

Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: ☐ Alberta ☒ Saskatchewan ☐ Manitoba

Party: LIB Election Year: 1975

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
LIB = Liberal Party
NDP = New Democratic Party
SC = Social Credit
UFA = United Farmers of Alberta
WCC = Western Canadian Concept

Type of Document:

☒ Platform ☐ Constitution
☐ Speech ☐ Brochure / Leaflet PP
☐ Newspaper ☐ Advertisement
☐ Other: _____

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Source: SK-PARC - pamphlets.

AB = Alberta
SK = Saskatchewan
MB = Manitoba

UofA = University of Alberta
UofC = University of Calgary
UofR = University of Regina
UofS = University of Saskatchewan
UofM = University of Manitoba
BU = Brandon University

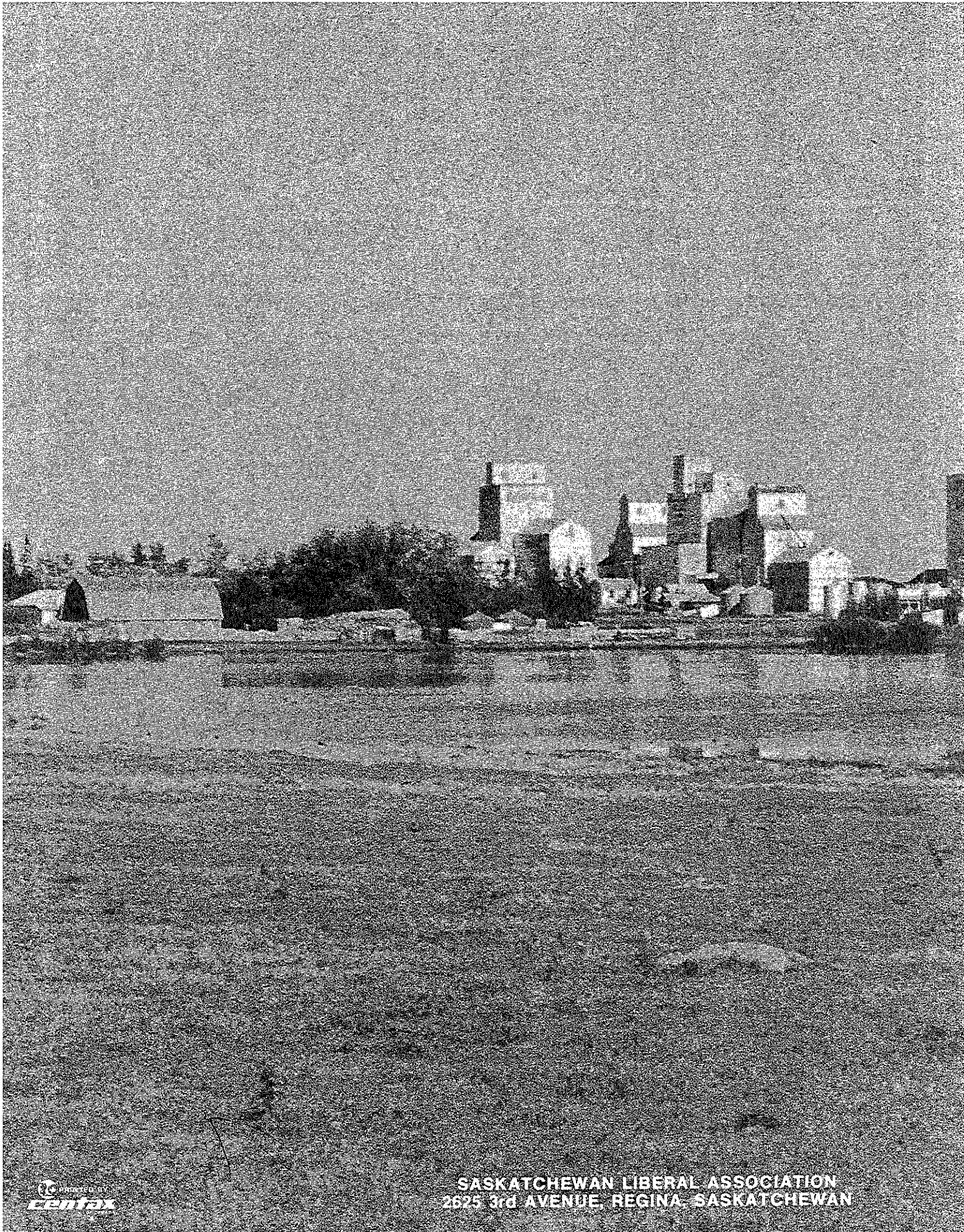
PARC = Provincial Archives
LEG = Legislative Library
SPC = Special Collections
ULIB = University Library



UNITED STATES

STATEMENT
OF POLICY 75

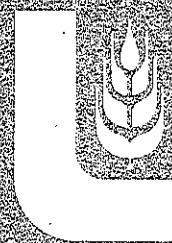
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Saskatchewan Liberal Leader

Dave Steuart





The Choice is yours

This could well be the most important provincial election ever to face the people of Saskatchewan.

The issue is very clear: more and more government control of our lives by a power-hungry N.D.P. Socialist Government, or greater freedom of choice, independence and long-range prosperity under a new Liberal Government.

The Blakeney Government in only four years has placed more restrictive legislation on the books than the old C.C.F. did during their twenty years in power.

The Land Bank, compulsory marketing boards, the war on business, the virtual take-over of the oil, potash, mineral and timber industries have all been perpetrated by the N.D.P. in their first term of office.

4,000 more people on the public payroll in the last four years in spite of the fact there are over 15,000 fewer residents in Saskatchewan.

The number of boards and commissions has gone up from 28 to 46, crown corporations have doubled from 11 to 22, the Cabinet has increased from 14 to 18 members, and government involvement in private enterprises has risen sharply.

All this has meant a staggering increase in cost to our taxpayers and a frightening loss of freedom to us as individuals.

In his headlong rush to take more power from the people, Mr. Blakeney has cost Saskatchewan its greatest economic opportunity in history.

For over 50 years Saskatchewan governments of all political persuasions have had a common objective — to invite people to Saskatchewan and help us develop our great resources.

There have been some successes but more failures due to competition from other provinces and other nations.

Beginning in the years 1972-1973 all this changed because of an unprecedented world demand for food, coal, oil, potash, uranium, timber and hard rock minerals, all of which we have in abundance.

People from all over Canada were ready to come into Saskatchewan with their many skills and expertise to help us develop our resources and build a solid base for long-range provincial prosperity.

Mr. Blakeney slammed the door on this great opportunity taking a dog-in-the-manger attitude saying, in effect, our resources should only be developed by the government through socialist enterprises.

This has cost us thousands of job opportunities and millions of dollars in tax revenue that could have been used to raise the standard of living of all our people.

The only alternative to this narrow, restrictive policy is that offered by the Saskatchewan Liberal Party.

We are proposing a new direction for the Government of Saskatchewan, one based on our belief in the inherent greatness of Saskatchewan's citizens and in the great potential of our provincial resources which if properly utilized could make our people among the most self-reliant in the nation.

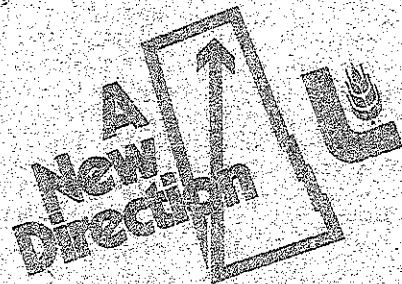
I invite you to study this programme. If you share our faith in yourself and your province, support the Saskatchewan Liberal Party in this vital provincial election.

Yours sincerely,

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Agriculture

LAND TRANSFER

If Saskatchewan's agricultural way of life is to be encouraged to grow and the family farm maintained, one of the problems which must be overcome is land transfer.

Too often, young farmers are denied the opportunity to pursue farming as an occupation because of a lack of money to purchase the land and machinery they require.

The Liberal Party believes there is an urgent need for a land transfer system which will enable and encourage young people to own and cultivate their own farm land.

The New Democratic Government has completely failed Saskatchewan in this area. In their four years of power they have not introduced one programme to assist farmers to buy their own land.

What the N.D.P. have done is spend over \$50 million in order to purchase prime agricultural land. This land, owned by the State, is presently being leased out to farmers through the Land Bank Commission.

Not one of the over 520,000 acres has been sold and it is clear the N.D.P. intention is to keep the land under government ownership.

This point was illustrated by Agriculture Minister Messer's announcement last October, stating the Matador Co-op Farm near Swift Current had been purchased by the Land Bank Commission. This 7,920 acre operation will henceforth be state controlled and leased to other farmers on a permanent basis and never sold. Mr. Messer said that this was only the first of "many" such acquisitions.

It is becoming increasingly clear to Saskatchewan residents, especially farmers, that the Land Bank is not a transfer system, but a method by which the N.D.P. seek to implement a landlord system of farming under which the farmers are merely tenants of the government.

Another term of office for the N.D.P. will mean an alarming increase in the number of state farms in Saskatchewan.

THE LIBERAL ALTERNATIVE:

The Liberal Party believes the government's function should be to assist in the transfer of land by ensuring a market for farmers who wish to sell their holdings and by assisting young farmers to purchase or build-up viable farm units.

When elected a Liberal Government will:

1. Replace the Saskatchewan Land Bank Commission with a Family Farm Development Act. Farmers presently leasing land through the Land Bank may continue to lease or will be given an immediate and a real option to buy.
2. The Family Farm Development Act will be the means by which the Government assists farmers to purchase land.

In order to assure applicants of adequate long term credit, a Liberal Government will guarantee

loans for the purpose of buying land and equipment necessary for farming.

With a government guarantee on the loan, no security, other than the land purchased, would be needed.

3. The Government would subsidize the interest payments on loans for the first five years to help the farmer establish himself.

Liberals believe if young people are given the financial opportunity, many will gladly return to farming.

A Saskatchewan Liberal government is pledged to return ownership of the land back to the people.

SASKATCHEWAN CROP INSURANCE

Since 1971, the N.D.P. Government has permitted Saskatchewan's Crop Insurance Plan to fall seriously behind the Plans in our sister provinces of Alberta and Manitoba.

The maximum coverage allowed on wheat in Saskatchewan is only \$2.25 a bushel, while in Manitoba the maximum coverage is \$2.75 a bushel and in Alberta it is \$3.50.

A Liberal Government will, within one year, move to have crop insurance coverage levels for Saskatchewan farmers increased to match the average level of coverage in other Prairie Provinces.

Increased coverage levels will be voluntary.

SUCCESSION DUTIES AND GIFT TAXES

Saskatchewan farmers have been the hardest hit by the N.D.P.'s Death Duties. Many farm operations are threatened by the high Succession taxes to the extent the families will have to sell parts of the farm in order to pay the tax collector when the husband or father dies.

At the first Session of the Legislative Assembly following the election of a Liberal government, Succession Duties and Gift Taxes will be abolished.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AGENCIES

Under the N.D.P. Government in Saskatchewan, Marketing Boards have been imposed on agricultural producers without their consent and have been operated by government bureaucrats instead of producers themselves.

While marketing boards and commissions can often be positive steps forward in agricultural development, Liberals believe in the farmers' ability to decide for themselves how their products should be marketed.

A Liberal Government will:

1. Return to agricultural producers the right to vote on the creation of an agency to market their product.
2. The producers themselves will operate and control their own marketing agency.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Liberal Party favours restrictions on ownership of Saskatchewan agricultural land by non-Canadians and we also believe these restrictions should include our recreational and residential lands.

At the same time, we believe other Canadians should enjoy the same rights in Saskatchewan which we enjoy in their provinces. Canada is one nation; restrictions against those who live outside of our province are not in keeping with our desire to maintain the national unity.

A Liberal government will remove ownership restrictions presently imposed against Canadians living outside

of Saskatchewan, thereby allowing Saskatchewan farmers to pass on their land to their children who may live outside of the province. The restrictions against non-Canadian ownership of agricultural land will be maintained and extended to include recreational and residential lands.

ASSISTANCE FOR DIVERSIFICATION

Financial assistance under the present FarmStart programme is available only to those farmers who have a net worth of \$60,000 or less, thereby placing severe restrictions on the number of people eligible.

Recognizing the increased costs of farming and the constantly rising value of farm inputs and equipment, a Liberal government will raise to \$100,000 the maximum net worth farmers are allowed to have and still be eligible for FarmStart assistance.

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT

The Gardiner Dam was built at great expense with the objective of irrigating a sizeable acreage of Saskatchewan farm land. The N.D.P. Government has cancelled almost all further development of this project, showing a lack of vision in its potential.

Saskatchewan cannot afford to waste the water. It should be used to stabilize and encourage agricultural production in the dry area around the Dam, particularly of hay, to provide much needed supplies of feed for cattle.

A Liberal Government will proceed with development plans and provide comprehensive financial and technical assistance to farmers and other enterprises which may be established to process irrigated crops.

FARM TRUCK LICENCING

Present regulations restrict the licencing of a farm truck, and thereby the use of tax-free gasoline, to a two axle vehicle.

A Liberal government will immediately amend the regulations to allow farmers to licence as a farm vehicle any size truck which they use in their farming operation.

FARM FUEL REBATE

The present system of rebating the increased cost of farm fuels to farmers is time consuming, inefficient, and politically motivated.

A Liberal Government will apply the rebate at the dealer level, thereby allowing farmers to obtain an immediate rebate and relieving them from having to make individual applications for the reduction.

A Liberal Government will guarantee the use of tax-free purple gasoline in farm vehicles.

AGRICULTURAL TRANSPORTATION

1. The Saskatchewan Liberal Party is opposed to any change in the Crow Rate Agreement which would result, directly or indirectly, in increased freight charges on Western grain.

As a government, we will fight vigorously for the benefits of the Agreement to be expanded to cover livestock and finished agricultural products.

2. The Government of Saskatchewan has a crucial role to play in our province's efforts in rail line retention.

The N.D.P. have not provided the necessary leadership and instead of speaking for the people of Saskatchewan, they have chosen to use the question of rail line abandonment as a cheap political issue.

A provincial Liberal Government will immediately pursue a positive programme to have the maximum amount of rail lines upgraded and transferred into the permanent, protected rail system. By working with Rural Municipalities, Town Councils, farm organizations, and the general public, the Government will be in a position to speak for all of Saskatchewan with a united voice.

A Liberal Government will support an elevator and transportation system based on the criteria that no farmer be more than 25 miles from an elevator with the overall average being 15 miles.

3. Farmers are often the innocent but hard-hit victims of strikes by rail workers, grain handlers, and others engaged in services affecting the shipment of agricultural products.

A Liberal Government, while encouraging a less disruptive method of settling labour disputes, will urge the Government of Canada to pay the demurrage charges on grain presently borne by farmers during a strike period.

FARM INCOME STABILIZATION

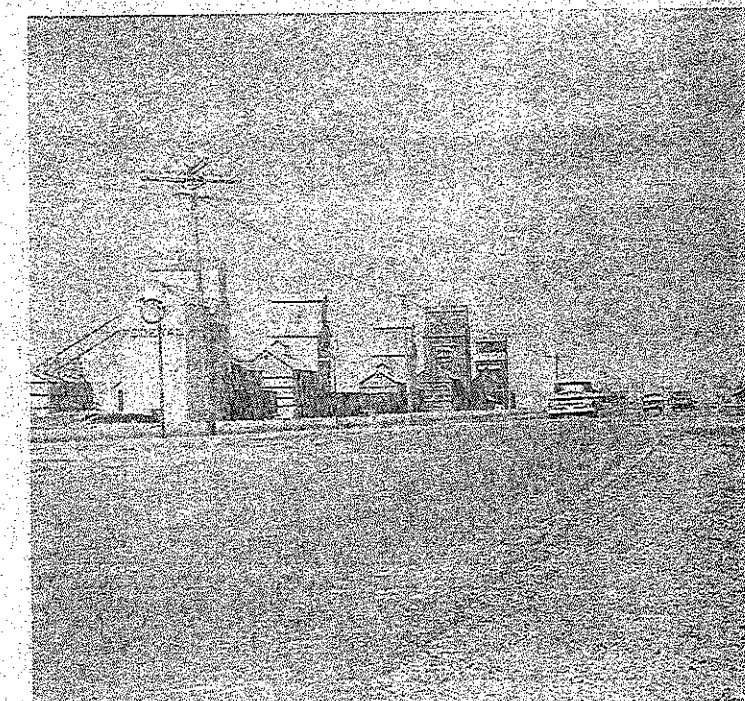
A Liberal Government will work with the Government of Canada in the implementation of income stabilization programmes for farm products; both grain and livestock.

Where these programmes are not adequate to meet the particular needs of Saskatchewan agricultural producers the Government shall proceed on its own to ensure proper protection for our farmers.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD OFFICE

Saskatchewan is the centre of Canada's grain industry and the Head Office of the Canadian Wheat Board would be more appropriately situated here rather than in Winnipeg.

A Liberal Government will urge the transfer of the Wheat Board's offices to Saskatchewan.



Resource Development

Saskatchewan Liberals insist that our natural resources belong to Saskatchewan people and a Liberal Government will fight to maintain clear title to those resources for the province.

Saskatchewan is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. We have great reserves of oil, coal, uranium, and timber. We have the largest, the most accessible and the finest potash reserves in the world. Even the most conservative estimates show that we have enough potash to supply the fertilizer needs of the entire world for at least 600 years.

The greatest opportunity we have ever had to become a rich province, independent and self-sufficient is at hand. But we are losing this opportunity because the Blakeney Government has decided to halt resource development by private companies in favour of government ownership.

What the N.D.P. fail to understand is that corporate income and activities can easily be controlled by taxation and government regulation.

The alarming tragedy of this short-sightedness is that the people of Saskatchewan will suffer the consequences of thousands of lost jobs and the millions of dollars that will not be realized in tax revenue.

A Liberal Government will renew faith with private industry, and while taxing the private sector highly for the maximum benefit of Saskatchewan people, we will leave industry with enough profit to enable the resumption of exploration and development.

These companies do not ask for incentive; they only ask for a fair deal — a fair deal that the N.D.P. have refused to offer.

The result has been that resource companies are cancelling expansion plans and new industries are refusing to locate in the province.

Once elected, a Liberal Government will:

1. Re-establish the climate of political stability that would encourage the resource industries to return to Saskatchewan and help us develop the wealth of this province for the people.

This would include the repeal of Bill No. 42, an Act which taxes oil companies so highly that they no longer find it feasible to continue exploration in Saskatchewan.

2. Set a fair rate of taxation which will allow resource industries to remain in Saskatchewan and still compete with foreign sources. The people of Saskatchewan will still realize the highest possible taxation revenues from our natural resources, but without draining industry away from the province. If



this happens, as it has with the small Canadian oil companies, we will receive no taxation revenues!

3. A provincial Liberal Government will take the lead in settling the oil tax dispute with Ottawa and in the meantime revise the surcharge and royalty structure to permit industry to make a reasonable return on production in this province.
4. Repeal the N.D.P. Government regulation which requires that all new potash mines in Saskatchewan be government controlled.
5. Encourage expansion of the mining industry and renew exploration in the petroleum industry so that Saskatchewan people will be provided with jobs and taxation revenue and the rest of the world will be able to obtain our fertilizer and petroleum — both resources which are desperately needed.

The N.D.P. Government has taken over control of the timber industry through the government-owned Saskatchewan Forest Products Corporation. This is nothing new to the people of Saskatchewan as the old C.C.F. Government did the same thing years ago.

The result of this government take-over of our forests will be just as disastrous as it was under the old C.C.F. Government.

Government bureaucrats simply do not possess the expertise and knowledge to undertake efficient forest utilization and development.

The result of government interference in our timber industry has become devastatingly clear: the main income of our northern people is still supplied by the welfare roles of Saskatchewan!

A Liberal Government will:

1. Do away with the monopoly that the government holds through the Saskatchewan Forest Products Corporation and encourage private development of the forest industry.
2. Insist on the best utilization of our forests through proper harvesting methods and effective reforestation programmes.
3. Encourage the construction of smaller, private saw mills that will provide the most efficient use of our forests and the greatest number of employment opportunities for our northern people.
4. Ensure proper control and conservation of renewable resources through strict government regulation and inspection and not by spending precious dollars on outright government ownership.

Northern Development

In 1972 the Department of Northern Saskatchewan was formed to provide a single agency approach for the social and economic development of Northern Saskatchewan. This Department has great possibilities, but in the hands of the N.D.P., it has met with utter disaster.

Since 1972, millions of dollars have been spent to establish the massive bureaucracy which runs D.N.S. Southern bureaucrats, with no knowledge of northern problems, have been placed in charge of policy making, resulting in the development of distrust and unrest in northern communities.

Promises of involvement and participation by Northern residents have not materialized, resulting in civil servant resignations and disenchantment of residents.

Mismanagement and squandering of funds has led to suspicion of the D.N.S. and a lack of confidence in its ability to help solve the problems of the north and its people.

Under a Liberal Government the Department of Northern Saskatchewan will provide a fully co-ordinated effort of all government programmes guided by a Northern Policy Committee made up equally of govern-

ment and northern representatives.

Specifically, the Liberals will:

1. Replace the dictatorial bureaucracy with more local autonomy and control.
2. Initiate programs to provide jobs and economic opportunities for the people of Northern Saskatchewan.
3. Encourage and provide incentives for business and resource development by northern residents.
4. Improve health services in the North by expanding present hospital facilities and constructing new facilities where needed.
5. Provide local community authorities with sufficient finances to manage their own affairs.
6. Expand housing, sewer, and water facilities for northern residents.
7. Provide radio and television coverage for all northern communities, ensuring that programming is consistent with local interests.
8. Concentrate efforts on developing the trade and management skills of the northern people so that they can fully share in and competently direct northern enterprises.
9. Provide local communities in the North with special grants for the provision of recreational and other community facilities.

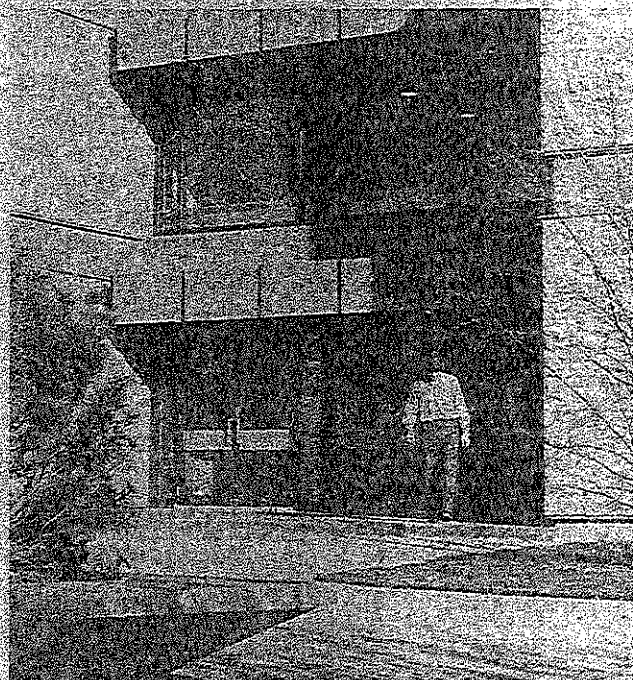
The Individual

The rights of the individual must be constantly safeguarded from an N.D.P. Government that is becoming increasingly impersonal, bureaucratic, and insensitive to the aspirations of the private citizen.

The Liberal Party is convinced that the erosion of individual freedom is a serious reality in Saskatchewan. The N.D.P. trend toward too much power vested in the hands of a small group of people has caused ordinary citizens to become justifiably nervous about the future.

A Liberal Government will:

1. Remove the present restrictions on the powers of the Provincial Ombudsman and allow him to investigate complaints against the Government up to and in-



cluding the Deputy Minister level.

2. Enact legislation to assure individuals of the right of access to information that concerns their personal affairs, and guarantee easily accessible means of amending or destroying such information if it is misused, or if it is proven to be inaccurate or misleading. Agencies such as credit bureaus will be required to inform all persons of the existence of files concerning them, and of their right to inspect the contents of such files.
3. Guarantee the right of review to the Courts against the decisions of government tribunals, boards, and commissions.
4. Remove those legislative provisions now in effect which allow the N.D.P. Cabinet members to arbitrarily take drastic actions affecting the rights of others without having to satisfy criteria or have the approval of an independent body such as the Courts.
 - a) Amend the Consumer Affairs Act which allows the Minister to close down a business operation for any reason without having to prove wrong doing.
 - b) Amend the Hospital Standards Act which allows the Minister of Health to dismiss any locally elected Hospital Board for any reason without having to prove the Board was incompetent or unable to perform its duties.
 - c) Appointments to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission should not be made by the Cabinet as political rewards. An impartial and independent appointment mechanism must be established.
 - d) Amend the Natural Products Marketing Act so that producers of agricultural commodities will have the right to decide for themselves whether to form a marketing board or commission. The producers themselves will run any such marketing agency in the manner they feel is best for their own interests.

Senior Citizens

How we care for those people who built our province is an important indication of the quality and compassion of our society.

Despite the dramatically increased revenues our province has received in the past few years, the N.D.P. have ignored the needs of the elderly.

N.D.P. priorities have been such that next to no money can be found for Senior Citizens while millions of dollars are squandered on various government-controlled projects and agencies contributing nothing to the public good.

A Liberal Government will:

1. Guarantee every individual 65 years of age and over a minimum monthly income of \$350. Married couples will be eligible to receive up to \$500 through this provincial income supplement. The level of assistance will be annually increased by the rise in the Consumer Price Index.

2. Provide Level III nursing care as an insured program under the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan.

Levels IV, V and VI are fully insured health programs under the SHSP, while Levels I, II and III are not.

Patients needing these levels of care are required to pay for them or seek assistance from the Department of Social Services.

This situation gives rise to a serious problem which in some cases, causes patients to end up in a level of care other than the one they should be in.



Senior Citizens and their families are often anxious to have cases classed as Level IV so that the individual's savings are not wiped out by special care costs.

By placing Level III care under the SHSP, much of the pressure of Level IV facilities will be relieved and our institutions will be better able to provide the proper care to Senior Citizens.

3. All levels of health care, from Level I (ambulatory) to Level VI (acute hospital care) will be placed under the responsibility of the Department of Health.

There is a growing concern in the province regarding the administrative and financial fragmentation of the health delivery system as it pertains to levels of care.

Presently, the responsibility of ensuring that individuals in need of care have access to the type and level of care most appropriate to their condition is divided between two government departments: Levels I, II and III are administered by the Department of Social Services, while Levels IV, V and VI are administered by the Department of Health.

With two departments planning health care (particularly for our Senior Citizens), we find the development of different standards of care, confusion in the use of terminology, as well as ineffective use of facilities and finances.

4. Present regulations regarding Level I and II facilities are such that many small communities find it impossible to maintain such services.

The result is that Senior Citizens must often leave their families and friends to receive proper care.

A Liberal Government will provide for more extensive grants for such institutions and allow more of Saskatchewan's smaller communities to have Level I and II facilities.

5. While seeking to expand the number of Special Care Homes for Senior Citizens, a Liberal Government will also ensure that adequate financing is available for the upgrading of present facilities.

Education

A Liberal Government, recognizing the importance of education and its unique community nature, will seek to improve the general standards while maintaining the autonomy of local school boards and units.

FUNDING

A grant system will be established based on the number of students served in a jurisdiction and which also recognizes:

1. The type of school served (present funding does not recognize the special status of composite schools as it does with the comprehensive schools).
2. Student sparsity in rural Saskatchewan.
3. The type of student being educated.
4. The size of school (small rural schools require a certain basic allotment in order to operate, which is presently not recognized).
5. Incentive capital grants must be established for construction and renovation activities in small communities wishing to maintain their schools.

Liberals believe in the maintenance of a vigorous school system in rural Saskatchewan. This can be accomplished by a method of funding which provides our smaller communities with additional money to meet the rising cost of education.

LOCAL AUTONOMY

Liberal policy will encourage a maximum degree of local control regarding educational programmes and school maintenance within our education system.

1. School units will not be increased in size without the consent of the taxpayers involved.
2. No further centralization of school units will take place without the consent of the taxpayers involved.
3. As much as possible, programme decision-making must be left to the local jurisdictional level.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The present N.D.P. legislation regarding Teacher Collective Bargaining has been a failure.

The Liberal Party proposes the following aspects of teacher collective bargaining which should have universality be retained at the provincial level:

- (1) Salaries
- (2) Principals' Allowances
- (3) Superannuation
- (4) Insurance
- (5) Sick Leave

All other matters will be required to be settled by bargaining at the local level.

SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT FUND

A Liberal Government will initiate a provincial Sickness and Accident Fund for teachers which will provide for:

1. Portability of accumulative sick leave from one school jurisdiction to another.
2. The liabilities of the fund will be shared among all school jurisdictions according to the number of teachers currently employed in the system.
3. The increased cost of portability of sick leave will be paid for by the provincial government.

SUPERANNUATION

The Teachers' Superannuation Act will be amended to provide for retirement after 30 years of service, regardless of age.

TEACHER TENURE

A Liberal Government will amend the Teacher Tenure Act so as to provide teachers with employment security.

The rights of Trustees to carry out their functions as the elected officials responsible for education will be guaranteed.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

A Liberal Government will expand and improve the quality of Community College programmes in Saskatchewan and place the emphasis on establishing these Colleges in smaller, rural centres.



STUDENT BUSSING

A Liberal Government will operate on the general principle that increases in the amount of time children spend on school buses is undesirable. While decisions on bussing rest ultimately with the local school boards, the Department of Education must seek to ensure that no child spends more time than is absolutely necessary on a school bus.

To accomplish this the Department shall:

1. Increase transportation grants so that bus routes are as short and as direct as possible.
2. Supply the funds necessary to keep small schools open rather than centralizing education in larger communities and thereby forcing many students to ride buses for long periods of time in order to attend class.

SCHOOL TEXTS

A greater emphasis must be placed on the use of Canadian texts in our school system.

A Liberal Government will seek to have Canadian authored texts available in all classes.

TEACHER TRAINING

- (a) A minimum four year education programme shall be established for the training of teachers. Teachers presently certified will not be affected by this change.
- (b) Recognizing the demanding nature of the work associated with teaching, a Liberal Government will provide additional funds for educational and sabbatical leaves.

Welfare

A Liberal Government will undertake a major reform of Saskatchewan's Welfare system so as to allow those who are genuinely in need of help easier access to it, while insisting that those who are capable of providing for themselves do so.

Under the present system, we treat Senior Citizens, the physically and mentally handicapped and the single parent the same as those who are in need of vocational re-training and job placement. This is wrong. People should be treated as individuals with different needs and different problems requiring different solutions.

A Saskatchewan Liberal Government is pledged to reform Welfare administration, eliminating waste and mismanagement. The truly needy will be assured of a decent income without having to suffer the humiliations usually associated with the Welfare system.

Those who can work will be provided with whatever educational and practical training is necessary to enable them to find a place in the mainstream of society.

The present N.D.P. policy of merely adding programme onto programme in a department already filled with regulations and red tape is simply self-defeating. It is time for compassionate change, based on a desire to help those who are unable to help themselves.

Health

The availability and quality of health care in Saskatchewan has seriously declined under the N.D.P. Government.

A \$16 million base hospital in Regina stands virtually empty while patients must wait months to be admitted for operations.

Entire wards in several Saskatchewan hospitals are empty and patients are turned away because of a serious shortage of nurses. The nursing shortage is a direct result of the N.D.P. Government's refusal to pay nurses an adequate wage and its harassment of nurses' efforts to form their own bargaining association.

To ensure the delivery of adequate health care facilities to those in need of them, a Liberal Government will:

1. Enter into immediate discussions with the Saskatchewan Nurses' Association in order to determine the best methods by which more nurses can be encouraged to return to work.
2. Remove all government offices and civil servants presently occupying space at the Plains Hospital in Regina and, as a top government priority, open the entire hospital for the purpose for which it was built — the care of patients.
3. Place all levels of health care under the Department of Health. This means the removal of Levels I, II, and III from the Department of Social Services. It is inappropriate for Social Services to administer health care programmes.
4. Include Level III care as an insured service under the Saskatchewan Health Services Plan. Too many Senior Citizens exhaust their entire savings in an effort to maintain themselves in expensive special care facilities.
5. A Liberal Government will provide proper ambulance service throughout Saskatchewan. Wherever possible, this will be done by assisting private ambulance services where they exist, but a



Liberal Government will not hesitate in getting directly involved in this field if it is necessary to ensure proper service in rural areas.

6. Present regulations regarding Level I and II facilities are such that many small communities find it impossible to maintain such services. The result is that Senior Citizens must often leave their families and friends to receive proper care.

A Liberal Government will provide for more extensive grants for such institutions and allow more of Saskatchewan's smaller communities to have Level I and II facilities.

7. A Liberal Government will amend the Hospital Standards Act so as to remove the Minister of Public Health's power to unilaterally abolish local Hospital Boards and replace them with his own appointees.

Status of Women

The Liberal Party believes all members of society must be free to function and contribute to their fullest capabilities.

A society that relegates women to a secondary position denies them their basic rights and is only functioning at partial capacity. Efforts to enhance the status of women will serve to produce a better environment for every citizen.

1. A Liberal Government will immediately implement a policy to eliminate discrimination against women by the Government itself, its agencies and its regulations. Such a policy would be under the direct scrutiny of a Cabinet Minister.

Specifically:

- a) the Regulations setting out terms and conditions of employment must be changed so as to remove all discriminatory provisions. In too many cases, the Government has a habit of only considering men for certain positions, even though many women may be well qualified. The Government has made 1407 appointments to Boards and Commissions — less than 10% are women; 141 out of 1407.
- b) Law amendments recognizing the changing role of women in society must be continued. Under the Automobile Accident Insurance Act, housewives who are disabled by automobile accidents are entitled to a maximum of only 12 weeks disability payments. Individuals in other professions are entitled up to 104 weeks of payments.

Clearly this is wrong. A Liberal administration pledges itself to removing such laws which frustrate women's aspirations to achieve equality.

- c) A Liberal Government will utilize the tremendous resources of women in volunteer organizations. There are many women who lack professional training, but wish to contribute to the welfare of their communities.

Meaningful work almost always requires financing. While many women are willing to give of themselves, they cannot finance the organization necessary to channel their energies in a worthwhile way.

Financial support from the Government would be forthcoming for women's voluntary associations engaged in projects designed to improve the public good and in projects of particular concern to women.

Rural Saskatchewan

The heart of Saskatchewan is its rural areas. The Liberal Party is pledged to major new initiatives and commitments to revitalize and develop rural Saskatchewan.

The N.D.P. have played with statistics and engaged in a great deal of rhetoric in an attempt to hide the fact that almost every Rural Municipality and small town in Saskatchewan has continued to lose population under their Government.

A Liberal Government offers the following firm proposals to enhance the quality of life in rural Saskatchewan and to encourage the growth of small communities:

1. The Liberal Government will ensure the development and restoration of business facilities in Saskatchewan towns and villages by providing tax credits and grants for development programmes. These measures will be designed to encourage businesses to restore or improve their place of business or plant facility. In addition, the government will ensure the availability of credit to small businesses so they may compete against larger, national enterprises.
2. Grants to the Saskatchewan Transportation Company and other bus lines in order to improve bus service in rural areas. No Saskatchewan community of five hundred or larger will be without at least twice weekly bus service.
3. Private underground telephone service will be made available to all of rural Saskatchewan. This will



The Cities

URBAN PARKS

Recognizing the need for regional parks within urban centres, a Liberal Government will extend the Regional Park Program concept to cities and towns enabling them to develop recreational parks within their boundaries.

Such a program will mean financial assistance from the provincial government to urban administrations for purchase of the land required for such developments and for operating them.

SATELLITE COMMUNITIES

Satellite communities near our major urban centres are facing special hardships. The demand for adequate facilities are far outstripping the ability of these communities to supply the services.

As more people leave the cities to enjoy a less hectic

guarantee private lines, undisturbed by weather conditions, for all rural residents.

4. Immediate cablevision will be provided to Saskatchewan residents, giving our people access to all the North American television networks as is the case in most of the rest of Canada.
5. The Student Temporary Employment Programme will be reintroduced, again allowing farmers and businessmen to receive assistance in hiring students for summer jobs. This programme is of special benefit to small town businesses and farmers, as well as providing students with hard-to-find jobs in their own communities.
6. An annual Recreation Grant of at least \$5.00 per capita shall be given by the Liberal Government to each local government for the construction and maintenance of recreational facilities.
7. a) The present grid road maintenance grant will be extended to include all principal farm access roads.
b) The Liberal Government will provide substantial aid to Rural Municipalities to build and maintain good roads to regional recreational and historic sites.
8. The Liberal Government will provide an additional and separate \$500.00 grant to first-time homeowners who construct a principal residence in Saskatchewan towns, villages and Rural Municipalities, and will subsidize the rate of interest on mortgages so as to encourage the construction of new homes in rural Saskatchewan.
9. The Liberal Government will place increased emphasis on the decentralization of government agencies and departments throughout the province.

way of life or to obtain a less expensive way to live in neighbouring satellite communities, the demands on these communities for adequate services becomes even greater, placing an intolerable strain on the taxpayers.

A Liberal Government will institute a Satellite Community Special Grants Program to enable these communities to supply adequate utilities as well as recreational and community facilities without increasing the tax burden on local taxpayers.

HOME REPAIRS

In order to encourage residents to remain in older neighbourhoods, a Liberal Government will institute a program of forgivable loans for home repairs in such areas. These loans will be forgiven at a set rate for every year the owner maintains residency but in order to discourage the purchase and resale of older homes for profit the loans will be repayable immediately upon the sale of the home.

WARD SYSTEM

A Liberal Government will provide for an immediate

vote by the citizens of Regina and Saskatoon so as to determine whether or not they wish to maintain the Ward System arbitrarily imposed on them by the N.D.P.

If the citizens choose to maintain the Ward System, a Liberal Government, in consultation with the cities, will modify the plan so as to increase the number of aldermen and more fairly reflect the various community areas and interests within the cities.

MOBILE HOMES

As the cost of housing continues to increase beyond the reach of many home buyers, more people are purchasing mobile homes as permanent residences.



Local Gov't Financing

The N.D.P. Government's record of financial assistance to municipalities has fallen far short of their 1971 promises and of the province's ability to place more money in the hands of the municipalities.

Because of the flow of new revenue into the provincial treasury the income of the government has increased by 340% since 1971.

This fantastic increase in revenue was not the result of actions by the N.D.P. but was caused by the record prices which we have received for the commodities we produce.

During the same period, local governments' revenues have remained relatively fixed while municipal costs continue to soar.

The Government of Saskatchewan's revenue has increased by \$850 million and yet the increase in assistance to local governments has been less than \$25 million!

For over 25 years municipalities have requested provincial administrations to give them substantial, unconditional grants tied to the provincial tax base. Such a system would provide local governments with an assured share of provincial revenues on a continual, increasing and reliable basis.

It would mean municipalities could set their own priorities, engage in long-term planning and bring much needed improvements to roads, streets, lighting, sewage and many other essential municipal services.

The new Liberal Government will guarantee all municipalities a fair share of provincial revenues for the first time in Saskatchewan's history by providing them with substantial annual unconditional grants based on a percentage of consumptive taxes such as:

1. Education and Health Tax
2. Income Tax
3. Gasoline Tax
4. Corporation Tax

Beginning in 1976, a Liberal Government will guarantee that municipalities receive a major increase in the total

Over the past four years the N.D.P. have failed to come to grips with the special demands the mobile home residents place on urban communities.

A Liberal Government will:

1. Assist in the cost of new mobile home parks. Such assistance will allow local governments to build adequate mobile home parks enabling residents to live in a healthy and safe environment.
2. Provide additional grants to improve the upgrade existing mobile home developments.
3. Provide for uniform standards of construction for mobile homes sold in Saskatchewan to ensure that adequate fire and safety standards are met and maintained.

grants provided from the provincial government sufficient to provide enough money to ensure a reasonable expansion of services for local residents without excessive property tax increases.

The formula for the grant, worked out in consultation with urban and rural municipalities, will contain an equalization formula based on assessment and population. Such a formula will ensure fair treatment for sparsely populated rural areas with low assessments.

Those conditional grants which local governments wish to keep shall be maintained while the major unconditional grant attached to provincial revenues will be given with as few restrictions as possible, thereby enabling municipalities to maintain their autonomy and fulfil their responsibilities without constantly increasing property taxes to residents of rural and urban areas.

Small Business

For the past four years the Blakeney Government has continually shown its contempt and lack of understanding of the business community in Saskatchewan. They have passed restrictive legislation and failed to stimulate the expansion of small business in any way.

Saskatchewan Liberals believe that the general policy of a government toward business should be firstly to see that the public is treated fairly, and secondly to allow the business community to carry out its operations with as little government interference as possible.

In order to achieve this goal, a Liberal Government will:

1. Amend The Department of Consumer Affairs Act in order to restrict the Minister of Consumer Affairs' power to arbitrarily close places of business.
2. Establish a committee to review and overhaul the Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO) so that the Corporation adheres to the purposes for which it was established, namely to lend money to Saskatchewan businesses.

Under no circumstances will SEDCO insist on becoming an active partner with borrowers as a con-

dition of loan.

In order to further enhance the usefulness of SEDCO, a Liberal Government will allow the Corporation to provide loan guarantees to business and industrial concerns in order to make funds available for the creation or expansion of business or industry.

3. There are many small businesses that operate out of buildings that need renovations or require a new facility. These businesses provide a good living for a family but profits are often insufficient for a renovation or a new building. If such enterprises are not rebuilt or renovated, many small businesses will disappear because of the inadequate buildings out of which they must operate.

A Liberal Government will provide financial assistance to those businesses that implement a renovation in their present place of business or replace those premises with a newly constructed building. Such assistance will be in the form of a tax write-off, a direct grant, or a combination thereof.

4. A Liberal Government will provide co-ordinated market research information for prospective businesses wishing to establish in the province.

5. A Liberal Government will pay, to those businesses and concerns which collect sales tax or other forms of tax for the government, a Collection Commission which will fully compensate them for the time and money expended in the collection, bookkeeping and submission of returns.

Further, a Liberal Government will indemnify the parties involved against all losses, costs or expenses which might be incurred in the collection of revenues or the receiving of merchandise (such as under The Litter Act).

Generally, then, a Liberal Government will seek to end those aspects of present government policy that amount to little more than harassment of business while producing no positive benefits for Saskatchewan residents.



Labour



The Saskatchewan Liberal Party fully endorses and supports the basic principle of free collective bargaining — the association of employees into unions enabling them to negotiate their working conditions with their employers. This right of employees must be preserved and protected.

By the same token, employers must be free to enter into such negotiations in good faith with the desire to recognize the position of the employees and their need for improved conditions of work.

Liberals believe that both labour and management agree that strikes and lockouts are not a sensible way in which to settle their disputes. Intervention of government on either side in the collective bargaining process upsets the proper balance and tends to produce a failure represented by a lockout or a strike resulting in damage to the employees and the industry concerned and the economy as a whole.

In the interest of improving labour management relations and the collective bargaining process in Saskatchewan, the Liberal Government will:

1. Create a truly impartial Labour Relations Board whose appointees will be of proven experience and background in labour relations, will receive their appointments free from political influence, and who will, as a true judiciary, enjoy security of tenure in their position.
2. Repeal those provisions of The Trade Union Act restricting the right of employees to criticize their trade union or its management, if they are not satisfied with its performance or feel that improvement or innovation is desirable.
3. Create an independent commission with representation from employees, employers, trade unions and employer associations.
 - a) To study and to recommend improvements and modernization of programmes designed to better both the working conditions and the efficiency of Saskatchewan employees and employers.
 - b) To work towards a system that will enable Saskatchewan to lead the way in reducing lost production and damage to the economy because of the breakdown in the free collective bargaining process.
 - c) To remove the existing legislative restrictions that prevent both employees and employers from creating mutually desirable innovations in such areas as varying work patterns, shorter work weeks and flexible time schedules.

The Liberal Party knows that improved working conditions will not come about so much by Government intervention or legislation as from a good industrial climate — one where the economy grows and flourishes and where business must compete for labour.



The Environment

A Liberal Government will fully recognize its responsibility to future generations to maintain Saskatchewan's enviable position as one of the few relatively unpolluted areas of the world. It will meet this responsibility with programs of public education, intelligent regulations, rigid enforcement, and the encouragement of a high level of technological research.

Specifically:

1. A Liberal Government will establish a completely independent Conservation, Environment and Recreation Authority to assess and regulate the use of our renewable resources.

This Authority will hold public hearings and conduct full studies to determine the merits of proposals by Crown Corporations and private companies involving the use of the province's resources. No developments will be permitted without full consultation with those residents who will be affected.

Presently, new developments are scrutinized by the Department of the Environment, which has a dangerous tendency to rubber stamp proposals, particularly those put forward by other N.D.P. government agencies.

2. Substantially increased assistance will be provided to municipalities to deal with the disposal of waste materials.
3. Through the Saskatchewan Research Council, research into reclamation and recycling of waste products will be given proper emphasis.
4. The Litter Control Act will be revised to remove the burden of bottle collection from small store owners, while retaining the principle that a convenient and efficient method of returning empty containers is desirable.
5. A Liberal Government would provide additional assistance to the Wildlife Habitat Fund by matching on a dollar-for-dollar basis the contributions made by hunters through their licence fees.

Good Government

The Saskatchewan Government is a billion dollar a year operation financed by one source — the taxpayer.

It therefore has a moral obligation to conduct itself with integrity and a healthy regard for the taxpayers' money.

However, in the past four years the N.D.P. Government has been both fiscally irresponsible and less than honest in its management of the affairs of the province.

The Blakeney Government has resumed its dishonest practice of awarding without tender, public printing contracts to Service Printers Ltd., which is owned and operated by the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party.

The two advertising companies who do political work for the N.D.P. continue to receive all of the government advertising contracts.

Mismanagement has been proven and even fraud charges laid in the Welfare Department.

The Provincial Auditor reported to the Legislature that he could not account for the financing of the Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission because of improper accounting procedures.

The Department of Northern Saskatchewan was established before a proper auditing system could be devised to ensure the proper use of public money.

The result — \$500,000 found lying in shoe boxes in La Ronge.

The Human Resource Development Agency came into being without specific guidelines as to its role in assisting the disadvantaged. The result — mass resignations of disillusioned staff members and a government decision to downgrade the Agency after spending \$1 million to establish it.

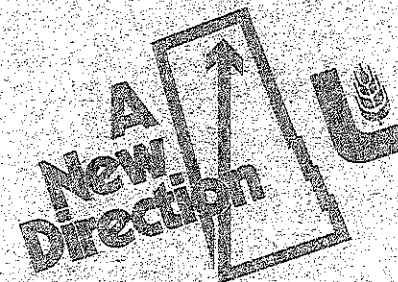
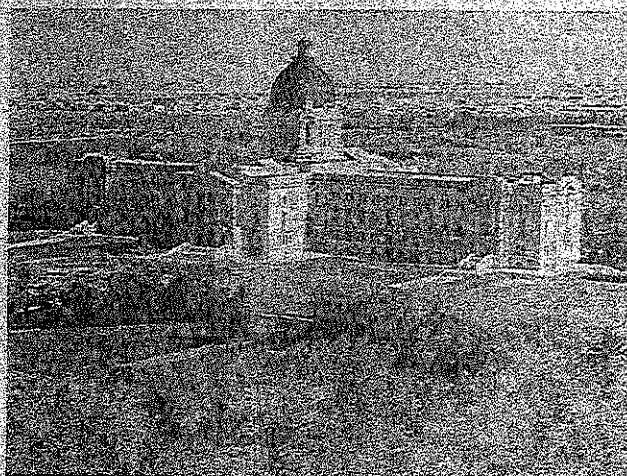
Even the sheer growth of the Blakeney government continues at a frightening pace.

Since 1971 we have seen the civil service increase by 4,000 new employees while the population of the province has declined by more than 15,000 people.

While N.D.P. government expenditures for advertising and public relations have more than doubled, people are becoming increasingly cynical about the worth of government.

A Liberal Government will be deeply committed to a basic reform in the manner in which public funds are spent and programs initiated.

A respect for taxpayers' money and a desire to administer the affairs of the province efficiently will mean more resources for genuinely worthwhile programs of benefit to those who need them most.



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Government back to the people

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