

The philosophy of a 'Political Realignment'

By SYLVIA KROGH

Our premier, recently-turned author, has another claim to add to his impressive list of titles and executive positions. It was revealed by the publication of the book "Political Realignment" that he has a latent talent for writing books as well.

"Generally, I was disappointed in Premier Manning's book" said Gerry Ohlsen, leader of the campus Liberal Club.

"I don't think he offered anything really concrete in terms of philosophy and suggestions. The most interesting part of the book was the part on party organization. However, he failed to set out how his suggestions were to be brought into practice, particularly finance. It is generally a statement of platitudes. It is very unfortunate that he has ignored the issue of French Canada".

"No one can disagree with his lists of ideals and principles. They can be embodied in all parties, and presently, play a role in all the major parties," Ohlsen added.

Bruce A. McLellan, president of the campus New Democratic Youth group also thought the book was a disappointment.

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Some of U of A's more politically-minded students review Premier Manning's red-hot best-seller and its underlying political concepts

you can't disagree with—everyone agrees with freedom of thought, action, etc. However, Premier Manning has failed to define these terms and show how to apply them. How do these ideals tie in with the economic and social structure?"

Leader of the campus Social Credit Club, Earl Scoville felt that Premier Manning purposely left suggestions for application of these ideals. The

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ideals are something to be kept in mind while allowing the people the initiative to come up with their own programs. Premier Manning wants us to develop them our-

selves. For example, he has great faith in the youth as displayed in his encouraging of the young Social Credit groups to produce resolutions with no adult interference. These can then be shown to the seniors and if deemed acceptable, will be adopted by them.

"I hope Manning's ideals are practical but he doesn't know whether politicians will allow themselves to be guided by these ideals," said Mr. Scoville.

"If we don't get some ideals into politics, the world will become progressively worse. There is not enough stress in living up to principles. We may say these ideals but we don't practice them. Most political parties are not implementing these ideals. I agree with Premier Manning's statement that there is general dissatisfaction with political parties today".

Was Premier Manning making excuses for the apathy

and indifference of Canadian people in regard to politics by placing the blame on politicians who 'have seldom appealed seriously to the people in recent times on the grounds of principles or practical idealism' (p. 31)? Gerry Ohlsen replied, "Citizens are not apathetic, or this book would not sell like it has been. People are satisfied with the present government and become more involved when they are not".

"Politicians will respond to the people. If people are apathetic, politicians will tend to be the same", declared Murray Sigler, leader of the campus Progressive Conservative Club. "If politicians have acted inefficiently in the past, it is the fault of the people who have not maintained an active interest in politics. Politicians also have a moral obligation to the people. If they are not acting in the public interest, they are violating their mandate".

"There is not a high degree of political awareness in this country," asserted Bruce McLellan.

"It is in the interests of political Conservatives and Liberals not to have too much political interest because that would produce questioning which would require change. In fact, the mass media are controlled by the production-distribution controls in our society, resulting in the tendency not to question the foundations of our society".

Bruce McLellan did not believe that Premier Manning's book was the center and subject of debate and therefore, it is not valid to

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make it so. The book does not present that much of a challenge to Canadians.

Murray Sigler also agreed that the book was not an issue of controversy.

"The book itself cannot put stamina into politics. It will be well read for a political book but won't have a profound effect, especially not immediately. However, it can be a rough guideline for the future of the political climate in Canada dictates the necessity for such change," said Murray Sigler.

The campus Social Credit leader claimed the book has

caused great controversy. Three thousand copies were sent to interested people, 15,000 copies were sold in the first two weeks, 25,000 copies sold to date. It is not possible to predict what the Canadian people will do, but since a large number of Albertans are interested in the future of Canada, they will read it, he said.

Bruce McLellan did not believe that the Social Conservative party was feasible or practical.

The capitalist system reinforces the injustices of society. Society produces wealth and achievements which become the private property of a small group of people. According to the humanitarian socialist

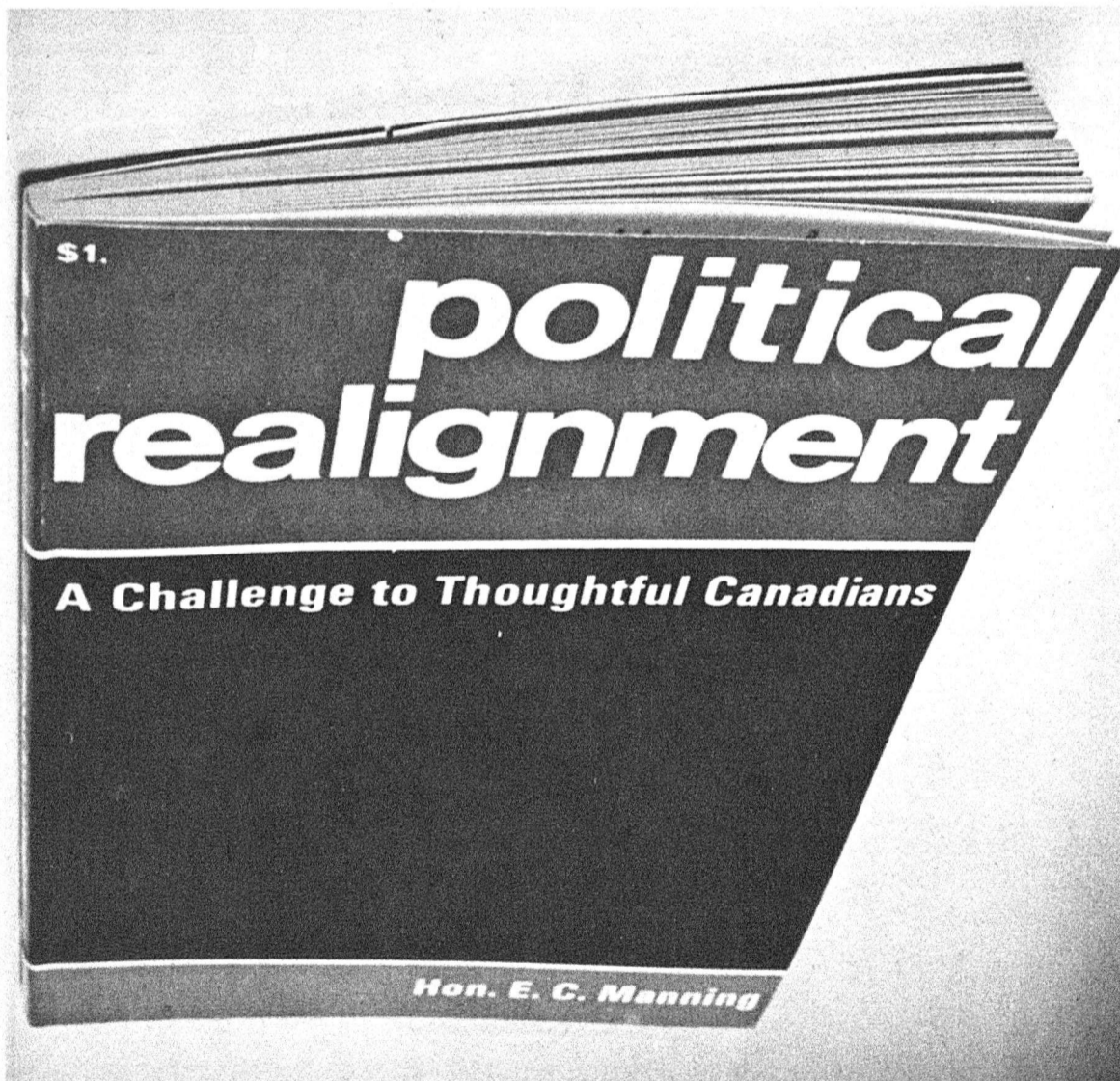
"Manning is unrealistic about the nature of Canadian politics since he wants the Conservative party as opposed to the Liberal party. Premier Manning's Social Conservative party is the conservative position dressed up in humanitarian terms to make it more palatable."

ideal, no man is a means to another's end. However, in a capitalist society, the worker is the capitalist's means to an end. Labor is a commodity. A social relation exists where one man (worker) is exploited. The humanitarian aspect is not possible in a society in which capitalism exploits workers. Therefore, it is not possible for the humanitarian socialist ideals to be achieved in a capitalist society as proposed by Manning in the Social Conservative party."

"The record of Social Credit is not a record of the ideals as stated in Manning's book. A recent example is the arrogance displayed by Dr. Ross when he refused to allow Dr. Van Stok, a respected physician on government property. What happened to his social ideals and concepts of freedom?"

"The two party system is a non-effective system of democracy. The multi-party system is more effective and allows for more dissention. The rigid two party system as advocated by Manning tends to maintain the status quo and stifle social change. I would like to see clearer distinctions between political parties."

Murray Sigler believed that the idea of revitalizing our political structure was very good since federal politics have not accomplished much since 1962 because no party has been able to obtain a majority. The greatest problem has been regionalism. The real answer to the problems of the federal government is not political realignment but building a strong federation with more emphasis on strong central government and less stress on regional interests. People should think in terms of Can-



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