

Ontario Social Credit Ass'n.,
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Dear Friends,

Just a week ago now it was that anyone would have found me in the midst of a modern day Marathon of sorts. Between business and the desire to attend the "Brainstorming Conference" in Ottawa last Saturday, I was caught in a 41 hour round of hard physical work, and only one hours sleep. I'm including this little side light not just to tell you how tough a young man I am nor how greatly I desire to add to my gray hairs, but to illustrate the importance which I and many others attach to the propagation of the Social Credit Movement.

But for all my efforts I was still an hour and a half late for the start of the Conference. Mr Low had been thru the better part of his address by then, though it was not hard to pick up the thread of his talk. He did not dwell too long on the perennial problem of the errors in our electoral representation system. Other matters, - the chance to take stock, - to find ways that will be more successful in giving Social Credit more favourable publicity, or even more publicity of any kind, - to work from the realization that past methods have not been successful enough in "educating" people re. our Policy, - the Conservative Leader was never "logical" in his utterances, maybe that was our mistake and we should play on the peoples' emotions in a sort of "Three ring Circus" type of appeal mixed with logic in order to sway people more, - the fact that there were more versions of Social Credit than he had ever heard before, pointed up the necessity of thoroughly publicizing and getting over "What is Social Credit" and what S Cr does in Parliament, - all these were considered before Mr Low turned to future plans.

The secret of the success of the Conservative drive would seem to have been "personal contact", and while other parties may have more Radio & T V time in future, this will not substitute for "Personal Contact". Even at the Personal contacts cannot teach, but can only help people to learn. A convert may be defined as one who would convert another, and if each member of the Movement now could make one convert in 6 months, there would be 6 million of us in 4 years. It is an interesting calculation surely, but how many of us have ever had even one clear cut conversion to the movement in years, much less in 6 months. Personally I know of only one who is now a staunch supporter because of my efforts in the 3 years I've been at it. (And that fellow lives down in Bougainville!!) But then as Shakespear said, "The good men do lives after us" - so may it be with us.

However business is afraid of the future, - East & West the same, - the rise in production costs (which of course is the stuff of which sale prices are made) and the ever increasing "gap" between these and the level of the wages - come-buying-power of the consumers, - all constitute a problem to which we Social Crediters must not meet with a mere 1/2 hearted effort. That "gap" can be filled only with Social Credit, call it what you wish.

Alberta is still the "one political guiding light in Canada." There 90% of the Provincial resources belong to Alberts Citizens, - something which no other province in Canada can say nor even the National Gov't., - yet it is something which is quite possible should any political party implement Social Credit policy. Edmonton & Calgary cities both "old line party" in their Municipal gov'ts., have had no less than 90 millions of dollars put into their laps by the Alberts S Cr gov't as out right gifts, from general revenues of the Provincial Gov't including the revenues from oil royalties, - something which no other Old line Provincial Gov't has been able to do, much less the paying of an oil dividend to their citizens. It cost the Progressive Conservative Gov't 20 million dollars for the last election, much of which certainly came from contracting companies who now expect "kick-backs" in the form of fat "public works" contracts. All this is common knowledge among all the old line parties, yet Social Credit, appealing as it does to the best and finest in men, led by a preacher of the Christian Gospel in Alberta, has never deviated from the fair and square means of campaign fund raising, - voluntary contributions.

Yet we must face facts. Even in Alberta where the Social Credit has brought higher benefits to the people regardless of political leanings, and has climbed to the position where it is the ONLY GOV'T IN THE WORLD WHERE THEIR TREASURY RESERVES ARE GREATER THAN THE DEBT THEY INHERITED and all this without raising taxes nor borrowing, even here Orthodox Financial Propoganda is spreading the slogan; "It is time for a change!" And they don't mean a change to complete freedom from the enslavement of Debt that is the goal of S Cr., but rather a retrograde change back to the old Debt and death system of Gov't borrowing and enslavement to the private Banking interests.

Following Mr Low there came a panel discussion on "How to take the next Federal Election". Truth to tell this discussion was a bit disappointing, because there were but few ideas given that were different or better, and the participants seemed unenthusiastic. But then we all cannot be orators,

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We were told to combine eloquence with logic, - to exploit errors in Gov't operation and to talk up these from the Social Credit point of view, - as a move toward better publicity, to send details of meetings to Press & Radio before hand, - in consideration of the monetary angle, we were told we must make it understandable to ordinary people, making it a "natural simple objective", - to show that money and economics are not an "un-exact" science, but that our scientific approach is exact and trust worthy, - in retrospect we were reminded that although the Conservative Gov't went in with a landslide, it was still the same sort of Gov't against which the veterans had reacted in Liberal guise, so that accordingly with the unchanged Gov't policy, problems will remain unchanged and reaction will come again, - for that we must prepare basing our organization and publicity on the individual first, and then the groups so that all groups will work in selfless cooperation with the others, - candidates should be nominated one year ahead of time. Well there you are the outline of what the Panel Leaders said, and actually there are many good points there, perhaps it was with the presentation of them that I was disappointed, or maybe with the general discussion that followed.

There was no use trying to keep track of the discussion, I think that some Orthodox Financial devil must have gotten into us, because we wasted all of an hour and a half discussing whether or what we should change the name Social Credit to, with no result naturally. It was the most foolish thing to take time on, since people have argued about it ever since the day of Major Douglas himself 40 years ago. With all the points in the Panels' presentation to discuss, practically nothing was said.

The Presidents of the Ontario and Quebec S Cr Ass'ns spoke in turn, from their words we learned or were reminded that the union of the Labour Unions with a political Party like the C C F is but following the pattern of infiltration of Socialist-Communist political power into positions of arbitrary control. - There must be first a clarification of the Douglas analysis, and then a unity of understanding on the part of all the Provincial Ass'ns. before there can be any progress. This is so because the Social Credit is primarily a Monetary Reform Movement, something which only the Federal Gov't can implement and then only with the help of the Provincial Ass'ns. That is, we can win Federally only with Provincial Ass'n help.

Mr Low made an outspoken pronouncement to satisfy one member, to the effect that Social Crediters most definitely are not "Anti Semic". He went on to point out just what the definition of Semic was and how that Social Credit is such an all inclusive Movement that it would make possible harmonious living among all creeds and races of men.

But there seemed such an endless stream of words and the meeting was drawing to a close, that I feared I would never hear the end of the useless discussion of organizational matters on which there was no real contention. After all, I thought, the real flesh and blood of S Cr is its policy, what it stands for. It is but a "baby" yet, delicately fleshed and with a small bloodstream. Yet there we were building an organizational skeleton fit for a giant. Had we forgotten that the "flesh" of our "baby" would never cover that sort of skeleton and survive??? The first and foremost requirement was to "fatten up" our "baby" with the clear cut simple natural objective the policy, the motive, accepted and learned by more and more people. I burst out with words to the effect that here we were arguing about the name of a "rose" when the country did not know how sweet it smelled by any name at all. No wonder they confuse it with Socialism, because they don't know what it does mean. Why even the Russians know that its the anti-thesis of Socialism. More's the need there fore to discuss "policy" until every last one of us knows it pure and simple.

Mr Low answered me then and to the assembly, and later afterwards to myself and some of the others individually. It is a well aired matter apparently, this necessity of the clarification of "What is Social Credit". But west there were many and long debates about it. I wished I had been able to sit in on these, but then all things are not possible. But I was reassured that there would be no stuffy adherence to the outmoded "A plus B theorem" but rather a clear cut simple explanation of not only the fact of the "need" for Social Credit, but a detailed explanation of how it would be put to work, step by step. Mr Low was given the task of composing all this into book form, as well as the publishing of it in pamphlet form. It should be sent out to all leaders and members starting about July next.

So while I have not the actual terms of this simplified or clarified statement of Social Credit policy as I told you in the Last Bulletin, should come from this Brainstorming Conference, still it is on its way.

But now I see my space is gone, many of you have heard from Ottawa directly about the program planned, and now you have my report too. Cheerio and all the Best from your District Director, Yours truly,

Wesley W. Leonard