANT NOTLEY, PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADER  
NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

MAR 15 ]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNIVERSAL DENTICARE PROGRAMME  
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N.D.P. LEADER GRANT NOTLEY TODAY UNVEILED HIS PARTY'S PROGRAM FOR A UNIVERSAL DENTICARE PROGRAM FOR ALBERTA, TO BE PHASED IN OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS. HE SAID PREMIUM-FREE DENTAL CARE SHOULD BE PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE AND FOR SENIOR CITIZENS OVER SIXTY.

MR. NOTLEY CRITICIZED THE LOUGHEED GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAILURE TO ACT IN THIS AREA, CHARGING THAT ALBERTA WAS THE ONLY PROVINCE IN CANADA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NEW BRUNSWICK THAT HAD NOT EMBARKED UPON A PUBLIC DENTAL CARE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN.

HE REFERRED TO STATISTICS FROM OTHER PROVINCES INDICATING THAT IT WOULD COST LESS THAN \$40 PER YEAR TO CARE FOR EACH CHILD'S TEETH. IT WOULD REQUIRE ABOUT \$50 MILLION PER YEAR IN ALBERTA TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE TO ALL AGE GROUPS.

"WE SHOULD HAVE THE BEST DENTAL CARE PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY," NOTLEY SAID, "BUT UNDER THE LOUGHEED GOVERNMENT WE HAVE THE WORST."

MR. NOTLEY CITED A RECENT SURVEY BY THE CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA WHICH FOUND THAT NEARLY HALF THE PROVINCIAL SAMPLE WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE PROVINCE'S HEALTH CARE. NINETY PER CENT OF THESE ATTRIBUTED THEIR DISSATISFACTION TO THE LACK OF DENTAL CARE COVERAGE.

THE N.D.P. LEADER ADDED THAT THERE WERE TOO FEW DENTISTS IN THE PROVINCE, WITH RURAL AREAS SUFFERING THE MOST FROM THE SHORTAGE. HE SUGGESTED INCENTIVES TO INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF DENTISTS IN RURAL REGIONS AND A GREATER EMPHASIS ON USE OF TRAINED DENTAL NURSES, AS

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IN SASKATCHEWAN AT PRESENT THERE IS ONLY ONE DENTIST FOR EVERY 2,600 PEOPLE ON THE AVERAGE IN THE PROVINCE.

A MASSIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE AREA OF DENTAL HEALTH WAS ALSO BADLY NEEDED, MR. NOTLEY SAID.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

BRIAN COULTER (ON TOUR)

HOWARD LEESON - 424-9594

- 424-2904

OIL COMPANY WELFARE

1. Six weeks after the Conservatives took office we were told the oil companies weren't getting enough money so the price of fuel went up 10¢ a gallon.
2. Then the rural communities were allowed a \$10 million grant for oiling rural streets. The oil companies then doubled the price of paving oil.
3. The next move was a restructuring of the Royalty Taxation and, according to Oil Week, the companies pocketed \$600-700 million.
4. Later the oil companies needed another increase so Mr. Lougheed allowed another 10¢ per gallon increase easing the burden by removing a 10¢ sales tax.
5. Next came the 50¢ Federal Tax on wxported crude and so started the feud with the Provinces on who should receive this income.
6. Next came an increase in the per barrel allowance as an incentive to keep oil drilling rigs in the Province. It was not tied to their exploration programs.
7. The Federal Government decided to disallow the Provincial Royalty payment as a tax deduction to the Oil Companies so Mr. Lougheed came through with another \$400 million.
8. Mr. Lougheed announced the deal with Syncrude. \$800 million would be put up by the oil companies and \$200 million by the public for a 50-50 profit sharing agreement, with the companies keeping the books. The oil companies also received 9% on 70% of the cost of the plant.

Then escalation took over and the 1 billion dollars became 2½ billion dollars.

Public Contributions to Syncrude as of February 4, 1975.

- 200 million - 10% equity share
  - 200 million - 100 million each to Gulf and City services
  - 320 million - infrastructural cost (Harnes report)
  - 350 million - 100% owned power plant. (Public power for people no,  
for oil companies yes.)
  - 100 million - Alberta owned pipeline
  - + - whatever it costs to pick up the 20% option referred to  
in original memorandum.
  - 300 million - for 15% share for Federal Government.
  - 100 million - for 5% share for Ontario Government
- \$1,570 million plus the following concessions.

1. Lifting export restrictions by National Energy Board.
2. The Companies will be able to write off all their investments in Syncrude against their other corporate earnings.
3. The Syncrude project is not only exempt from the royalty non-deductability provisions of the November Federal budget but also



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benefits from a lower tax rate than any other petroleum and mining venture.

4. One of the most odious aspects of the deal is a special provision that permits an automatic depletion of up to 1/3 of production profits.

This is significant in that if Syncrude has insufficient profits, as is likely, to absorb all allowable tax writeoffs then the three oil corporations participating in the deal will be allowed to transfer these writeoffs to their non-Syncrude earnings.

5. The contract will not be tabled in the Legislature until after the election as any further give aways will be hidden until then.

6. We also have a copy of a letter from Mr. Spragins to Syncrude saying they didn't want to let Mr. Lougheed off the hook.

7. Please help us to take him off the hook.

March 26 VOTE Grant Notley N.D.P.

# news release communiqué

ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY 10361 - 97th STREET, EDMONTON, T5J 0M2 PHONE 429-0797

TO: ALL MEDIA  
FROM: THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ALBERTA)  
DATE: MARCH 10, 1975

RELEASE TIME: 8:00 p.m. M.S.T.

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SUBJECT: LOCAL AUTONOMY IN FORT McMURRAY

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N.D.P. LEADER, GRANT NOTLEY, CHARGED THAT RECENT STATEMENTS BY  
PREMIER PETER LOUGHEED ON THE POLITICAL STATUS OF FORT McMURRAY  
"SMACKS OF 19th CENTURY IMPERIALISM".

"LOUGHEED REMINDS ME OF A BRITISH COLONIALIST - COMPLETE WITH  
PITH HELMIT AND WHITE SHORTS."

THE PREMIER'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 25, THAT "AS THE COMMUNITY  
MATURES" HIS GOVERNMENT WILL "MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF LOCAL  
AUTONOMY", RESEMBLES THE KIND OF PATERNALISTIC RULE WHICH ONCE  
DOMINATED THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA AND ASIA.

IN EFFECT, SAYS NOTLEY, THE PREMIER IS SAYING TO FORT McMURRAY:  
"UNFORTUNATELY WE HAD TO TAKE YOUR INDEPENDENCE SWAY BECAUSE YOU'RE  
NOT QUITE READY FOR IT - BUT MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE MATURE ENOUGH  
TO GOVERN YOURSELF".

NOTLEY REITERATED HIS STRONG FEELING THAT BILL 55, THE NORTHEAST  
ALBERTA REGIONAL COMMISSION ACT, IS AN UNNECESSARY, AUTHORITARIAN  
MEASURE WHICH VIOLATES BASIC DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. HE ADDED,  
"I FIND THIS IMPOSSIBLE TO SQUARE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PROFESSED  
CONCERN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT."

NOTLEY REMARKED THAT IT WAS NOT "GROWING PAINS", AS THE PREMIER  
SUGGESTED, WHICH WAS BEHIND BILL 55. RATHER, IT WAS PRESSURE FROM  
THE SYNCRUDE CONSORTIUM DURING THE FALL OF 1973 AND THE SPRING OF  
1974 FOR JUST SUCH SPECIAL LEGISLATION WHICH FINALLY FORCED THE  
GOVERNMENT'S HAND.

HE ADDED: "AN N.D.P. GOVERNMENT WOULD RESCIND BILL 55 IMMEDIATELY AND  
RETURN FULL LOCAL AUTONOMY TO THE CITIZEN'S OF FORT McMURRAY".

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: ROBIN SEARS ( 454-7241 )  
BRIAN COULTER ( 429-0797 )