

Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Party: NDP

Election Year: 1967.

AA = Alberta Alliance

CON = Conservative Party

LP = Liberal-Progressive Party

PC = Progressive Conservative Party

SKP = Saskatchewan Party

UFM = United Farmers of Manitoba

CCF = Cooperative Commonwealth Federation

LB = Liberal Party

NDP = New Democratic Party

SC = Social Credit

UFA = United Farmers of Alberta

WCC = Western Canadian Concept

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AB = Alberta
SK = Saskatchewan
MB = Manitoba

UoFA = University of Alberta
UoC = University of Calgary
UoR = University of Regina
UoS = University of Saskatchewan
UoM = University of Manitoba
BU = Brandon University

PARC = Provincial Archives
LBG = Legislative Library
SPC = Special Collections
ULIB = University Library

PROVINCIAL PROGRAM

OF

THE ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

AS

AMENDED BY THE CONVENTION

1964 - 1965 - 1966

BY THE

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

NORMAN DOLMAN, ROY JAMHA, GRANT NOTLEY

THE PURPOSE AND NEED

Here is a Provincial Legislative Program which puts the interests of the majority of the people in Alberta ahead of the interests of the few.

This political economic program will give the people of Alberta an interest in and some control over the development of their natural resources. It is a Provincial fiscal program that will put Alberta's potential and fiscal reserve to work for Albertans in a planned manner. Its implementation is an immediate necessity since it embraces full employment, alleviation of the tax burden on the residents and elimination of the cost-price squeeze for the farmer. Albertans will be assured of economical power for industrial and residential consumption; an equitable share in the petroleum industry; the opportunity to sustain a competitive agricultural industry as well as benefiting from an equitable Provincial-Municipal tax sharing program.

A New Democratic Government would discontinue the pious hand-out approach to the basic affairs of Albertans. Albertans would be assured of "planned progress" through the institution of an Economic Advisory Council Representative of all basic interests in the Province inclusive of Agriculture, Commerce, Industry, Labour and the Consumer. The Power resources could be re-organized and extended in such a manner as to lower costs and to allow all areas of consumption to benefit therefrom.

A New Democratic Party Provincial Government would place the earning power of such an important resource as our Petroleum Industry to the greatest advantage to Albertans. The Government would safeguard petroleum reserves for the people of Alberta and provide them with an opportunity to partake of the development and the resulting benefits.

1. AGRICULTURE

The Alberta New Democratic Party will make available to the farmers the benefits of public service and utilities that are normally available to city residents. This will be accomplished by:

1. A plan to provide, at cost, water and sewer installations.
2. Development of electric power as a public utility. (Farmers will share the benefits of lower installation costs and rates).
3. Provide special differential grants to rural municipalities to ensure that teachers' salaries will always be competitive with those of urban areas. This should guarantee a fair share of qualified teachers for the rural communities so that proper education of rural youth will not suffer. (Special Bursaries for those wishing to take advanced training in Agriculture).

The New Democratic government will provide real leadership and co-operation with organized farmers to continue improvement in production and marketing techniques.

1. Improved and extended research in soil testing, plant breeding and livestock improvement.
2. Extend and/or increase crop insurance coverage by contributing to the premium cost.
3. Establish a machine testing bureau to provide impartial information and data on farm machinery.

4. Work with organized farmers to develop new and improved marketing machinery. Provide improved legislation for the purpose of holding plebiscite on marketing boards.

A New Democratic government would provide a Provincial budget that would recognize the importance of Agriculture to the total economy of the Province. The present budget of approximately 1.3% is not a fair measure of this worth.

In addition, immediate research into the adequacy and fairness of present application of property taxes needs to be undertaken.

Crown lands still unoccupied should not be opened for settlement until a proper plan of settlement is arranged and provision made for each settler to have adequate finances and/or assistance for some assurance of success. A similar plan should be prepared in conjunction with the Crown Credit Corporation to re-establish those people presently occupying crown lands who are in financial difficulty.

Since there is no possibility at the present time for the farmer to sell his products on world markets at a price which would give him financial equality with the industrial worker, and since the farmer should pay the same wages to labourers as industry, a New Democratic government would do everything possible to assist the farmer to obtain a new minimum income of \$3,000.00 per year.

INDUSTRY

Alberta, along with the other prairie provinces of Western Canada, needs a dynamic approach toward supplementing its economy through industrial expansion. Alberta has among its natural resources petroleum, gas, water-power, coal and iron. This is a substantial basis upon which to build profitable secondary industries within the province.

In order to develop our industrial potential for the benefit of the people in this province, as Alberta New Democratic Party government will:

1. Institute a plan of intermediate and long term low cost credit to small growing industries and offer assistance in planning and promotion of these industries;
2. Plan the promotion of co-operative enterprises in areas of need;
3. Enact such labour, industrial and other legislation that will provide the necessary impetus for the development of industry and commerce in Alberta;
4. Support federal incentive measures designed to increase Canadian ownership of industry and maintain a continuing study of the status of natural resources in Alberta, with a view to securing and maintaining control of all natural resources in Canadian hands where they have not already been lost, and of restoring control to Canadian hands where control has been alienated by present and previous governments;
5. Revise the companies and securities laws to provide:
 - (a) That an effective majority of shares in all new companies incorporated and/or registered in Alberta must be owned by citizens of Canada
 - (b) that all new issued of voting shares of companies incorporated in Alberta must be offered first to Albertans, then to citizens of Canada as a whole and, finally, the world market.
 - (c) the utmost protection for the small investor
6. Oppose export of Canadian water and instead make continuing studies for the maximum utilization of this water in Canada in general, and in Alberta in particular; and
7. Initiate experiments of shared labour-management control in selected public corporations on an experimental basis with the object of devising techniques to eliminate industrial warfare and increase the dignity of employees at all levels in the corporate structure.

A New Democratic Provincial Government will give immediate consideration to a maximum development of

1. electric power production;
2. petrochemical industry and allied research;
3. pulp, paper and lumber, with emphasis on assisting the small operator;
4. fertilizer and other farm chemicals;
5. development of a primary steel industry in Alberta under public auspices;
6. the Alberta fishing industry; and
7. coal by-products plants if feasibility studies indicate their practicability.

3. TRANSPORTATION

While recognizing that such a move would have to be undertaken by the Federal government, a Provincial New Democratic government would press the Federal government to nationalize the Canadian Pacific Railroad, its allied transportation system and its many subsidiaries.

In order to achieve a more efficient trucking system in Alberta, a New Democratic government would institute:

1. A system of trucking Franchises.
2. A system of Filled Maximum Rates.

Such a system of Franchises would be based on necessity and convenience. They would of course be subject to reservations, eg. Farmers, private haulage of certain bulk commodities, etc. Before a system of franchises is introduced, there will be due consultation with the trucking industry, individual truckers and the Teamsters Union.

4. PUBLIC UTILITIES

Public utilities, by their very nature, must be operated as monopolies in order to avoid duplication of expensive facilities and to maximize efficiency. Since it is contrary to the public interest to guarantee a profit to a private monopoly, all public utilities in Alberta shall be placed under public ownership. Compensation to private owners will be in terms of paid up capital.

Electricity power, which is a natural monopoly, shall be placed under public ownership. Farmers who have paid exorbitant power installation costs shall be reimbursed and future installations shall be provided at reasonable cost. The development of coal burning thermal units for electric power in the coal mining areas will be encouraged as economic aids to these depressed areas, and as an added source of power for industry and domestic use.

All consumer public utility natural gas companies shall be placed under public ownership and a sales tax will be levied on exported gas to subsidize lower gas prices to Alberta consumers. This will provide domestic and industrial consumers with a cheaper source of energy not subject to foreign pricing, and any profits made would be used to pay for necessary public welfare services.

5. OIL AND GAS POLICY

It is in the interest of the people of Alberta to implement an oil and gas policy with the following main objectives:-

- (a) The maximum possible revenue for the public treasury;
- (b) The maximum possible conservation of oil and gas; and
- (c) The minimum possible domination of the industry by a few giant corporations, particularly those under foreign ownership.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Alberta New Democratic Party Government will:

1. Develop the Athabasca Tar Sands through a crown corporation, and place all existing private development projects under crown ownership;
2. Increase royalties on the production of oil and gas from conventional fields, introduce a royalty bidding system in addition to the existing cash bid system for sale of crown leases and implement a two percent road allowance tax;
3. Demand an oil pipe line to Montreal, in order to supply the entire domestic market with Canadian crude, and aggressively strive to expand market for oil in foreign countries;
4. Reform the Right of Entry Arbitration Board and the Expropriation Procedure Act to assure fair dealing for the owners of surface rights in connection with the exploration and development of the oil and gas industry. This reform would include a provision for rental payments on pipeline rights of way;
5. Supply government aid through the Department of Co-operatives, to expand the existing Co-operative Oil Refineries of Regina into Alberta, or establish a separate similar integrated producer-consumer co-operative oil company in Alberta for the purpose of reducing the price of gasoline to the consumer;
6. Examine the oil and gas allowable systems and make suitable changes which would provide the smaller operators with a fair share of the oil and gas market and stimulate the development of all commercial oil and gas pools;
7. Terminate the practice of permitting tariff charges consisting of operating costs and plant and gathering system amortization, to be deducted before payment of crown royalty;
8. Review the regulations concerning mineral rights acquisition, paying particular attention to
 - (a) amending the rules for lease selection from a crown reservation in such a manner that the proportion of valuable mineral rights reverting to the crown for re-sale is increased.
 - (b) Increasing work obligations on crown reservations and shortening lease terms in order to increase the tempo of oil and gas exploration and development, increase the revenue to the crown from more frequent mineral rights sales (rather than modest long term rentals from major oil companies) and give a greater opportunity to smaller oil companies to acquire mineral rights.
 - (c) instituting immediate disclosure of technical information affecting crown lease sales, thus increasing the revenue from these lease sales and eliminating the present unpleasant practice of spying by oil scouts and forcible detention of same oil scouts

OIL & GAS POLICY (CONT.)

8. (c) if caught spying.
9. Introduce compulsory utilization for the purpose of preventing physical and economic waste, but with easy recourse to the Courts for interest owners who might legitimately feel that they have not been awarded a just and equitable share of the untized substances.

6. HEALTH CARE

A New Democratic Provincial Government will institute a prepaid, comprehensive, publicly-sponsored Health Plan based on the recommendations of the Hall Royal Commission on Health Care, 1964. The Alberta New Democratic Party has specifically resolved that all ambulance services should be free to all citizens.

With regard to public health, the Alberta New Democratic Party has resolved that each year a sufficient sum of money be allotted to further research into new methods of insect and weed control, including the setting up of a special Department of Research if such a move is found to be necessary, to combat the increasing hazards to human life caused by chemicals sprayed on crops.

To protect our children from the dangers of swallowing poisons, especially in the home, the New Democratic Party has decided that any container of toxic or poisonous chemicals should be clearly marked with the "skull and crossbones" symbol. At present no legislation exists enforcing the adequate marking of poison containers.

Until such time as the New Democratic Party can institute its plan of complete health coverage for all Albertans, it will use all means at its disposal to promote improvements of services until every Albertan has complete coverage for all curative and preventive services, paid for out of a general government revenue.

In the area of mental health, the New Democratic Party has stated that more psychiatric facilities and personnel, including more in-patient and out-patient mental health centres, will be provided for the people of Alberta.

The Sexual Sterilization Act should be investigated to ensure that everyone in this province is safeguarded against unnecessary sterilization.

The Alberta New Democratic Party has resolved that the cost of prescribed medicines be included under the re-embursements of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and has stated that it will institute an Employees' Sickness Compensation Act.

The New Democratic Party has shown its concern over the shortage of hospital bed space by urging the construction of more hospitals.

It has also urged the setting up of a special committee to study the effectiveness of the anti-smoking educational campaign.

As recommended in the Hall Commission on Health Care, fluoridation of water supplies would be proceeded with on the basis that the municipal authorities would be given statutory power to enable them to fluoridate water supplies on the basis of a simple majority vote.

7. WELFARE

A New Democratic Government of Alberta will replace the present badly coordinated legislation and inadequate assistance with a well-founded, progressive welfare program designed to meet the social problems created by our modern complex society.

A New Democratic Government will:

..... negotiate with the Federal Government for a single, unconditional Welfare Grant to replace the present multiplicity of specific grants, and then will assume full responsibility for welfare in Alberta.

..... establish county or municipal district welfare regions in co-operation with the municipalities, to increase administrative efficiency and employment of trained personnel at the local level. The administration of welfare allowances will be placed in the hands of local district authorities.

..... establish a School of Social Work and a School of Clinical Psychology at the University of Alberta and offer scholarships to encourage students to enter these fields.

..... Establish a Social Research Centre to develop effective ways of dealing with group and individual social problems in Alberta.

..... Support private agencies by the co-ordination of all welfare agencies, both public and private, so that facilities and trained personnel may be most

7. advantageously used. Services and results of research centres would be made available to all agencies.
..... Establish a policy of review and adjustment of widows' and disabled persons' pensions, and of supplementary allowances.
..... Make provisions to assist widows who have children for whom home care must be provided.
..... Establish a Royal Commission to enquire into the child welfare problems, including those of retarded children, to find new and improved approaches and to strengthen and broaden the programme of child welfare.
..... Will provide extensive additional accommodation for elderly citizens as follows:
Cottage accommodation when couples live alone.
Apartment accommodation with cafeteria facilities for senior citizens who are able to look after their own personal needs.
Nursing homes for those who need trained nursing care.
Hospital facilities for the chronically ill.
..... Will institute a Geriatric Commission to investigate means whereby elderly citizens can remain part of the social structure without feeling shut out from the world around them.
..... Will introduce legislation to make cash payment available to applicants for Social Assistance and Social Allowance from the date eligibility.

8. EDUCATION

The New Democratic Party believes that a political democracy provides the means by which people through their government, may progressively develop and expand the social and economic sector of society in the interests of all people so that they may truly govern themselves.

The policies and program of the New Democratic Party (Alberta Section) established by the membership of the party in convention, endorsed by the people of the province in general election, shall become mandatory as government policy. We believe that education should be the major concern of any worthwhile provincial government and that in a truly democratic community the provision of free and equal education opportunities for all should have the highest priority. We consider that the primary aim of education should be to raise the level of thought and understanding throughout the whole community, to train informed citizens with critical, alert minds, capable of thinking about the many problems which face our world and able to make a wise and reasoned choice of political representatives and policies.

The Alberta New Democratic Party affirms the right of teachers to exercise intellectual freedom in enriching the school curriculum and challenging the mind of youth.

While we pursue this major educational objective, we should at the same time, provide every child with adequate preparation for his chosen vocation whether it be a trade or a profession, and we should strive to prepare as many scholars and scientists as we possibly can.

We believe that more attention should be focused on technical and business training at the Junior High School level provided studies have been made to ascertain what jobs will still be available when automation has taken its full toll.

As well as accepting the responsibility for the education of the normal child we should also be responsible for providing education and training for retarded and handicapped children to the maximum of their potentialities.

To achieve these purposes, it will be necessary to increase the supply of teachers and to improve their training and qualifications. The salary and status of the teaching profession should be raised. The Alberta Teachers' Association should continue to be recognized as the official bargaining agent for the teachers so that it will attract many young and able recruits to its ranks. Our objective should be to achieve small classes in order to make more individual teaching possible. It should be the aim of any progressive Provincial Government to remove the financial burden of education from the shoulders of the municipalities and thus to aid in spreading improved and equal education facilities throughout the province. Additional revenue would be secured from natural resources (Tar Sands) Federal grants in aid, general revenue, corporate and income taxes.

Great importance should be attached to adult education and community colleges established in various parts of the province. There would abolish semi-literacy provide training for the unskilled or for those whose skills have become obsolete and provide opportunity for continuing education.

University education has entered a period of enormous expansion and development. We should see that all who can benefit from University training have the

opportunity available without financial or other obstacles. University fees should be abolished and bursaries should be available to cover the reasonable living expenses of all qualified students.

The right to a University Education should depend entirely upon intellectual ability and achievement, and not upon the financial standing of the student.

We also recommend that the Federal government, through per capita grants to institutions of higher learning, seek to ensure that no student who desires to further his or her education be denied the physical or economic means for doing so. Whereas the Federal government has approved a \$35 a week allowance for vocational students, we believe that this should include students at Canadian Universities.

We advocate an increase in the assistance available to the form of grants under the Students' Assistance Act.

Adequate library service is fundamental to implementation of the education program and to adult education programs. Therefore, we propose a regional library program which will bring readily accessible library service to being integrated into this regional program.

The 1965 recommendation authorizing the incoming executive to begin a detailed study of the problems of automation and the planning needed to meet these problems must be immediately implemented. Special study must be made of teaching for wise use of leisure time. We believe that education must be transformed from "education for jobs," to "education for living completely." Creative and leisure time activities must be studied.

The Alberta New Democratic Party believes that a Research Department should be set up to study and carry out educational research at all levels. At the present time much of the work done on research is not being tried out in real situations due to lack of finances and a co-ordinated research policy. We would suggest one of the current problems that could be examined is the whole question of tenure at the University level.

We believe that legislation dealing with the suspension and dismissal of teachers must be completely overhauled especially to provide that reinstatement when recommended by the Minister be binding on all parties within a period of seven days.

We believe that free textbooks should be provided to all students to the end of Grade 12 in Public and Separate schools.

The Alberta New Democratic Party would seek to integrate the white and Indian population while allowing Indians to seek their education in Provincial schools while seeking aid from the Federal government.

We recognize the right of all citizens to attend, a tax-supported school of their choice based on religious denomination.

The Alberta New Democratic Party supports the accreditation programme in principle.

We also have resolved that French should be taught to all students in elementary school, and that this be accomplished through a teacher exchange program as much as possible, and furthermore we believe that optional language courses should be introduced at elementary school level in all schools where the local demand is sufficient.

The Alberta New Democratic Party approves reciprocity between provinces so that any student may move from one province to another without loss of grades. We support the principle that qualified personnel give to students from Grade 1 to 12 factual information and guidance in the area of sex education.

Further to our general policy to giving leadership to Canada we encourage the use in Alberta schools of textbooks presenting various Canadian viewpoints and written by recognized Canadian authorities in the disciplines covered by such textbooks.

9. AN INDUSTRIAL LABOUR POLICY

Recognizing the need for close co-operation between the labour groups of Alberta and any Alberta government in order to enact and maintain legislation for the benefit of all Albertans, the Alberta New Democratic Party affirms its support of the general aims of organized labour in this province and in Canada as a whole.

A New Democratic government would revise the Labour Act to serve the interests of the workers and end the discrimination that now exists. This revised Labour Act will guarantee all workers, including provincial and municipal employees, the right to organize and negotiate collectively without interference from management, with particular references to indiscriminate use of injunctions by

9. AN INDUSTRIAL LABOUR POLICY (Cont.)

management in labour disputes, legal protection of minority groups in fair employment and fair accommodation would be provided in the Act.

The Labour Act will include the following points, to cover employers with two or more employees:

1. A 40 hour - 5 day work week for all workers regardless of area of occupation; bearing in mind the possibility of an even shorter work week to offset the problems of automation and unemployment, thus providing full employment for all willing and able to work.
2. A minimum wage of \$1.50 per hour, less any provisions for room and board for farm labour.
3. Ten paid statutory holidays per year for every employee.
4. Two weeks' vacation with pay after one year's service; three weeks' vacation with pay after five years' service.

We further endorse the policy of extended holidays after five years' service of 13 weeks' duration with pay every five years to all employees, with a view to altering the serious unemployment situation which exists and with no hope for improvement in the foreseeable future.

Under an Alberta New Democratic government, the Industrial Relations Board would take over the investigation and prosecution of violations of the Alberta Labour Act. The Board would be reconstituted with the purpose in mind of divorcing the members thereof from direct control by the government in power.

A New Democratic government would completely redraft the Workman's Compensation Act in the light of present day social conditions, including definitions and rules as to what constitutes light duty and a substantial increase in Widows' and Dependents' pensions as well as Disability pensions, including farm labour where possible.

A New Democratic government would promote and encourage the expansion of the National Employment Service into the field of part time or emergency employees.

A New Democratic government would co-operate with the Federal Government on a sound and realistic program for the development of full Health and Social Security programs and would take whatever legislative means necessary to assist the Federal Government to achieve this end.

The New Democratic Party feels that management no longer should have the sole right to determine changes in employee relations and conditions as a result of technological advancements. To achieve communication and arbitration in this field, a New Democratic government would promote the establishment of a permanent government commission on the effects of automation, sufficiently qualified to be able to intervene and assist in the settlement of labour disputes in the field of management-employee relations.

In addition to any Federal plan for full employment, a flexible provincial development program of public works would be planned for the needs of seasonal and short-term periods of unemployment, and to assist municipalities financially with a similar program.

Such a program would not only provide jobs in time of need, but could provide schools, hospitals, roads, parks and other public facilities in an efficient and orderly manner.

10. URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Hand in hand with an industrial development program will go a challenging redevelopment program for aiding growing cities with: slum clearance, progressive arterial road development, schools, hospitals, libraries, cultural and recreational facilities. Provincial leadership planning and financing would be offered for necessary re-organization of metropolitan complexes such as the Edmonton and Calgary metropolitan areas.

Legislation designating authority and responsibilities of cities, towns and villages would be brought into context with the times. The original powers allotted are not to-day extensive enough for coping with the major responsibilities with which these growing centres are burdened both administratively and financially.

Re-definition of towns, villages and hamlets would be undertaken in the light of their ability to finance and their potential to entice industry which could provide reassurable industrial tax revenues.

The relations between such cities and the Administrative Council and the School Boards would be re-examined in order to develop harmonious association, effective programs and better financing.

Sociological studies of rural areas would be undertaken by the government. Library and other advantageous services would be provided for rural residents. New Democratic Party Government will amend the various municipal acts to

10. URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: (Cont.)

to provide that all elected officials shall upon election declare and make public the extent and nature of all their holdings.

11. PROGRESSIVE TAXES:

A New Democratic Government will raise money by the following means:

- (a) Increase corporation taxes, reduce depreciation allowances and eliminate the tax-dodging which now takes place through such devices as excessive expense accounts and sales promotion.
- (b) Adopt a progressive policy regarding the prices paid to breweries and distilleries to divert a large proportion of the exorbitant profits into the public treasury without affecting the price to the consumer.
- (c) Collect a proper share of the tremendous revenues now being realized by companies exploiting the province's natural resources.
- (d) Impose a weight-distance tax so as to require highway carriers to pay a fair share of the cost of building and maintaining the highways they use.
- (e) Urge the Federal Government to amend the Bank Act to provide that assets of a province (including municipal assets) be discounted in a manner similar to the discounting of bankers' securities now in practice. This would mean a great reduction in excessive interest-carrying charges.
- (f) If our province becomes responsible for Income Tax collections, increase tax-deductions to compensate for increased cost of living.

12. ALBERTA'S NATIVE PEOPLE

The Alberta New Democratic Party recognizes that the needs of the Indian and Metis people pose special problems, and that it is the responsibility of the government to allow those citizens privileges and opportunities equal to other Alberta Citizens. The New Democratic Party proposes study and action in co-operation with the Indian and Metis people, and co-ordinated with the Federal Government. These citizens should have the full right to maintain and develop their own culture and recognition of their treaty rights.

The New Democratic Party Government will:

-establish an Alberta Department of Indian Affairs.
-establish a permanent Alberta Council on Indian Affairs to advise the Department. This council will consist of representatives from the Indian Association, its Advisory Council Sociologist and others as the Council deems necessary. The New Democratic Provincial Government will negotiate with the Federal Government to effect compliance with as many as possible of the recommendations pertinent to Indian needs made to the Joint Committee on Indian Affairs, of the Senate and House of Commons.
-propose an extension of the provincial franchise to the Indians of the province which would not in any way endanger their existing treaty rights.
-give Indians equal rights to other citizens in the purchase of liquor.

13. HUMAN RIGHTS

The New Democratic Party believes that true political, economic and social freedom has yet to be attained. Free thought is repressed through pressure applied to employees, through limited access to the mass media, and through political pressure. In such an atmosphere it is often difficult for the average citizen to know what is true, and upon the knowledge of the truth alone can freedom be assured.

The New Democratic Party believes in the dignity of man and in the establishment of a society in which this dignity is enhanced. To this end, the party would strive to enact legislation which would provide that all men be treated equally and justly.

To this end, a New Democratic Party Government would enact legislation to provide the following guarantees of justice and freedom to all citizens:

- (a) legislation to ensure that all citizens and residents of whatever background be assured equal treatment by Fair Employment and Fair Accomodations Acts, and recourse in law to violations of human rights.
- (b) the establishment of true representation by population through a permanent non-political commission which would keep electoral boundaries up-to-date.
- (c) The enactment of legislation to provide for freedom of speech and for complete political freedom of the civil servant and of all employees.

13. HUMAN RIGHTS (Cont.)

- (d) penalties to be levied against all who practise political persecution or repression.
- (e) the establishment of a commission to investigate present legislative governing Communal Land Groups.
- (f) the establishment of a permanent voters' registry.
- (g) the establishment of the office of "ombudsman", the development of the office of Public Defender and the development of a Legal Aid Scheme.
- (h) the establishment of an independent commission to investigate the power of government tribunals in Alberta, and to establish a means of appeal to the courts from decisions by such boards.
- (i) limitation of the invasion of the privacy of the citizen through the elimination of the practice of wire-tapping, except on the order of a Judge of the Supreme Court of Alberta, and limited to one month's duration, and also legislation requiring a court order for the opening of school files by anyone other than a licenced teacher and the destruction of all records except a record of marks obtained in departmental examinations upon the completion of Grade 12.
- (j) the lowering of voting age to 18 years.
- (k) the recording and publishing for sale of all legislative proceedings.
- (l) the appointment of an experienced Director of Corrections with recognized University qualifications to Penology and the social sciences to administer all the correctional services in Alberta, and give full power to appoint qualified superintendents of all penal institutions and other correctional services. A New Democratic Government will orient the Provincial Correctional Institutions and other correctional services toward the modern penological approach of diagnosis and treatment of offenders. Facilities for this purpose will be granted in Penological institutions.
- (1) the review of censorship regulations.

14. CONSUMER PROTECTION

For the protection of the consumer, the New Democratic Government would introduce legislation:

- (a) establishing a Bureau of Consumer Affairs.
- (b) protecting the employee from abusive practices in compensation awards.
- (c) providing for disclosure of true interest charged on all loans and credit arrangements.
- (d) curbing deceptive packaging and false claims for goods offered for sale to the public.
- (e) encouraging the development of co-operatives and other means whereby the consumer may organize for his own protection.

15. HOUSING

To avoid the crushing burden of second mortgages and short-term financing, a New Democratic Provincial Government would set up a Crown Corporation to enable residents to purchase old homes at NHA rates.

A New Democratic Provincial Government would seek agreement with the Federal Government to provide additional assistance for adequate low rental and low cost housing.

16. FLUORIDATION:

Benefits of adding flourides to the municipal water supplies are widely recognized in medical circles. A New Democratic Party Government would turn the question of adding flourides to the municipal water supplies over to the Department of Health. This Department would appoint a committee to study the question of fluoridation, publish its findings and submit recommendations. Municipal authorities would be given statutory power to enable them to carry out the recommendations of the Department on the basis of a simple majority vote.

17. NUCLEAR ARMS AND RADIATION HAZARDS:

Fallout shelters, as advocated by the Provincial and Dominion Governments, are neither exceptionally sturdy nor impervious to dust. Since it is also questionable whether life would persist in areas exposed to the intense

17. NUCLEAR ARMS AND RADIATION HAZARDS (Cont.)

radiation resulting from a nuclear blast, a New Democratic Party Government would undertake to present the public with true facts about radiation hazards. A governmental policy with through spectacular publicity and propaganda, prepares the public for the acceptance of nuclear war would be rejected.

The provincial New Democratic Party government would also appoint a committee of experts to monitor radiation levels in the province and inform the public through the provincial Department of Health at weekly intervals.

18. AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE:

As private insurance is not meeting the needs of the people the New Democratic Party would institute a publicly-owned automobile insurance plan, similar to the plan Saskatchewan.

19. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

A New Democratic Party Government would make optimum use of the Alberta Research Council. The Alberta Research Council would be responsible to the Alberta Legislative through a delegation. The Alberta Research Council would assist the Government in planning the economy by means of research results and by means of scientific information. Industry would be encouraged and allowed to develop for the best interests of Albertans.