

John de Wolf

Thank you.

Your first
vote for
the 1970's

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"If we are to re-enter provincial politics, then we must resolve to pursue one aim, whatever the time involved to form a government of value to this province.

"And if we are ever to be elected as a government, we must align ourselves to all the possibilities of this province.

"For British Columbia has a destiny. If no one else will do it, it will be our task to make this destiny come about."

LEADERSHIP CONVENTION, JUNE, 1969.

"The NDP candidate has missed my point. We must have a high and intelligent rate of economic growth. It is economic development that raises the tax revenue to pay for the social and human programs that we require. I'm sorry to contradict you, but we still have a way to go."

There is now a new economic coalition emerging on the Pacific. It will have four major anchors, four major trade funnels. Three are now in place — Japan, Australia, California. A fourth is now required, serving the whole north-west quarter of this continent. This can be us. The prime requirement is an integrated port and overland transportation system, with links into the Territories, the Prairies and the U.S. northern tier. The major ports are three: an expanded Roberts Bank, a contemporary Port of Vancouver, a northern superport associated with Prince Rupert. The means is a Pacific Port Authority, installed and operated by B.C., but with powers and responsibilities delegated by Ottawa to B.C. If Mr. Trudeau does not wish to build it, we can, for it is in our own interests. All he needs to give us is a contract, and Ottawa can have back 25 percent of what will be very substantial net profits in exchange.

Look, here we sit in Prince George, and virtually the whole of the northern half of B.C. lies fallow. In ten years, we can open all this territory up. Now is the time when a northern network for the PGE is really feasible, when a northern highway system makes sense. You may want manufacturing, but the destiny of the North is in resources — forest products, mining, power, producing over \$2 billion of output by 1980. We will need new, planned, all-weather, cold-climate communities. But technology can provide the means. The domed community is no longer fanciful. And the Soviet Union is using a wide range of techniques in the new cities in Siberia. If we are to make this country truly great, we must extend the margin of the development push back the northern frontier. And this city must be the jump-off point, the Key.

FROM A SPEECH, PRINCE GEORGE

"In the decade that will be the 1970's — if we move, if we plan — we have three remarkable opportunities. To stake out a position as one of the four major anchors on the Pacific to meet our dynamic trade potential. To open up for development — at last — the whole northern half of this province. To initiate and then complete an advanced and integrated manufacturing complex with export-generating power."

May I be plain:

Except in a few cases, there is no such thing as secondary industry. The industries you want and that you call secondary here — steel, electronics, copper refining, machine-building, petrochemicals, aircraft, motor vehicles — are the dominant industries in Ontario, Osaka or the Ruhr. These industries co-exist together. To a major extent, they are the supply sources and the markets for each other. You do not get these industries in isolation, as though all you have to do is trot out your statistics on market growth or labour supply or the beauty of your cities. You must have a plan to build the complex. Mr. Bennett has tried to get each one of these major industries for this province, and he has failed. Mr. Berger and Dr. McGeer are making this promise, and they will fail. If you want one, you must know how to establish them all. And the secret is so simple so practical, that I can only wonder why it has not before this been discovered. Yes, we can have a dynamic manufacturing sector in this province, and without expensive incentives. But please understand this well. The goal is not secondary industry. It is a whole, new structure of industries in this province with export-generating power.

PRINCE RUPERT PRESS CONFERENCE

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"It was all said 103 years ago by one of the Fathers of Confederation: 'cross the mountains to British Columbia, the land of golden promise.' Let us now set our goal. To create in this province a society which possesses the framework by which we can achieve the fulfilment of man."

I said to the Premier: You are being scuppered on these issues.

In 1962 and 1963, only a few thousand new people moved into B.C. Then, in 1966, 1967, 1968, as many as 75,000 people in one year joined the population of B.C. It's only natural — what was adequate before is now a shortage. So you get outcries over a lack of classrooms or hospital beds or swing shifts or defeated local by-laws. You get racked over Riverview and the Royal Columbian and the VGH emergency ward. And, when we hit these shortages in B.C., the pressure on available capital sends interest rates sky-high. Why don't you plan?

And he said:

John, if I told the people what we could give them, they would demand it now — you know what people are like. And if I gave it to them, they would want even more.

KELOWNA, JULY, 1969.

I really don't want to see government doing everything. Take the last call, as far as drug addiction is concerned. There are private agencies that do a better job, and that cost one-tenth as much to run, than if a government department took them over. We should plough some seed money into a variety of agencies — day care centres, the rehabilitation of welfare cases, senior citizens' recreation, alcoholism, a range of things. Make these people the agents of the government, on a contract basis if you like. Set the standards of performance and make sure they do perform. People-to-people usually makes much more sense in these fields than government over the people. And it usually costs a great deal less.

JACK WASSERMAN, CJOR, AUGUST, 1969.

I will not carry your apple symbol, and I will tell you why.

We need a transformation of education in this province. First, over a period of five years, we shift the school tax on property to the provincial government — Pat McGeer says it can be done in one year, but his figures are almost \$100 million out. Second, we establish a high and uniform standard of education in this province, with incentive pay for first-class teachers in the poorer and isolated districts. Three, we use the efficient techniques of contemporary school design, the new teaching aids, with a much more effective curriculum as the guide. Four, we apply building technology so our capital costs are reasonable and our long-run operating costs are not inflated. We plough money in where it will have the greatest return — especially in the early grades where putting 40 kids in a classroom box with one teacher may only retard the child. We emphasize libraries and research projects for the pupil. We can even open these facilities in the evening for the senior grades. In five years, we can begin to have the best educational system in North America. And these are the kinds of things — if you want to raise some issues — that I think the Teachers' Federation should be talking about in this campaign.

BCTF CONFERENCE, UBC, AUGUST, 1969.

"There is one way out of shortages in needed services. This is to take education, hospitals, mental health care, chronic care, social assistance, recreation, and the upgrading of the urban environment, and tie them all in to a five-year, enlightened, practical Social Development Plan. This is the only way to get these things done better, faster, and at less net cost."

Pollution is just a word. The environment is the issue. To eliminate industrial pollution within three years and to have complete municipal sewerage treatment in five years, we must use a combination of tax incentives and depreciation allowances to re-convert existing plants; a pollution tax at source, whether on industry, buildings, motor vehicles or on untreated sewerage; and we need the proceeds from the pollution tax and from a moderate regional district mill rate to build sewerage treatment facilities. The coliforms on Spanish Banks to a large extent come from the cities upstream on the Fraser River. I applaud Dr. McGeer for his concern about the problem. But I believe the solution lies in the combination of measures I have proposed.

PRESS CONFERENCE, AUGUST, 1969.

You cannot apply a negative income tax until we overhaul the social welfare system.

All welfare cases are not outright bums. The majority are deserted mothers who need day-care centres while they work; the hard-core unemployed who need training and job assistance so they can earn; the unstable migrant who needs to be straightened out and those in sudden or temporary straights who need low-cost loans. It makes no sense to encourage people to stay on welfare by deducting from their social assistance cheques any extra money they can earn. It will be much more productive if we say: we will give you a guaranteed income floor for three months, or in some cases five or six months. Go out and earn all the income you can make, so you can become self-financing and self-generating on your own.

COFFEE PARTY, POINT GREY, JULY, 1969

In 1948, only half the people in Canada had telephones; less than half owned a washing machine or refrigerator of any kind; only half had indoor plumbing; less than 40 percent owned a car. By today's standards, very few people had decent housing. We still have some problems, but except in the rural and urban poverty pockets everybody in B.C. now has these things. It is, without question, the most dynamic period of material advancement in the history of man. In ten years, if we harness technology properly, most families in this province will have the earning-power so that by their own efforts they will have complete economic security and fully adequate material self-sufficiency. On that day when people's material requirements are licked, we will have arrived at a whole new time of man's habitation on this earth. And man can strangle in his hedonism, in the permissiveness that this framework will allow. Or man can move to a time of higher values and finer aspirations — with all the inborn capacity he possesses . . . One obvious requirement will be a whole new calibre of government.

ALL-PARTY TV DEBATE, CHAN-TV, AUGUST, 1969.



John de Wolf was elected Leader of the Progressive-Conservative party of British Columbia on June 14, 1969.

He is 38. A consulting economist, he did his undergraduate and graduate work at UBC, was special assistant to the Minister of Finance in Ottawa, has undertaken a number of important studies.

Gail and John de Wolf have four children: Dorian, 12; John, 9; David, 8; Gaelan, 3.

In this election, he is a candidate in Vancouver Point-Grey.

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You ask: where is our constituency? I will tell you. Our constituency is just beyond this next election. Our constituency is the future.

LEADERSHIP CONVENTION, JUNE, 1969.

Premier Bennet told me: I want to keep British Columbia on course. And I asked him: to where?

Tom Berger told me: 17 years is long enough. We need a change. And I asked him: to what?

Pat McGeer tells you: I want the voters to give me 30 seats. And I would ask him: for what purpose?

I wonder if these gentlemen know, in the decade we are entering, in this province that we can become, what leadership in British Columbia really means. For it has been said that government, politics and the electorate is like a long wagon train crossing the plains, nearing the first range of hills, and the man in the first wagon has already reached that first range of hills. And he sees what is beyond. And he considers what lies ahead. And he sets the course that the settlers he leads can pursue.

And, from wagon to wagon, all down the long line, he sends back the awaited message: I have seen ahead. And I have found the way. We're moving on.

I cannot field more than one candidate in this election. I will not field more than one candidate in this election, because I believe that in this party we must train, and equip, and prepare ourselves for government.

But, with what this election has become, the fear, the smear, the had enough?, the come on, gang, give me 30 seats — how I wish I had been allowed more time. Because I see.

FROM A LETTER TO A POINT GREY RESIDENT

Why do I want to be elected?

I want to be one unbiased, I hope constructive, I hope far-sighted voice in what has become the bear-pit of our Legislature.

KIWANIS ALL-CANDIDATES MEETING, AUGUST, 1969.

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