Back in Canada he practiced law, and in 1936 he was elected to the National Council of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. In 1938 he became the party's full-time secretary. He was one of the founders of the CCF's successor, the New Democratic Party, and after many a practice run, he was elected to the House of Commons from York South in 1962.

He became NDP Leader in 1971 and led his party to a 31-seat balance-of-power triumph in 1972, but he lost his seat in 1974 and resigned as Leader in 1975 at age 66. Since then he has been a visiting fellow and a professor at Carleton University.

He wrote Louder Voices: The Corporate Welfare Bum in 1972. Below is an excerpt from Chapter One.

"The nature of the corporate welfare state has been obscured by the traditional moralizing of big business about the virtues of free enterprise. While they publicly denounce increased government expenditure, particularly in the form of social welfare, these champions of free enterprise actively lobby the government for incentive grants, research grants and tax concessions, and all manner of assistance at the individual taxpayer's expense. And because they have drawn a sympathetic response from Liberal and Conservative governments, which subscribe to the myth of 'business confidence,' their appetite for welfare continues to increase.

"The traditional use of the term 'mixed economy' acknowledges the co-existence of private and public enterprise within one society. In Canada, the mixed economy has advanced beyond the co-existence of the public and private spheres: it has reached the stage where private business is increasingly being supported by the public purse. As a result, Canadian businesses, whatever their public pronouncements on the matter, not only acquiesce to government involvement in the economy but have come to depend upon it. Their 'welfare cheques,' in the form of grants and tax concessions, have become an integral aspect of their operation."

J. Fenwick Lansdowne OC 15/12/76

