

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

The political life in Alberta during 1967 and 1968 was interesting, yet baffling. During my many years in the active political life of Alberta, taking part in both provincial and federal elections on behalf of Social Credit candidates, I have never taken an election for granted. I had always believed that any election can turn out in the same way as can a horse race and that the long shot can occasionally place first. It was especially true in our provincial elections that after spending two or three weeks on the campaign trail I could forecast fairly accurately what the election results would be.

Over the years since 1935 I had come to know the leading and ardent Social Crediters throughout the length and breadth of Alberta and on every possible occasion made contact with as many as possible. So many of them were so dedicated to the Social Credit cause that they were able to convince the majority of voters in their respective areas that a vote for the Social Credit party was in their best interests.

Suddenly, however, these same people showed signs of confusion and began to ask whether or not we, as their leaders, had changed our minds concerning active participation for Social Credit candidates in Federal elections. They pointed to our failures to re-elect substantial numbers of Social Crediters following our total annihilation by the Diefenbaker forces in 1958, the apparent disagreement between Dr. Thompson and Mr. Caouette, the difference of opinion existing between Dr. Thompson and Mr. Bud Olsen, as the former joined the Conservative ranks and latter the Liberal, and the interpretation many placed upon Mr. Manning's book, "*Political Realignment, a Challenge to Thoughtful Canadians*". Not only were these dedicated supporters showing signs of confusion, but the same applied to members of the Legislature.

The first time I read Mr. Manning's book, I recalled that the Social Credit Board many years before had come to similar conclusions and had reported that the time was not too far distant when our people would have to choose between two ways of life and in the economic and political sphere they would be represented by socialism, totalitarianism, usually leading to Godless materialism on the one hand, and private enterprise with freedom of action and lack of bureaucracy on the other. As Social Crediters, the Board members had, naturally, advocated the second choice, but had argued strongly for the reforms in our monetary system which alone could bring about these desired results.

I therefore agreed entirely with Premier Manning's arguments, as any convinced Social Crediter has no alternative. That which is lacking, however, in Premier Manning's book are those dynamic arguments of which he is so capable in favor of monetary reform.

After relating on pages seventy-three, seventy-four and seventy-five the history of the Social Credit movement both in Alberta and British Columbia, and pointing out that only by establishing a strong Social Credit party in each province had we as governments been able to give to our people those benefits our respective economies could supply, Mr. Manning suggests on page seventy-six that Social Crediters should re-consider the position we had always taken concerning the running of Social Credit candidates Federally.

Two paragraphs on page seventy-six read as follows:

"In Alberta it is a well-known fact that in recent years large numbers of people have faithfully supported Progressive Conservative candidates federally and Social Credit candidates provincially. Either these people are totally inconsistent in their approach to federal and provincial politics, which certainly is not the case, or this voting pattern is an indication of the marked similarity between many basic principles and objectives of the Progressive Conservative party of Canada and the Social Credit movement of Alberta.

"This fact supports the conclusion that in the national field, the Social Credit party can make its maximum contribution to the furthering of its own ideals and principles and more importantly to the well-being of the country as a whole, by doing everything within its power to encourage and assist in bringing about an effective reorganization of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. Social Credit supporters, however, must insist that reorganization occur on a basis which will enable them, without sacrificing their convictions, to join with and support such a reconstructed national political movement."

It was undoubtedly this reasoning that explains why Mr. Schmidt attended the Thinkers' Conference in Montmorency.

Considering next the Liberal party policies, Mr. Manning writes on page seventy-nine: "In the absence of tangible evidence that the Liberal government recognized the degree of economic growth necessary to sustain these ever expanding social services, Canadians face the grim prospects of pyramiding public debt, drastic increases in taxation, and a steady decline in the value of the Canadian dollar. This present policy course, if continued, may well precipitate a serious financial crisis within the next few years."

While I agree entirely with this quotation, I am reminded at the same time that policies of the Progressive Conservative party have also resulted in the pyramiding of public debt, drastic increases in taxation and a steady decline in the value of the Canadian dollar. As a matter of fact, Mr. Manning has been, throughout his political career, an outstanding and much publicized champion of monetary reform, along the lines advocated by Major Douglas and has been known for his determined opposition toward the Liberal and Progressive Conservative parties, whom he has often described as differing only in name.

Under the heading "Consideration of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada" appear the following two paragraphs:

"At first glance, the Progressive Conservative Party may appear a very unlikely vehicle for the meaningful reorientation and reorganization of federal politics. At present, it is seriously divided over the leadership issue, extremely deficient in terms of positive policy and in a general state of internal dissension and unrest. The drastic decline in its popular public support since the general federal election of 1958 reflects the inadequacies of its policies and the detrimental effects which internal dissensions have had on the party's public image. Strained relations between the Progressive Conservative Party and French Canada, declining Conservative influence and support in urban Canada, and the vulnerability of the Party's position in Western Canada are further symptoms of serious internal deficiencies.

"The general deterioration of the Progressive Conservative party has reached the stage where its resurgence as a dynamic political force in Canada requires a complete rebuilding of the party in every respect. Faced with this inescapable necessity to rebuild, the Progressive Conservative Party possesses a unique opportunity to reconstruct in such a manner as to create the vehicle required for a basic reorganization of federal politics in Canada."

It was undoubtedly to present these arguments that Mr. Erick Schmidt and Mr. Preston Manning attended the Conservative Leadership Convention which chose Mr. Stanfield as the Progressive Conservative leader.

Knowing the leadership ability of Mr. Manning, I am sure the Progressive Conservative party stood only to gain had they invited him to become their Federal leader and placed him in the position where his known organizational abilities could be put to greatest use. I am aware that many influential Conservatives had hoped that this could be brought about, while others had very definitely opposed the suggestion. On one occasion, Mr. Peter Lougheed, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta, smilingly said: "I wish Mr. Manning would fight us rather than try to seduce us."

Ever since 1935 my name has been synonymous with Social Credit, and it is true to say that following the publication of Mr. Manning's book and the enthusiastic welcome it received from the daily press, I was contacted by literally hundreds of Social Crediters from coast to coast asking me, as a close associate of Mr. Manning's, how I could explain what to them appeared to be a total renunciation of the Federal Social Credit movement and his apparent acceptance of a party he had always denounced.

While I tried desperately to assure such enquirers that I was sure Mr. Manning's book was written in order to give Canadians the opportunity of realizing that there are but two alternatives, Social Credit with its sponsorship of individual and free enterprise based on the Christian ethic on the one hand, and socialism which leads inevitably to communism and Godless materialism on the other hand, it was difficult to dispel the confusion which existed.

Excerpts from articles appearing in the *Calgary Herald* July 21st, 1967, tell an interesting story.

MANNING BOOK URGES CONSERVATIVES 'UNITE'

Proposes Political Changes

by DON SELLAR, *Herald* Staff Writer

Premier E. C. Manning, with assistance from a right-wing, free-enterprise organization called the National Affairs Research Foundation, is publishing a book in which he throws his personal weight behind a federal conservative party.



Premier Manning with Foundation Head R. A. Brown, Jr.foundation assisted with forthcoming Manning book

In his dramatic 100-page book called *Political Realignment: A Challenge to Thoughtful Canadians*, Mr. Manning in effect discards federal Social Credit as such and makes the first concrete move toward achieving his long-standing call for federal political realignment in Canada.

- He asks Social Crediters to forget the possibility of their party ever becoming a national force;
- He calls on Socreds to support federal conservatism.
- He asks the Conservative party to adopt a new political philosophy he calls "social conservatism" and thus turn ideologically to the right so that the Canadian political spectrum will be broadened.

Mr. Manning's book, coming out shortly before he begins his 25th year as premier of Alberta, is the latest move in his long campaign on behalf of his social conservatism philosophy which has been evolved with the help of the National Public Affairs Research Foundation.

The organization's board of directors is headed by R. A. Brown, Jr., of Calgary, one of the most important members of Alberta's petroleum industry and a long-time personal friend of Mr. Manning.

The NPARF, whose activities were first revealed in a *Herald* story almost a year ago, has kept details of its studies under wraps while offering its services to any political organization which wants them.

The Manning book, keeping the emphasis on the individual as the primary source of production and as the main benefactor of economic activity, is believed to be an extension of the philosophy presented in the Alberta government White Paper on Human Resources Development. The white paper tabled in the House in March, was produced by Mr. Manning and a personal adviser, University of Alberta sociology student Erick Schmidt, in consultation with NPARF.

Another tie between Mr. Manning and the foundation is his 24-year-old son Preston, an honors economics graduate from U. of A. The younger Manning has been employed with the foundation on a full-time basis for more than a year.

The other major NPARF study—an attempt at formulating a comprehensive national public policy for Canada is being organized by Owen Anderson, a 23-year-old University of Alberta political science student.

Anderson and the younger Manning work for the foundation on a full-time basis, operating out of a downtown Edmonton office building.

The NPARF name isn't even painted on their door, and their office secretary contributes to the secrecy of their operation by answering the telephone with the phrase, "Preston Manning's office ... "

The NPARF, considered by many to be an outlet for Mr. Manning's political talents, operates on an unlimited budget, apparently provided by foundation directors.

Few of its employees know about all the research documents being prepared in such places as Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Edmonton because the work is being done in separate sections and assembled in Edmonton.

Mr. Anderson has been permitted to hire any number of persons to carry out his work, and now has about 19 researchers under him. Preston Manning, in writing his book, has travelled all over North America gathering information on technological change.

The federally-incorporated NPARF, in addition to having Home Oil president R. A. Brown, Jr. as president, includes on the board of directors Cyrus McLean, chairman of the B.C. Telephone Company, Vancouver; Renault St. Laurent, a lawyer and son of former Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent; Ronald Clarke, an Edmonton architect; R. J. Burns, prominent Calgary lawyer and A. M. Shoults, president of James Lovick Ltd., Toronto.

Alberta

DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS
 29-39, Mount Pleasant, London, W.C.1.
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Sheffield Telegraph
 Kemaley House, Sheffield.

Cutting from issue dated.....1.1 FEB 1948.....

**400,000 NEEDED
 IN ALBERTA**
Immigrants Welcomed

SHEFFIELD workers emigrating to Canada will find a welcome in Alberta. Mr. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Economic Affairs and Provincial Secretary for Alberta, told a "Sheffield Telegraph" reporter yesterday.

"In the next ten years," said Mr. Hooke, who was visiting Sheffield, "Alberta needs 400,000 immigrants. Single and married men, skilled and unskilled workers, are all assured of jobs.

"Coal and iron ore mining is being developed and a heavy steel industry will probably grow up."

Mr. Hooke, who was accompanied by Mr. H. A. McMullen, Agent-General for Alberta, visited steelworks in Sheffield and addressed a luncheon of the Economic League.

Mr. Hooke spent some of his boyhood in Rotherham. His family emigrated to Canada when he was eight.

Alberta

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 Telephone: CENTRAL 3149 (Two Lines).

The Recorder
 183, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Cutting from issue dated.....1.1 FEB 1948.....

DOCTORS GOING

IT is far easier to fly to Canada to live there than to get a ship to take you: a hundred of Great Britain's doctors want to go to the Province of Alberta alone, and some give Mr. Bevan's Bill as the reason, Mr. A. J. Hooke tells me. He is the Province's Minister for Economic Affairs, now visiting us, a slight, grey-haired, energetic man still in his forties.

He was interviewed lately by THE RECORDER when, at Grosvenor House in Park Lane, his telephone was only beginning to bombard him with calls from would-be emigrants.

AIR TREK

BY May, Mr. Hooke should have an air emigration system like Ontario's working from Britain. The fare will be more than Ontario's £67, Ontario being in the East and Alberta in Canada's Middle West. Letters about moving to Canada have reached him in thousands, he says.

The new air trek headquarters will be in Hill Street, in London's West End — Alberta House, which Mr. Hooke has leased for 25 years.

It has a Toronto office run by former federal Social Credit organizer David R. Wilson. Most of the directors are known to have personal ties with Premier Manning.

Before the Federal election of 1968, it was obvious that very little effort would be made by Social

Crediters to field Social Credit candidates in many constituencies of Alberta. The annual Social Credit convention in the fall of 1967 had accepted by resolution the social Conservative concept advocated in Mr. Manning's book and following that decision, the Alberta Social Credit League discontinued active participation in federal campaigns, nevertheless giving support however, to a local organization if indeed, a candidate were encouraged to run.

Dr. Thompson sought and received the Conservative nomination in the Red Deer constituency and with the backing of the strong Social Credit vote always prominent in that area, he was elected. This seemed to be in keeping with the ideas Mr. Manning was promoting, as he commented that there would now be a voice for Social Credit in the Progressive Conservative caucus in Ottawa.

About this time, rumors were rampant that Premier Manning intended to resign from active political work in the Province and that a new leader would be chosen to take his place. This rumor was undoubtedly the most poorly kept secret of all time, despite Mr. Manning's insistence that when the time came that he wished to retire, it would be he, and not the newspapers who would so inform the public. Naturally, several cabinet ministers commenced polishing their armor and made it known, also "secretly" that they were in the running. By the time Premier Manning made his official announcement, several names were mentioned prominently as possible successors. One Minister, Mr. Strom, had, in fact, opened a campaign headquarters in the Coachman Hotel several months before the official announcement and his campaign was being promoted and supported by several of the young sociologists whose names appeared in the *Calgary Herald* article to which I have referred. The official announcement of Premier Manning's resignation was not released to the press, however, until September 27, 1968. Four quotations from it are worthy of note:

"This has not been a hasty decision on my part. It is a matter to which I have given much careful consideration for several years."

I am aware that Mr. Manning had expressed as far back as 1963 his desire to retire from the Provincial field and to devote full time in the federal field. His Cabinet colleagues, however, of which I was one, could not conceive of an Alberta Social Credit government without Mr. Manning's leadership and urged him to reconsider what appeared to be almost a decision.

"The official opposition is weak and immature and has demonstrated no capacity to generate meaningful alternative policies or to present either challenge or threat to the continuation of sound, constructive government."

There is no doubt that this statement is correct and as I see the situation today I see no difference whatsoever in the policies followed by the Strom government and those advocated by the Conservative opposition. The Strom policies have already, at the time of this writing, resulted in a direct provincial debt of about one hundred and fifty million dollars, a debt which, according to Mr. Strom's own statement to me in his office in December of 1970, carries an interest rate of as high as nine per cent. The Conservatives could do no worse, unless their borrowings were greater.

"I do not propose to nominate or endorse anyone candidate as my successor. The choice properly should and will be the responsibility of a truly representative and democratically conducted leadership convention. I regret very much the premature speculation about my retirement and possible successor and know how repugnant this has been to my cabinet colleagues, whose names have been bandied about by the news media."

It is true that Mr. Manning did not nominate anyone candidate as his successor, but the actions of the younger men who worked closely with him, indicated clearly the endorsement of Mr. Strom. I had been told as early as the mid-summer of 1968 by old-time Social Crediters that they had been approached and asked to support the candidacy of Mr. Strom for the position of Leader of the Alberta Social Credit party. I had replied to many that Mr. Manning had not stated that he was retiring and had asked how they could know so far ahead of time what we who worked most closely with him did not know. I must confess at this time that we as Cabinet Ministers were aware of Mr. Manning's intentions but certainly would not make a statement which we believed to be the prerogative of only Mr. Manning.

"I am not asking to be relieved of the Premiership to retire to a life of inactivity and ease. I have made this decision because I believe the time has come when new leadership can be beneficial to the Government and the people of Alberta, and also because I believe I can now contribute more towards resolving the serious problems of our times by applying in other and broader fields the knowledge and experience gained through one-third of a century of active involvement in public affairs."

The Royal Commission was headed by Mr. Justice Kirby and the report of his findings had become known to the public on November 4, 1968. As in previous Royal Commissions, the Social Credit government had been completely exonerated and so far as Mr. Hinman and I were concerned, we, too, had received from the Honourable Mr. Justice Kirby complete exoneration of charges which had been made by Mr. Turcott.

I received a call from Premier Manning telling me that he had spent an hour or more with Mr. Justice Kirby and that he was extremely happy with the Judge's findings. He told me that His Lordship had found that neither Mr. Hinman nor I had taken advantage of our respective offices in order to benefit ourselves and that he thought the government should now prepare to make an appropriate statement to the news media. He asked me to come to his office about four o'clock, as he was calling a short Cabinet meeting to decide the course of action to be followed in making the Kirby findings known to the public.

As I was about to hang up the receiver, I thought I heard him speak again and placing the receiver to my ear, heard him say: "By the way, Alf, I hope there is no truth in the rumors I read in the press and hear on the radio—that you may toss your name into the ring in the leadership race." I replied that I had not made up my mind whether to do so or not but that I was being urged by Social Crediters from all corners of the province to do so. He volunteered that he could quite understand that many old time Social Crediters, knowing me as they did, would expect me to run for the leadership but he suggested that as a personal friend of so many years he would advise me strongly not to do so. This advice was in keeping with his previous statement to me that I should follow his example, leave the provincial political scene and let the other fellows create a new image.

The Cabinet meeting lasted about ten minutes, during which Mr. Manning read the appropriate sentences from the Kirby report in which both Mr. Hinman and I had been completely exonerated of any wrong doing. The ministers shook my hand and congratulated me as though I had been spared from the gallows and I left the office determined that I would at least allow my name to go forward at the leadership convention, now only a month away.

During this convention, the Social Credit members assembled agreed to a resolution which a few years earlier would have never been tolerated—that of agreeing to support in federal elections those candidates of other parties they believed came most closely to representing and fostering the Social Credit viewpoint.

After delivering my address I retired from the leadership race, knowing perfectly well that the convention was, in effect, a Social Conservative one and there seemed little doubt that Mr. Strom, a strong supporter of Social Conservatism, would be elected.

I indicated to the convention that I would support the Honourable Ray Reiersen. I did so, not because I believed him to be any more conversant with Social Credit than was Mr. Strom, but I did know from my association with him in the Cabinet, that he possessed in abundance that old-fashioned thing we crudely call "guts" and I felt that he could be rightly convinced of the monetary reform proposals of Social Credit, and that he would fight both provincially and federally for their implementation.

Mr. Strom won the election on the second count. Being always more concerned with the implementation of Social Credit than I was with personalities, I shook hands with the winner, congratulated him and assured him that I would help him in every way possible to become a real success in his premiership.

Referring again to statement number four of Premier Manning in which he said: "I believe I can now contribute more towards resolving the serious problems of our times by applying in other and broader fields the knowledge and experience gained through one-third of a century of active involvement in public affairs", I believed that his efforts would be devoted to bringing into being a government in Ottawa determined to advance the principles of Social Credit. I could not, even in my wildest thoughts, bring myself to believe that the man I worshipped almost as a saint could do anything else.

In February, 1969, the daily papers carried a story which I am sure surprised every Social Creditor. The ex-Social Credit Premier of Alberta, Honourable E. C. Manning, who throughout his political career had condemned in every way orthodox banking, had been appointed as a Director on the Board of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. I was only one of thousands who could not believe what I read.

The first Legislative Session under the Premiership of Mr. Strom was in progress and I was invited to tea in the cafeteria by the Honourable Gordon Taylor. He asked me what I thought of the newspaper story

and before I could reply, he stated: "As far as I am concerned, Alf, this is the last straw. I cannot believe a true Social Crediter could accept such an appointment." My mind went back to 1952 when the Honourable N. E. Tanner, upon his retirement, accepted a similar position with the Dominion Bank and how shocked and concerned Mr. Manning himself was.

I should like to say at this juncture that I can well understand why companies would desire to have the name of Mr. Manning connected with them because it is always true that companies search for people of prestige to place upon their directorates. What I could not understand, however, was that Mr. Manning would accept an invitation to become the Director of a bank, when he had spent most of his lifetime condemning orthodox financial policies. I have been surprised, however, at the number of people who maintain that they have been Social Crediters since 1935, yet now they were extremely happy to realize that the banks had at last recognized the error of their ways to the point where they would invite Mr. Manning to direct their policies in Christian channels.

Throughout the years of my close association with Mr. Manning, I was always happy to see honors conferred upon him, whether they took the form of honorary degrees, banquets or tangible gifts and certainly I could well understand his acceptance of the invitations in 1969 to become a Director of Stelco of Canada, Pacific Western Airlines, Manufacturers Life Insurance Company, Melton's Real Estate and in 1970 Alberta Gas Trunk and Underwood and McLellan. One other appointment, however disturbed me, mainly on account of its timing.

We, as a government, had long been concerned about the lack of a direct outlet to the Pacific Coast for the products of the Peace River Country. When the opportunity came for us to secure in Japan a large market for our coal, the Grande Cache coal deposit south of Grande Prairie came into prominence, following which our government spent millions of dollars to build a railroad which would service the Peace River country and the Grande Cache area and would give us the direct outlet to the Pacific Coast we had dreamed of for many years.

Our political opponents accused us of spending millions of dollars to subsidize McIntyre Porcupine, the company which would develop the Grande Cache deposit. This was vehemently denied by Premier Manning and the Cabinet and with that stand I heartily agreed. However, the thing which shocked Social Crediters and has lent too much credence to the Conservative party statement is the fact that even before the Grande Cache line (known as the Alberta Resources Railway) was officially opened, the announcement was made in the press that Mr. Manning had been appointed a director of McIntyre Porcupine. It has always seemed to me that a man of Mr. Manning's wisdom and talents and political acumen would have at least delayed his acceptance of such an appointment until the first boxcar of coal was on its way to Japan.

Mr. Manning had always been known to oppose vehemently the policies of Prime Minister Trudeau, branding them to be completely socialistic and therefore dangerous to the welfare of the people of Canada. His acceptance, therefore, on October 7, 1970 of a Senatorship at the invitation of Prime Minister Trudeau has again added to the confusion he seems to have developed in the minds of so many people who, such as I had always been, believed him to be almost a saint and had, to use an outworn expression, worshipped the ground on which he walked.

I have referred back in some of my notes to statements of Mr. Manning's, with which I had heartily agreed, in which he had referred to the Senate as an expensive and useless appendage, or as a glorified old age pension society, and to Senators themselves as a group of animated tomb stones.

Since the break between Dr. Robert Thompson and Réal Caouette and the subsequent joining of the Conservative party by Robert Thompson, Réal Caouette has worked untiringly from coast to coast to spread the Social Credit doctrine and has, in effect, been carrying out the type of program Mr. Aberhart himself envisaged years ago. Genuine Social Crediters of Alberta, including Members and some Cabinet Ministers, have supported his efforts. Under his leadership, a Federal Social Credit organization has been established in every Province of Canada. Naturally, it would be expected that every Provincial Social Credit organization would assist him, especially when it has always been stated by Provincial leaders, Mr. Manning being the most vocal advocate, that Social Credit candidates must be elected to office in Ottawa.

The federal organization, remembering that August 22, 1935 was the date of the great victory which brought the first Social Credit government in the world into office, arranged to hold a Convention in Edmonton August 21st and 22nd, 1970 and to designate August 22nd as Aberhart day. This decision was announced as early as October, 1969 and radio announcements, newspaper stories and broadcasts made these facts known throughout the length and breadth of the province. Invitations were sent out to the many

Social Crediters who had been federal members or provincial members throughout the years, whose whereabouts were known. Naturally, the man whose name came to the forefront was that of Mr. Aberhart's protégé and successor, ex-Premier Manning.

On May 1st and May 2nd, a Conference had been called by the Alberta Social Credit League, known as the Premier's Conference. It was well attended by the Social Credit members of the Legislature and members of the Provincial Social Credit organization. I took advantage of the opportunity to speak enthusiastically about the forthcoming Convention on August 21st and 22nd and invited one and all to be present. At the same meeting members of the Social Credit League Executive outlined the program the League intended to carry out during the year. No mention was made of any celebration they had planned or anticipated for August 22nd.

We of the federal movement were shocked some time later to read in the press and hear on the radio that the Alberta Social Credit League had decided to hold celebrations of their own on August 22nd. It became obvious that rather than a co-operative effort, there was definite hostility being shown by the Alberta Social Credit League to the federal movement. It became more evident as one reads the correspondence which passed between Mr. Martin Hattersley, the President of the federal movement in Alberta and ex-Premier Manning. These letters speak for themselves.

"July 28th, 1970

"Mr. J. M. Hattersley,
President,
Federal Social Credit Rally,
Alberta Branch,
P.O. Box 5738,
Edmonton, Alberta.

"Dear Martin:

"I have for acknowledgement your letter of July 13th. On August 21st and 22nd I will be in Banff to fulfil a long standing commitment to address an International Conference. I therefore, will not be available on the dates of your Edmonton programs.

"Frankly I have difficulty believing that the Federal Social Credit Rally sincerely desires to have me identified with its activities, in view of the statement made by its Leader and his associates that I am not a genuine Social Creditor but rather have been a hindrance to the cause. I fear it will not go unnoticed that some of those now seeking to exploit Mr. Aberhart's memory made the same false accusations against him when he was alive.

"I can only assume that the invitation to me was motivated by a wish to avoid the embarrassment of the public wondering why I was not included, after having been responsible for the Social Credit Movement and Government in Alberta for over twenty-five years. My absence from Edmonton on the dates of your Meetings should remove this concern.

Yours truly,
Ernest C. Manning"

and Mr. Hattersley's reply:

"Hon. Ernest C. Manning, P.C., C.C.
P.O. Box 2317,
Edmonton, Alberta.

"Dear Mr. Manning:

"Many thanks for your letter of July 28th. I fully realize that you do have other commitments, and am sorry that you will not find it possible to be with us.
"Might I also say that this regret is genuine? The idea seems to have got around that the Rally exists for no other purpose than to embarrass the Social Credit League, and the result of all this seems to have

been some quite remarkable contortions by the League on this subject of this Aberhart celebration. I hope it does not mean that we will all end up with egg on our faces! A demonstration that all who describe themselves as Social Crediters were prepared to pull together, on the basis of the principles on which Social Credit first came into political power, would do the Social Credit cause a great deal of good at a time when it needs all the help it can get. Strom does have to face an election very soon, and some sort of credible effort in the Federal field is important if we are to get workers to work and voters to vote for something other than Conservatism, which (in the public mind) Peter Lougheed can provide better than the present administration.

"There is a great deal more on this subject that I could say, but I think it would be best saved for a personal discussion, if you would care to spare time for this some time in the future. In the meantime, we will do our best to endeavour to stage 'Hamlet' without the Prince of Denmark!

Sincerely,
J. M. Hattersley"

Since December of 1968 I have devoted much time to taking the Social Credit message from coast to coast and I have been amazed at the changed attitude of the public in favor of Social Credit principles. The Social Credit movement is stronger than ever before and the present leadership of Mr. Réal Caouette is being welcomed everywhere.

As I look back over more than thirty-five years of public service, twenty-six of which were spent in six portfolios of government, I realize more than ever the necessity for those changes in our economy so strongly advocated and fought for by Mr. Aberhart until his untimely death, and subsequently by Mr. Manning for many years.

Regardless of the changes in technology and the advancement of our scientific knowledge, there is yet to be undertaken in no uncertain way the battle of the people versus the money power. For many years I had believed that that battle would be undertaken and successfully completed by the Honourable Mr. Manning.

For many years people throughout the length and breadth of Alberta have held an annual cavalcade to the Kootenay Plains west of Rocky Mountain House on the occasion of the long August 1st weekend holiday. Many members of the Legislature, some of the House of Commons, together with Cabinet Ministers, attend and take part in the festivities.

On the occasion of this meeting in the fall of 1969, Dr. Robert Thompson, who by this time had become the Conservative Member of Parliament for the constituency of Red Deer, invited me to spend some time with him upon the mountainside and during a three-hour period unburdened himself to me.

I was already aware of several happenings he described which had upset him greatly, but I had never, until then, heard any of the details he supplied concerning several things which had happened over the years, resulting in his switch to the Conservative party. The fact which startled me most was his telling me that he had been told by Mr. Strom, while they were at church together, as early as the spring of 1968 that I would not be invited into the Strom Cabinet after he became Premier. This revelation was made known to Dr. Thompson, therefore, many months before Mr. Manning announced his intention to retire.

Mr. Strom had by this time sat as Premier through one Session of the Legislature and had, on one occasion, gone out of his way to thank me for the co-operation I had given him when he had, in fact, feared that he would have incurred my open opposition. He also indicated to me, on a subsequent occasion, that the most difficult thing he had ever been called upon to do was to leave me out of his Cabinet, saying at the time; "Alf, I was left with no alternative."

As I sit and reflect upon those many things I might have done in the interest of this great humanitarian movement, had I not been so tied to Cabinet duties, I recall the words of Cardinal Wolsey to Cromwell in Shakespeare's Henry VIII when he said:

"Had I but served my God with half the zeal
I served my King, He would not in mine age
Have left me naked to mine enemies."

and Cromwell's reply:

"Good sir, have patience."

Had I but served the Social Credit movement with half the zeal I served my Premier, this Province and this country would have today been much farther along the road to economic security with freedom for all.

I recommend the words of Cromwell to every loyal Canadian, as certainly patience, cool headedness, determination and dedication will yet take us to that goal which can guarantee to every Canadian the right to enjoy the economic abundance this great country can produce and develop his individual talents as God Almighty exhorted him to do.

In praying for the welfare of our country, I cannot, in concluding this book, do better than repeat the words of Josiah Gilbert Holland, who, in 1872, in his poem "Wanted" stated:

"God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands,
Men whom lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor; men who will not lie."