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**NEW WESTMINSTER**—More than 1000 Social Crediters met at New Westminster this morning for the start of their all-out drive to "sweepout" the old line parties from provincial office.

With a new broom as their symbol, cheering delegates from all over B.C. laid their plans to usher in the "new era."

Today, in their first major convention, in Junior High School auditorium, they had just two big jobs: to pick a leader and approve their platform.

They expected it might take them until midnight.

The platform, a closely guarded secret until today, pledged the new party to these main proposals:

Abolish compulsory hospital insurance, replacing it with a voluntary system.

Levy higher taxation on royalties on timber and other natural resources.

#### **SOME CONFUSION**

Attempt to reduce municipal school taxes.

Revise Workman's Compensation Act.

Provide, progressively, free hospitalization and treatment for cancer, tuberculosis, polio, and arthritis.

Reduce administration costs of government and institute a "pay-as-you-go" policy.

Prevent waste in agriculture.

The convention was the most unorthodox ever held in B.C. Eight out of ten delegates had never been to a major political meeting before.

Confusion was inevitable, in spite of well-organized registration squad.

#### **ALL SINCERE**

First delegates lined up for their "Social Credit to win" cards at 8 a.m. By 11, newcomers were still pouring in.

There could be no doubting the sincerity of the delegates. Every man and woman paid his or her own way, with personal expenses, for up-country delegates often \$200 or more.

Proceedings got under way shortly before noon, with a singing in unison of "Oh, God Our Help in Ages Past."

Chairman Lyle Wicks introduced national leader Solon Low, and platform guests including Rev. E. G. Hansell, national president; Hon. David Ure, Alberta minister of agriculture.

#### **MAIN POINTS**

Throughout the platform it was apparent that Social Credit intended to bank heavily on its slogan "Social Credit means Good Government."

The 11 main points of the platform made the following pledges:

**FINANCE**—Pay as you go for government spending; debt reduction; reduce administration costs; seek provincial rights to income and corporation taxes (now collected by the Federal Government); monetary reform "in

accordance with the Social Credit belief that the creation of money is a right of the government alone."

**NATURAL RESOURCES**—Obtain fairer return from timber and other resources: "Alberta netted more than 10 percent of its gross timber product last year — British Columbia netted less than 1 per cent"; discourage monopolies in exploration and development of resources; develop long-range program of reforestation with favors to none.

**AGRICULTURE**: Encourage processing and distribution of all foodstuffs; eliminate waste; improve marketing legislation; encourage co-operatives; improve drainage and flood control.

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**: Encourage processing of raw materials within the province, through individual and private enterprise, but "always in the best interest of the people."

**PUBLIC UTILITIES**: "Revise policies governing control of public utilities so they will serve and function for the public."

**HEALTH AND WELFARE**: Abolish compulsory hospital insurance; provide progressively, free hospitalization and treatment for certain diseases; strive for increased old age pensions, social assistance, mothers' allowances and pensions for the blind; ask universal widows pensions.

**EDUCATION**: Free elementary and high school text books; "personalized tuition" in schools; free building plans for school boards; more grants to municipalities.

**PUBLIC WORKS**: Extend hard-surfaced arterial highways; modernize bridges, ferries, railways and roads as financing becomes available.

**LABOR**: Review ICA Act; re-construct Labor Relations Board; revise Workmen's Compensation Act.

**MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**: Review school tax problems with a view to reducing municipal burden; eliminate unfairness in taxation.

**ELECTORAL REFORM**: Eliminate multiple-member representation; introduce single transferable ballot.

There was no mention of sales tax reduction, lower automobile sales and insurance costs, or other policies the party's spokesmen had previously advocated.

# Social Credit Can 'Do Better in B.C.'

## Bennett Claims His Party Will Beat Alberta's Record

Alberta's record of good government can be bettered in British Columbia under Social Credit because B.C. has more natural resources, W. A. C. Bennett claimed at a Vancouver meeting Monday night.

Bennett, who crossed the floor of the Legislature from Conservative-Coalition ranks and later joined Social Credit, was joined in spirit by Mrs. Tillie Rolston, another former Conservative who signed up with Social Credit.

Her address was recorded in Vancouver General Hospital and played to the 275 people in Point Grey Junior High School.

### BEST GOVERNMENT

Bennett, South Okanagan MLA in the last Legislature, said he had studied all provincial governments across Canada, found good points in all but concluded that the Alberta government was "head and shoulders above the rest."

He confirmed the existence of a \$100,000 Social Credit election fund from Alberta, but said it had been raised from individual party supporters.

Bennett outlined his recommendations for hospital insurance, but said they were his personal opinions and not election promises.

He called for a voluntary hospital insurance plan, cancelling of arrears, and elimination of co-insurance.

Alberta's so-called "dollar-a-day" plan was recommended with government grants for hospitals.

### SCHOOL FUNDS

He urged a new method of school financing, one-year driver's licenses rather than the present five-year license and a

\$10 annual auto license for popular models.

All meals under \$1, children's clothes and medical items should be exempt from the sales tax, Bennett declared.

"Alberta, for all practical purposes is free of debt," he said, and "the increase of all municipal debt in Alberta is not as much as the increase for one certain city in B.C."



# Socred Policy Stated

## Voluntary Hospital Insurance Proposed

By GORDON FORBES  
Times Legislative Reporter

NEW WESTMINSTER, April 26—Abolition of compulsory hospital insurance was proposed today at the Social Credit Party's convention in New Westminster.

This is one of the main planks in the party's platform, which was drafted last year and kept under lock and key since.

The platform pledges that a Social Credit Government would replace compulsory hospital insurance with a voluntary system.

"Compulsion is unworkable and unpopular," the party contends.

The platform was presented this morning to the convention and will be discussed this afternoon.

### WIDER BENEFITS

It pledges that Social Credit would provide progressively free hospitalization and treatment for victims of T.B., polio and arthritis.

The hospital insurance phase of the platform is one of the few hard and fast planks. Most of the others are worded in general terms.

High on the platform list is a pledge to institute "the greatest possible extent" a pay-as-you-go policy in all provincial expenditures.

The party, if elected, would also embark on an accelerated program of debt reorganization and reduction.

The platform does not pledge removal of the 3% sales tax as reported in Vancouver earlier. Neither does it say the Social Credit Party would stop issuing forest-management licenses.

Platform calls for a drive for monetary reforms in accordance with the fundamental Social Credit belief that the creation of money is a right of government alone which should not be delegated to private monopoly.

Other platform planks include pledges to:

(1) Seek more beneficial working arrangements with the federal government in return for lease of provincial rights to income and corporation taxation,

(2) Secure a greater return to the people from the province's natural resources.

(3) Develop a long-range program of reforestation — with favors to none.

(4) Revise policies governing control of public utilities.

### FREE TEXT BOOKS

(5) Supply all elementary and high school text books free of charge.

(6) Increased grants to improve educational facilities.

(7) Accelerate extension of hard-surfacing of arterial highways.

(8) Reconstruct the present Labor Relations Board and modernize labor legislation.

(9) Establish a legislative committee to review periodically the Workmen's Compensation Act.

(10) Review land and school tax problems with a view to reducing the growing municipal tax burden.

# Socreds Cite Four Goals

BY THE REV. E. G. HANSELL  
Campaign Leader for the B.C. Social Credit League

In summing up Social Credit policies presented in the election campaign, and without going

separate and detailed ~~plans~~ against socialism, nationalization, we find they largely ~~fall~~ into several main principles.

1. Integrity of government administration. In order for prosperity to come to a province in a way that is acceptable to the people with trust and confidence, governments must be administered with honesty of purpose, keeping in mind at all times the welfare of our citizens. Patronage, favoritism, self-interest and bargaining or selling out of principles for money or blocks of votes or any other favors will never bring the people to a place of confidence in those upon whom they place the responsibility of managing their public affairs. Integrity of government is therefore all-important.

2. Elimination of compulsion: The principle of compulsion is against all human dignity. Men and women were never made to be driven around by any force or power or dictator in the driver's seat, nor to have bits put in their mouths, to be compelled to go this way or that at the will of a master driver, whether it be state or individual. Men and women

are above the animals of the field.

3. Free enterprise: We are against all forms of regimentation.

We believe that free enterprise and individual initiative based on right operative principles will bring prosperity to the people in a way that no other system can. We believe, too, that private enterprise based on right principles and governed by such laws as will prevent exploitation will guard against monopoly and bring to the people the results they want. We would encourage the development of our natural resources with a policy which would be equitable and fair to small as well as larger business.

4. Benefits to the people: We believe and have proclaimed that the wealth of a province belongs to its citizens and should be so administered as to give to the people their fair share of the wealth produced. This can be done by a system of royalties, leases and other forms of revenue which would be fair and just and that such revenue could be turned back to the people in the form of public works and social benefits. This would also mean the elimination of some forms of taxation and the reduction of other taxes.