

9-17-1962

Annotated article by Gordon Donaldson to London England's Sunday Express, 17 September 1962

Gordon Donaldson

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/west_union_med



Part of the [Journalism Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Donaldson, Gordon, "Annotated article by Gordon Donaldson to London England's Sunday Express, 17 September 1962" (1962).
Telegrams to Media Outlets. 1.
https://egrove.olemiss.edu/west_union_med/1

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Union Telegram Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Telegrams to Media Outlets by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

COLLECT
027 400

2000 NP

LONDON (ENGLAND)

Press ~~London~~ SUNDAY EXPRESS
~~NEW YORK CITY~~

~~ROCKEFELLER PLAZA~~

via WU Cables

WU COLLECT CARD

1962 SEP 17 PM

~~SECRET - one~~

~~gordon donaldson~~

W-3888

1962 SEP 17 PM

(DONALDSON PLEASE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~)

Toronto ~~W~~ A ranting demagogue who admires Hitler and Mussolini and boasts of his refusal to fight for Canada will hold Prime Minister Diefenbaker's fate in his hands when the ^{new} Canadian Parliament opens on September 1 27 ~~para~~ para

With ill-concealed horror Ottawa ~~is~~ awaiting ~~the~~ arrival of Social Credit boss Real Caouette and his band of 25 new M.P.s from ~~the~~ backwoods of French Canada. ~~para~~ PARA

They ~~will~~ together with ~~the~~ nominal Socred leader Robert Thompson and three faceless Socreds from the prairies will hold ~~the~~ balance of power between Diefenbaker's 116 Progressive Conservatives and ~~the~~ Lester Pearson's 100 Liberals. ~~para~~ para

And Caouette, ~~the~~ 44-year-old cigar-chomping car salesman will decide whether Mr. Diefenbaker can continue as a Commonwealth leader in the fight against Britain's entry into ~~the~~ Common Market or be turned out and face ~~a~~ very difficult election this winter. ~~para~~ PARA

Ottawa has seen Socreds before. ~~STOP~~ Parliamentarians still remember Caouette's maiden speech in 1946. ~~STOP~~ He was nearly thrown out of the House for saying ~~the~~ seat of another Member was "stained with blood". ~~para~~ PARA

But the weird right-wing party, with its history of crackpot economic theories, bigotry ~~and~~ authoritarian ambitions, was wiped out in the 1958 elections. ~~STOP~~ Experts said it was finished as ~~a~~ national force. ~~STOP~~ Last June it came back in startling strength with 30 seats - 26 of them won by Caouette and his "little people" from Quebec. ~~para~~ para

The last Socred leader Solon Low once described his movement ~~was~~ humbly as the greatest ever conceived since Christianity. ~~STOP~~ When it gained national power, he said "it would mean the end of party politics and possibly of general elections." ~~para~~ PARA

Others call Social Credit Nazi, anti-Semitic crank nonsense. ~~STOP~~ Diefenbaker's trade minister George Hees described its leaders as "holy men with the Bible in one hand and wads of greenbacks in the other." ~~para~~ PARA

more

It began as the invention of Major Clifford Douglas, Scots engineer working in India, ^{STOP} Douglas studied cost accounting and decided that the weekly payroll of any firm was always less than the price of the goods it produced during the week ^{PARA}

So if ~~AAA~~ represented the flow of purchasing power to the masses in the form of wages and ~~BBB~~ the cost of raw materials, taxes, overheads and bank charges, ^{STOP} the cost of production would be A plus B. As ~~the~~ purchasing power of the consumer (A) would always be less than A plus B there would always be unsold goods, bringing unemployment and depression. ^{PARA}

Douglas proposed to remedy this by issuing credit vouchers to everybody to make up the difference. ^{STOP} To prevent inflation, the government would control the price of everything. ^{PARA}

Douglas expanded his peculiar economics into a political theory and added his own ideas of history which were much simpler. ^{DASH} the Jews and the Freemasons were plotting to control the world and they were responsible for wars, revolutions and depressions. ^{PARA}

The 1930s brought a depression so severe that people in several parts of the world began to listen to Douglas. ^{STOP} A small British Socred group marched around wearing green shirts. ^{PARA}

Out in hungry Alberta province, William "Bible Bill" Aberhart read Douglas's theories and began mixing them in with his Sunday evangelical radio broadcasts. ^{STOP} Bible Bill was worshipped by his huge radio flock. ^{STOP} He had calculated the temperature of Hell to be exactly 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit and they believed him. He offered everybody in Alberta \$25 a month to increase their purchasing power and they elected him Premier. ^{PARA}

The prairie Socreds sang Onward Christian Soldiers and chanted the A plus B theorem. ^{STOP} It was all the same thing. ^{PARA}

Social Credit has ruled Alberta since 1935. ^{STOP} The Dominion government at Ottawa overruled Aberhart's attempts to put true Social Credit doctrine into practice by taking over the banks, printing its own money and controlling the ^{newspaper} ~~press~~. ^{STOP} Aberhart maintained that Goebbels-style press control was essential to prevent "inaccuracies". ^{PARA}

Douglas was brought over to Alberta to preside as a sort of Superior Being. But he soon fell out with his prophet Aberhart and went home. He died in 1952. PARA

Alberta Socreds split into "funny money people" who itched to get the presses churning out paper credit and mystic Douglasites who cursed the Jewish-Masonic world conspiracy and were out to get the bankers. PARA

Only the discovery of oil wells in Alberta, which neither the Bible nor Douglas had predicted, saved the province and kept the Socreds in office. PARA

In neighboring British Columbia W.A.C. Bennett, a renegade Conservative led Social Credit to power in 1952. "Social Credit is Conservative policy without the nuisance of democracy" he was quoted as saying. PARA

He juggled with the provincial debt. Once he piled documents representing the debt on a small boat and fired a fiery arrow at it. He missed but they burned the boat anyway and government debts ~~became~~ became "contingent liabilities" in Socred jargon. PARA

Bennett still preaches free enterprise but his government seized and nationalized the giant B.C. Electric ~~company~~ the province's main electricity system. He survived a major scandal in his Forestry department and the wild doings of Highways Minister Philip Gagliardi who was constantly getting arrested for speeding on his own roads. PARA

But his government settled down into a fairly business-like administration. PARA

Now he is revelling in the success of his protege Real Caouette who brought Social Credit to Quebec and produced the most explosive mixture yet. PARA

Caouette has joined all the totalitarian dreams of the old-line Socreds to the older and ever-burning dream of French-Canadian nationalism. PARA

more

socreds- 4

He began as Aberhart did on the air-waves, using TV instead of radio. He says ^{STOP} as Aberhart ^{SAID} "You don't have to understand Social Credit to vote for it." He bribed the voters, not with \$25 a month but with \$100 a month. ^{STOP} PARA

(He offered the Bible too - the Catholic interpretation this time, not the 10,000 degree Hell of the prairie Fundamentalists. PARA

He offered a uniform - white berets instead of the green shirts or the tartan jackets worn by English-speaking ~~English~~ supporters of Robert Thompson, his nominal boss. ^{STOP} PARA

More than anything he offered French ~~Canada~~ a new-style movement through which they could express in Ottawa their age-old yearning for independence. PARA

And he won an incredible victory. Caouette is deputy leader of the national party. ^{STOP} But as his French MPs outnumber Thompson's more than 6 to 1 he ^{STOP} ~~is now the boss~~ ^{now the boss} PARA

Thompson, a mild, gum-chewing ~~old~~ chiropractor who ~~has~~ spent ten years organizing an air force, schools and leper colonies in Ethiopia, ~~is~~ is prepared to go along with Mr. Diefenbaker to a certain extent. Caouette says he'll vote with the Liberals to bring down the government unless Mr. Diefenbaker relaxes present tight money measures and stops his giant wheat sales to Red China. PARA

Thompson is trying to clean up the party's image before its new men arrive in Ottawa. He says "If you can find one man who's anti-Semitic or a Fascist, tell us and we'll throw him out." PARA

A former Socred chairman in Ontario left the party accusing it of Nazi tendencies. ^{STOP} PARA

Caouette doesn't care. He was quoted in a recent ~~Maclean~~ magazine article as saying Hitler and Mussolini were his political heroes. PARA

He told a rally "At a time when 600,000 Canadians out of 11,000,000 were starving to death Hitler and Mussolini were bringing prosperity to their nations. If Hitler and Mussolini went nuts all of a sudden in 1939 it isn't Real Caouette's fault." PARA

more

socred - 5

The American Nazi George Lincoln Rockwell read this and rushed to Montreal to meet "my kind of man." ^{STOP} ~~PARA~~ Caouette dodged him. ^{STOP} But soon he was boasting again of the way he dodged the war. ~~PARA~~

"I said 'like hell I'll fight. I'm not fighting for a system which lets us starve.'" ~~PARA~~

Caouette, a primitive tub-thumping firebrand, shows no respect for the intelligence of his listeners. ^{STOP} "No more taxes, borrowings or debts" he says. "You want money? I, Caouette will give you money. ^{STOP} Never mind how it's done. Just watch my hands and watch the hat." ~~PARA~~

^{STOP} But Caouette's new M.P.s will have to be seen to be believed. None has any experience of national politics. ^{STOP} One, on learning he had been elected, promptly headed for Quebec City because he thought Parliament sat there. ~~PARA~~

Socreds have never appealed to the intellect. ^{STOP} Their local organizers have great difficulty explaining what Social Credit is. ^{STOP} "Suddenly it'll come to you - in a flash" I was told. ^{STOP} "Then you've got it." ~~PARA~~

Once they've "got it" Socreds display the awful certainty ~~that they're right~~ of being right that is typical of authoritarian movements. ~~PARA~~

They offer God, the monarchy and lots of money for everybody. ^{STOP} What more could the ignorant voter want?

Says ~~Caouette~~ Caouette, flushed with triumph as he prepares his invasion of Ottawa: "You've seen nothing yet." ^{STOP} ~~PARA~~

But many Canadians have seen enough already. ~~you~~

ends DONALDSON

Coml Cables
Tnto 760

OLG MISS HOTEL