**Mallory, James. 1954. *Social Credit and the Federal Power in Canada*. University of Toronto Pres**

* Fifth of a 10 books series on Social Credit in Alberta directed by Samuel D. Clark and published at UofT Press
* The two years between 1935 and 1937 cover the period when the power and authority of the federal government was at its lowest ebb, partly as a result of constitutional evolution – the “welfare” provincial jurisdiction had grown in importance, Bennett’s “new deal” was declared unconstitutional by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (January, 1937). (p. 172) Yet, since 1945 (the author writes in the early 1950s), the centre of gravity of the constitution has clearly shifted back to the federal government.
* The main causes of this shift of power are not new. Mallory stresses the: (1) a greater readiness to tolerate collectivism (weakening of the “laissez faire” doctrine, partly related to industrialisation ) and federal social policy; (2) WWII and the cold war: justifies a strong federal government + strengthens national unity.
* **Main thesis:** Another, though admittedly smaller, contributor to this shift of balance in Canadian federalism was William Aberhart’s Social Credit government in Alberta between 1935-1943: 2 mechanisms (198): “Aberhart’s failure to implement its programme suggested the inadequacy of the provinces as agencies of major economic policy” (189) + by attacking the country’s powerful economic and financial interests, Aberhart fuelled consistent demand for the reassertion of the federal government’s intervention.
* The formation of a Social Credit movement under Aberhart: symbolised a rejection of the National Policy and the subordinate role which the west played in that policy (57). Aberhart’s main goal was to strengthen the political position of the province in its relation with the federal government.
* Aberhart’s economic programme. Quite complex, and based on Clifford Douglas’ theory (which I don’t really understand and which is not well explained in the book). Main goal: increase purchasing power in Alberta. Monetary policy (the province would issue credit certificates, p.65); “just price” policy (p.65), “debt policy” (reduce interest rates, p.67)
* Aberhart could not implement these policies: money supply + mbanks are a federal jurisdiction; “lower prices along the lines of Aberhart’s ‘just price’ mechanism would be an interference with interprovincial trade as well as the regulation of trade and commerce” (67)
* Two “means” to nullify a provincial decision. (1) power of disallowance by the central government, (2) judicial decision. Mallory shows that King used the federal power of disallowance as a means to protect (economic) “national interests” (with a strong bias in favour of Central Canada)
* \* Power of disallowance. Two forms. (1) The British executive can nullify a colonial legislative act (fell into disuse after 1878). (2) The governor-general (on the advise of the federal cabinet) can disallow a provincial act (used against Alberta between 1935 and 1943). The federal government disallowed the Credit of Alberta Regulation Act; the Banks Employees Civil Rights Act; Judicature Amendment Act (1937) , p. 76