

SOCIAL CREDIT PLATFORM

By Premier W.A.C. Bennett

Throughout the first eight years of Social Credit administration in British Columbia, I have steadfastly refused to indulge in the misleading practice of making campaign promises. Our Social Credit slogan, "Action Not Promises" and "Progress Not Politics", mean exactly what they say; and I will not now, or at any time in the future, break faith with the people of British Columbia, who have supported us so loyally through three elections, by abandoning the spirit of those slogans.

The Social Credit Government has good reason to speak of faith, for when the electors voted for us first in 1952, they accepted us on faith --- not on extravagant promises. I believe it is entirely fair to say that the record of the Social Credit administration has shown that their faith was justified, and I am confident that they will ask this administration to continue the management of their affairs when the general election is held on September 12.

In other words, the platform of the Social Credit Government in this election is the story of its achievements during the past eight years. Here, in brief review, are the highlights of that story:

. The public debt of \$191 million has been wiped out, and at the same time the value of your fixed assets --- public buildings, highways and equipment --- has risen from \$188 million to over \$500 million. Even opposition critics now accept as fact this achievement, which has released for productive use over \$22 million a year formerly used to meet debt charges.

On your behalf, the largest per capita program of highways and bridges construction in the free world --- over \$500 million spent in eight years --- has been carried out.

. You are helped in payment of your municipal taxes through the annual Home Owner Grant of \$50, a grant made only by the Social Credit Government of British Columbia.

. Your Social Credit Government pays the highest supplementary pension and welfare allowances in Canada, and these were raised another 20 per cent this year.

. More money than ever before in our history is provided for hospitals --- the Social Credit Government leads all Canada by paying half the cost of hospital construction.

. You are protected by Canada's most successful hospital insurance program, which has paid over \$255 million in patients' hospital bills since 1952.

. The Social Credit Government's grants to education are the highest per capita in Canada --- since 1952 they have risen by 355 per cent. In higher education, the story is the same: the University of British Columbia receives Canada's highest per-capita grant --- up from 2 million dollars in 1952 to \$9½ million in 1960. Support has been given to the establishment of a full University at Victoria, and only in British Columbia is partial payment of their fees made to University students with superior marks. On this "money for marks" program alone, the Government is spending \$230 thousand this year.

. Social Credit Government has increased aid to municipalities to help them pay for more local services.

. Sympathetic care for the aged has been provided by a program of modern housing for senior citizens to which the Social Credit Government has contributed nearly \$2 million since 1952.

. British Columbia's forests, which provide our biggest annual payroll, have been protected now and for the future through the sustained-yield program of the Social Credit Government.

. Industrial development to create new jobs and wider opportunities has been encouraged. The Social Credit Government has solidly supported Canada's largest power development programs on the Columbia and Peace Rivers to produce the electrical energy which will attract industry, and it has encouraged development of the petroleum industry from which the province has earned a 1000 per cent increase in revenues since 1952.

. The Social Credit Government has stepped in to provide vital transportation links where others failed to act, by extending the Pacific Great Eastern Railway north into the Peace River district and south to metropolitan Vancouver, and by providing North America's most modern ferry service between the British Columbia mainland and Vancouver Island.

. Agriculture has been supported through land clearance, disease control and drainage programs and through advertising campaigns to increase consumption of farm produce.

. The most progressive labour legislation in Canada --- fair to both worker and employer --- has been carried out, and has earned over whelming support despite violent partisan attempts to undermine it. As a result, British Columbia has enjoyed the greatest measure of industrial peace in its history during the present year.

. British Columbia is the only province which has a separate Department of Recreation and Conservation, set up by the Social Credit Government in 1957 to develop our unrivalled recreation areas and build the mighty potential of our tourist industry.

These are some of the highlights of eight years of Social Credit management of your public affairs. In summing them up, I would remind you again that neither in 1952, nor the next year, nor in 1956 did Social Credit offer campaign promises.

But the benefits of Social Credit policy are now evident in every field, in every part of the province. There for all to see is concrete proof that the first eight years merely cleared the decks for the action that is to come; with the burden of public debt removed forever, and with the best basic services in Canada already provided, the Social Credit Government will be even better equipped in the future to build for jobs and develop our province in the broadest cultural, social and economic sense.

In doing so, this administration will continue to justify yet another of its slogans: "Efficiency With Economy". It was the Social Credit Government which eliminated secret Orders-in-Council; it was the Social Credit Government which reorganized, modernized and streamlined every department of government; and as anyone doing business with the Government knows, it was the Social Credit administration which completely abolished patronage in Government purchasing by instituting a public-tender system that has saved the people of this Province literally millions of dollars.

The Government I am privileged to head has never claimed perfection and has never been too proud or too rigid in its approach to take a "second look". It is made up of men who have worked diligently, day in and day out for eight years, to improve the lot of every citizen.

This Government holds the rights of the individual to be inviolate, and believes that our citizens from every walk of life must prosper if our parliamentary system, and British Columbia itself, is to continue to prosper. That is why Social Credit makes no attacks on any special group, and that is why it represents no special group --- only the people.

For all these reasons, and because of the record of the past eight years, I am confident that the people of British Columbia will vote to re-elect the Social Credit Government when they go to the polls on September 12.

