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## Premier's 38-Point Manifesto for Liberals

# Free Hospital for Low Earners, New Maternity Benefits, Plan

## Proposal Constitutes Compromise on Issue

By GORDON FORBES, Times Legislative Reporter

VANCOUVER, April 23.—Premier Byron Johnson proposed today that people on low incomes should be relieved of premiums and co-insurance under the hospital insurance plan and that a new system of maternity benefits be established in B.C. to offset co-insurance charges for women having babies in hospitals.

These proposals highlighted a 38-point manifesto which the Premier suggests for the Liberal Party in the forthcoming provincial election campaign.

The costs of hospital insurance for the low income groups and for the co-insurance on maternity cases would be paid out of general provincial revenues under the Premier's plan.

The Premier was expected to enlarge on his proposal later in his address.

The group to be relieved of insurance premiums and co-insurance would be people on "marginal" incomes but not so low that they can get social allowances. (The government already pays hospitalization for social allowance cases.)

The manifesto proposal was seen as a compromise on the heated question of co-insurance. The special House committee which probed hospital insurance had recommended complete abolition of co-insurance, but the Premier has resisted this as too sharp a blow at the finances of the plan.

for the first 10 days—a \$35 total. The hospital insurance inquiry board had recommended complete abolition of co-insurance because it considered it to be the most unpopular phase of the entire scheme. Premier Johnson's proposal is considered somewhat of a compromise. He has been opposed to co-insurance abolition.

This part of the manifesto will be discussed later ~~by the convention~~ by the convention.

It is stressed that the Premier's manifesto is not final. It merely has been put before the convention and subsequent debate may result in some changes.

### RESOLUTIONS—THURSDAY

Main bulk of the resolutions before the convention will be discussed Thursday. One of these is expected to be a separate schools issue. Liberal associations have been studying since the executive meeting in January a proposal by Harry Perry, former president, that Roman Catholic and other separate schools be integrated into the B.C. public school system. Education Minister W. T. Strain said recently that the government is opposed to such a move. This may provoke a sharp debate.

In other parts of the manifesto Premier Johnson proposed a well-planned program of improvements to the province's secondary highway system financed out of capital thus providing funds in addition to the ordinary maintenance appropriations to assure the carrying out of this program consistently over a period of years.

## Manifesto Before Convention

Premier Johnson presented the manifesto to the more than 800 delegates at the two-day convention got down to business this afternoon. The morning session had been taken up mainly with formalities.

The manifesto, which had been thrashed out by the resolutions committee on Monday and Tuesday, is now before the convention for approval. The manifesto, read by the Premier, is a proposed platform and changes in it may result as the 38 points are discussed and debated.

Other main planks in the proposed platform include:

1. Appointment of a Royal commission to make a further survey of the forest resources and industry before 1955. This is in accordance with the recommendation of the Sloan report.

2. Establishment of a commission to improve the capital city. The commission would administer funds provided by the government.

3. Increasing the appropriation for the Agricultural Department in order to increase assistance to all farm producers.

4. A further province-wide survey by the B.C. Power Commission with a view to utilizing to the full generating facilities that may be obtained through use of natural gas to be delivered by pipe line through B.C. so that communities now unable to secure power may benefit from such development.

5. Construction of a new boys' industrial school.

6. Setting up of a representative committee to study all phases of the problem of alcoholism and to recommend an appropriate program of treatment.

7. Construction of a new provincial jail to relieve existing congestion at Oakalla Prison.

8. Establishment of a modern clinic based on the new treatment being developed to cure drug addicts.

## Study of W.C.A. Recommended

Premier Johnson did not make any definite recommendations in connection with the recent inquiries on workmen's compensation or the labor code. He merely proposed careful study with a view to adopting at the next session such measures which will best benefit the people. In the same category are recommendations on hospital insurance made by a House committee.

Premier Johnson said the Liberal party should pledge itself to conduct the affairs of the prov-

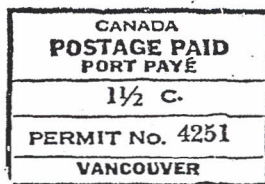
ince so that the public and the investor will be assured of sound and stable administration of public affairs, "thereby encouraging a continuance of the flow of capital into the province to develop our natural resources."

The section of the manifesto dealing with payment by the government of hospital insurance premiums and co-insurance charges for low-income families is regarded as one of the main Liberal platform planks.

Average co-insurance charge in B.C. hospitals is \$3.50 a day

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**B. C.  
AT THE  
CROSSROADS**

**Where Does  
Liberalism Lead?**

Here is the platform  
developed and adopted by  
the B. C. Liberal Convention.

...and the facts about  
your Vancouver-Point Grey  
Liberal Candidates.

## *The Liberal Party pledges itself:*

1. To conduct the affairs of this Province so that the public and the investor will be assured of sound and stable administration of public affairs, thereby encouraging a continuance of the flow of capital into British Columbia to develop our natural resources.

2. To recommend that at the next session of the Legislature, co-insurance be abolished.

3. To devise a well-planned programme of improvements to our secondary highway system financed out of capital thus providing funds in addition to the ordinary maintenance appropriations to assure the carrying out of this programme consistently over a period of years.

4. To continue the extensive highway development programme on all arterial highways and bridges, including the Trans-Canada Highway.

5. To continue financial assistance to communities in the construction of necessary hospitals for acute and chronic cases.

6. To continue financial aid in the construction of school buildings by contributing fifty percent of the cost.

7. To proceed immediately with the construction of the Squamish to North Vancouver Road, for which funds already have been provided, as soon as a satisfactory route has been determined.

8. To extend the Pacific Great Eastern Railway into the Peace River district and into North Vancouver from Squamish as soon as possible, and to construct a lumber assembly dock at Squamish.

9. To appoint a Royal Commission to make a further survey of the forest resources and industry before 1955 in accordance with the recommendation of the Sloan Report, and to set up a special inquiry committee of the Legislature to investigate the effect of Forest Management Licences and public working circles on the economy of the logging industry of British Columbia and as it affects the independent logger and truck logger, and to table a report at the next session of the Legislature.

10. To encourage establishment of branch lines from the main trunk natural gas pipeline by giving favourable terms for right-of-way over Crown lands.

11. To construct a new Provincial Gaol to relieve existing congestion at Oakalla and to carry out the recommendations of the Penal Reform Committee of British Columbia so that a completely modern approach to our penal system may be made with particular stress being placed on rehabilitation so that offenders may become useful citizens.

12. To establish a modern clinic based on the new treatment being developed to cure drug addicts and to apply the latest procedures in an intensified programme of rehabilitation, and to evolve an educational programme to prevent the possible inroads of the evils of narcotics among the youth of our Province.

13. To set up immediately a representative committee to study all phases of the problem of alcoholism and to recommend an appropriate provincial programme of treatment.

14. To give careful study of the reports submitted on the operations of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Hospital Insurance Act, and the Workmen's Compensation Act with a view to adopting at the next Legislative session such measures as will best benefit the people in relation to all other public services now being rendered.

15. To continue an aggressive policy in public health including continued expansion of local health services: further development of the dental care programme; further development of the Home Care programme with particular attention to chronic and convalescent cases and further development of a programme of rehabilitation of physically handicapped persons.

16. To press our claims to the Federal Government for their co-operation in financing irrigation, dyking and drainage projects for agricultural purposes by extending to British Columbia benefits similar to those provided by the Prairie Farms Rehabilitation Act.

17. To increase the appropriation for, the Agricultural Department in order to ensure greater assistance to all farm producers in all sections of the Province.

18. To have the B.C. Power Commission undertake a further province-wide survey with a view to utilizing to the full generating facilities that may be obtained through use of natural gas to be delivered by pipeline through British Columbia so that communities now unable to secure power may benefit from such development; and to give consideration by means of a special study by the next Provincial Government of the advisability as to whether or not a bona fide farmer owner of production land, should share in a small part of the Government royalty of natural gas and petroleum found on the said land.

19. To accelerate the programme of rural electrification by the B.C. Power Commission and to develop power at the earliest date possible to serve the Prince George-Quesnel area.

20. To construct a new Boys' Industrial school and carry on a programme of education and treatment designed to return boys in trouble to their homes and communities as soon as possible.

21. To expand the present farmers' land-clearing programme so as to bring more agricultural land into production.

22. To give assistance to farmers in securing adequate water supplies in areas where water is difficult to obtain.

23. To render every assistance to the Federal Government in connection with national defense, and to co-operate to the fullest extent with the Federal Government on all questions affecting the welfare of the province where joint government action is necessary.

24. To continue with a programme of legislation and administration in co-operation with the Federal authorities to the end that our native Indians shall be treated equally and without discrimination in all respects with other Canadians.

25. To continue the building expansion programme of the University of British Columbia.

26. To integrate the two Normal Schools into the University of British Columbia as a Faculty of Teacher Training.

27. To continue present grants for the encouragement of the construction of low rental homes for aged persons.

28. To revise the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

29. To establish a Provincial Traffic Safety Council with regional community councils to co-ordinate and standardize and make more effective traffic safety measures with a view to minimizing fatalities and injuries on the highways of our province.

30. To establish regional safety conferences throughout the province in conjunction with employers and employees so as to minimize accidents in industry.

31. To establish a Commission to improve the Capital City, such Commission to administer funds provided for this purpose by the Government.

32. To continue land-use surveys so as to put on the market lands for settlement and to finance clearing of settlement lands at cost and on a long-term payment plan.

33. To expand the mining roads and trails programme in order further to encourage mining development, and to continue the policy of financing grub stakes.

34. To continue a progressive welfare service to help those who are unable to help themselves, with particular emphasis on the aged, the children and the under-privileged.

35. To encourage further the tourist business and stimulate the establishment of industries in British Columbia as well as assisting in the development of existing industries through the medium of the B.C. Research Council.

36. To pursue a policy of support and encouragement for the solution of the several problems facing the salmon fisheries in order that the industry may eventually be developed to maintain it on a sustained yield basis.

37. To increase the out-door sports facilities by expanding the programme of stocking our lakes and streams, increasing the release of game birds and generally working in close co-operation with the various fish and game associations in the interests of conservation.

38. To go on record favoring the taking of steps by the Provincial Government to ensure the collection of all B.C.H.I.S. Premiums.

39. To go on record favoring the elimination of the regulation requiring each citizen to carry on his person, at all times, a card showing that he has paid his B.C. Hospital Insurance Service premium.

40. To recommend that an extensive system of conservation of soil, natural resources and flood control be undertaken.

41. That the principle of "equal pay for equal work" be endorsed regardless of sex, marital status, race, creed or color.

42. To go on record of favoring the system known as "Free Enterprise" because we believe it to be the most efficient of all the alternatives available.

43. To recommend the continuance of the splendid and worthwhile policy in the creation of the Forestry Camps and Borstal Home for Boys.

44. To the task of conserving and defending the natural resources of our country, so that the general prosperity may be increased and the future of Canada may be enlarged.

45. To go on record favoring immediate action to implement the plans already agreed upon between Federal and Provincial Governments for the completion of Flood Control Project.

46. To review truck traffic regulations on the Hart Highway to the end that necessary truck traffic on the highway may be permitted under appropriate regulations.

47. That the Government give consideration to the amendment of the Natural Gas Act 1947 so that the matter of compensation may be settled by arbitration or in some other manner which will enable the land owner to secure just treatment without recourse to the Courts.

48. To go on record supporting the principle of Racial Equality toward the end that all Canadian citizens residing in British Columbia may receive equal consideration and equal benefits, regardless of racial origin.

49. To endeavor to secure the co-operation of the Federal Government in a joint programme of legislation and enforcement to prevent the sale of lurid and salacious literature.

50. To commend the Government of the Province of British Columbia for instituting the system of Bursaries and Loans to enable students of character and ability to complete their advanced education.

51. To approve of the policy of the British Columbia Government in granting a cost of living bonus and extensive medical and health services to those in need of same to meet rising costs of living and urge the Government to continue this humanitarian policy.

52. To support in principle the recommendations of the majority report of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act Inquiry Committee and recommend them for the consideration of the Legislature.

53. That the Provincial and Dominion Governments be urged to make provision for opportunities of employment on both a temporary and permanent basis for men and women regardless of age who have the appropriate qualifications.

54. To amend the Provincial Civil Service Act and Regulations and the Provincial Civil Service Superannuation Act and Regulations to permit the employment of persons over the age of 45 and to permit their contributing to the Superannuation Scheme; provided they do not participate in the benefits of Schedule (b) of the Provincial Civil Service Superannuation Act.

55. To request the Provincial Government to lighten the burden of educational costs on rural and urban taxpayers.

# *Liberals Stress Stability*

BY BYRON I. JOHNSON

Leader of the B.C. Liberal Party

Liberal policy in this election permenting with Socialism, the falls into two broad headings, British Columbia government stable government and human under Liberal leadership was laying the ground for the recovery welfare.

Liberalism holds that every of its financial position. That person has the right to pursue this was accomplished is reflected his endeavors under his own by the fact that today British initiative; rather than under Columbia enjoys an enviable state socialism. credit position. The government

Free enterprise can only be also has succeeded in placing its maintained through stable gov- municipalities in a similar position ernment, and with due regard to by giving them expanding the welfare of the masses by the revenues to meet their needs. maintaining of private endeavor. I am more than ever firmly The policy of the Liberal Party convinced that if we are to con- in this regard hardly needs ex- tinue the vast flow of investment plaining, since the statutes of this capital into this province, we are province bear a proud record of only going to do so by effecting stable administration throughout those safeguards that protect the a period of some 32 years under investor who is willing to finance Liberal leadership. such vast undertakings that are

There has been enacted legis- now causing the eyes of America lation bringing into effect mini- to look upon British Columbia. mum wage regulations, Hours of We do not seek power by mak- Labor Act, Half-Holiday Act, ing wild promises or by offering Annual Vacation With Pay Act, a new form of economy. Workmen's Compensation Act, Our program is "Progress, Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, old age and mothers' Stability and Development". Progress that has given such benefits to the people—stability pensions, social allowances, hos- based on orthodox financing—pital insurance and laws for the development stemming from the protection of children. There encouragement given those be- have been instituted wise meas- lieving in free enterprise to in- ures to combat TB, to deal with vest in this great province. These mental illness, and other humani- are the broad policies upon which tarian services.

In the 30's while other gov- I ask you to vote for Liberal ernments were defaulting or ex- candidates on Thursday.