



Liberal Party Has "Embraced The Principles Of Socialism" - Dave Parsons

"What has happened to the Liberal Party?" This is a question being asked by more and more people across Canada: particularly by the many former Liberals who in their disillusionment have left the party. (Perhaps this question could best be answered by the many CCF-NDP'ers who have lately joined the Liberals.)

In recent years the Liberal Party has taken a great lunge to the left. Their socialization of electric companies in Quebec, and their advocacy of the same policy here in Alberta epitomizes this plunge.

As a progressive conservative I see the socialization of the Alberta Electric companies under present circumstances as an unsound, unnecessary and even dangerous move. The progressive conservative approach to government has always been one of limited government.

Government should only be allowed to enter those areas where it is absolutely needed. Only in those areas where private concerns have been unable to provide a satisfactory level of service should government step in. In the case of electric power in Alberta satisfactory service has been rendered. Private enterprise can provide better, more efficient and economical service than can the government.

It has been suggested that electric power in Alberta is a monopoly; therefore should be removed from the sphere of private enterprise. Granted, since duplication of services is economically unsound in the case of electricity, competition within an area cannot be achieved. However the charge that private enterprise has taken the advantage of this monopoly and set unfair rates is untrue. It is the government that sets the rates.

However, for the government to assume ownership of these enterprises would remove an incentive for efficiency and economy far greater than that of competition. It would remove the profit motive.

Even Russia, which has had the

most extensive experience in public ownership, to-day recognizes the value of the profit motive. It is now considering introducing the profit motive into industry to quicken economic development. No one can say that the electric companies profits of 7-8% are excessive. These too are regulated by the government and even Mr. David Hunter, Liberal leader, admits they are reasonable.

There are many fine and able civil servants but in publicly owned enterprises there is not the same necessity for satisfactory service, economy and efficiency. Inevitably under government ownership the cost of electricity would rise. The limiting of individual freedom and initiative has always been an epilogue to excessive and unnecessary government expansion. We would pay dearly for this added bureaucracy.

The Liberals, nonetheless, in their advocacy of socialization have not been so callous as to claim that government could administer public power any better. Their case for nationalizing has rested on three rather weak arguments.

- (1) Alberta would save on federal income tax.
- (2) Under public ownership there would be no need to pay for equity capital.
- (3) And, public power would be a source of revenue.

With respect to the first argument: half of the corporation income tax already goes to the provincial government. Much of the remaining money returns to the province in the form of direct grants and federal expenditures. If the Liberals are so concerned with keeping all the money in the province they could make some arrangement with the federal government without going through the costly and ill advised process of nationalization.

Secondly, the Liberals claim there would be no need to pay equity capital under public ownership. That is, there would be no need to

pay interest on the capital invested in the equipment. But then the Liberals turn around and say they will purchase the equipment by selling bonds at 5% interest!

Thirdly, the Liberals claim public power would be a source of revenue. This is rather hard to understand when they admit it will be a least fifteen years before the take-over will be paid for.

There are also other considerations that make nationalization even more undesirable. If the government of Alberta were to pursue a policy of nationalization, much of the capital investment necessary for the prosperity and growth of the province would be driven away. Mr. Rose, of the Security Exchange Commission has pointed out that a big factor in Canada's exchange crisis was the B.C. government's take-over of B.C. Electric.

The lag in the development of the oil resources of Saskatchewan can be attributed to the nationalizing habits of the Saskatchewan government. Mr. D. Hunter, at the university this Tuesday, revealed that some Liberals in this province were considering government ownership of segments of the oil industries. How far are the Liberals planning to go? How willing will investors be to pour more money into the oil industry here if the Liberals get into power?

"We have found an ISSUE", says Mr. D. Hunter. But what sort of issue is nationalization? Is it really a LIBERAL issue? It is becoming

apparent that the Liberals are trying to avoid the fate of their sister party in Britain by becoming socialists themselves. Mr. D. Hunter claims that the Liberal party is a party of reform. They have reformed themselves into a socialist party. They have compromised their former principles. In acts of desperation and blatant political opportunism they have embraced the principles of socialism.

The Liberals on this campus have been challenged to answer these charges that they have actually become a socialist party. Refusal to accept this challenge will imply that even the campus Liberals recognize the validity of these allegations.

Perhaps it has become apparent to the Liberal club on this campus as it has to many people in Canada that the Liberals have indeed changed. **D.P.**

Nurses Inter-Communicate In Tunnel

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vis construction of this "functional" structure. The estimated budget for such a project would be very low due to the anticipated volunteer labor.

OH, TO BE A BAT

The only form of communication between these buildings—aside from the telephone—is a single steam pipe. Cousin Bertram has personally assured me that even the most depraved and under-fed (even on residence food) fellow could not negotiate this narrow passage. He added that it is large enough for a bat however.

The only tunnel which is of importance to the male population on campus is the long, dark, sparsely-patrolled one which connects the nurses' residence to the hospital. This is used strictly for the purpose

of a-hum "inter-communication".

CLANDISTINE CORRIDORS

Although the tunnels of today serve, in the main, solely as steam chases, many authorities have suggested alternate uses—secret meetings for the Canadian Youth for Free Love Movement (if there is anything secret about free love), strategy sessions of the Huckleberry Hound Fan Club, rabid gatherings of the EWMSTS (Edmonton Western Music Singers and Twangers Society), and many others.

The TFPB (Tunnel Future Planning Board) is open for suggestions. These suggestions should be addressed to the following:

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Pembina-Athabasca Tunnel
c/o Liz Wilson
Campus **R. Bat**

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