

mentioned, undecided in Newfoundland.

*The New Democratic Party (formerly the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation):* It is startling to some Americans to find that Canada not only has a socialist party but one which has been successful enough in winning votes to become the government in two provinces. As Gad Horowitz put it, "though far from a national power (it) is a significant political force." Neither the NDP nor its farmer-oriented predecessor, the CCF has been particularly doctrinaire—they have been immediately and permanently concerned with the practical problems of the day-to-day lives of their members. The CCF began in Saskatchewan with the Regina Manifesto of 1932: "We aim to replace the present Capitalistic system . . ." It was in fact to be much more concerned with the price and distribution of wheat. It was, to a degree, inspired by the Labour Party of England. It began in a province of scattered farm villages and among very independent farmers who were used to solving their common problems through group action—through the "wheat pool" and through co-operative stores. The CCF achieved its greatest power in the forties and remained a power for a decade. It was expanded when the Canadian Labour Congress was formed in 1956 and the NDP emerged as the labour party. The NDP differed primarily from its predecessor in its resolute attempts to involve French Canadians and to



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achieve a still closer link with organized labour. There is a split in the NDP today with a strong, left-leaning faction calling itself the Waffle group. The Wafflers, strong economic nationalists, have been primarily concerned with U.S. investment in Canada. At the NDP leadership convention last spring, regular party member David Lewis defeated Waffle leader James Laxer to replace T. C. "Tommy" Douglas. (Lewis' 34-year-old son Stephen heads the NDP in Ontario.) Federally, the NDP holds twenty-three seats and is the government of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

*The Social Credit Party (Ralliement de Credite sociale):* The Social Credit Party began in Alberta with the Depression. A neo-conservative party with unique fiscal theories, it was founded by William Aberhart, a high school principal and the Dean of the Prophetic Bible School in Calgary. From the beginning it called itself a movement rather than a party, and its first platform was a demand for reform of the monetary system

and a campaign for the payment of \$25 a month to each adult (i.e. "social credit"), regardless of need. The funds thus contributed were to be spent within a certain time period, relieving the stagnation in the circulation of money which the party felt was the basic cause of the Depression. Early critics named it the "Funny Money" party because, to oversimplify, it advocated that the government print more money whenever the economy needed it.

Although its monetary proposals were vetoed by the federal government, the party continued to flourish, controlling the government of two provinces and regularly sending members to the Parliament in Ottawa. The Quebec branch, Ralliement de Credite sociale, became a politically significant force in the sixties. The Socreds are currently in office in British Columbia where they have dominated provincial politics since the fifties. Last year the party lost its control in Alberta after thirty-six years in office. In the Federal House of Commons it holds thirteen seats.

**PROVINCIAL PARTIES:** The Farmers' parties, the United Farmers of Alberta in particular, became active and important in the early twenties and were the foundation and structural inspiration for later third party movements. The *Progressives* became strong about the same period (coming in second in the national election in 1926.) In 1942 the Progressive Party leaders voted

to merge with the Conservatives and most of the party's members followed suite. The *Union Nationale*, formed by dissident Conservatives and distinctly a product of Quebec, was a major factor in the Province from the thirties through the fifties. It lost ground under the "quiet revolution" of the provincial Liberal party under Jean Lesage, which put a new emphasis on French cultural and political rights. The *Parti Quebecois* today headed by Rene Levesque has taken a much more radical position, calling for sovereign status for Quebec, leading if necessary to an independent French Canadian republic. It attracted nearly a fourth of the provincial vote in the 1970 election.

CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI has drawn on many sources, primarily such political writers and scholars as Thomas A. Hockin, J. M. Beck, Gad Horowitz, Hugh G. Thorburn, J. R. Mallory, John Meisel, Denis Smith, and John Porter for the facts and interpretations here.