

THE GAZETTE

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August 31, 1984

Liberals on the eve of destruction?

The story so far...

By RICK JANSON

On the brink of election day the political winds of change seem as inevitable as the changing seasons. Few are questioning the wisdom that Brian Mulroney will be Canada's next Prime Minister, although some may question whether it will be wise. The only question that remains for political hacks to decipher is whether or not it will be a rout.

The election campaign that started in early July had promised a closer race as two untested leaders played see-saw with the polls. Inevitably though, it was as much Prime Minister John Turner's to lose as the Tories' to win.

The advance billings had illustrated an epic struggle. After nine years on the political sidelines, the Liberals' messiah in exile had returned to reawaken a party that seemed destined for a long slumber in Canada's political history. As John Napier Turner's coronation ground to its pre-ordained conclusion, public opinion polls showed Liberal fortunes steadily rising and overtaking what seemed an invincible Conservative lead.

Buoyed by the sudden change in fortunes, the Liberals wasted no time in dissolving Canada's 32nd parliament and plunging the country into a long overdue election that seemingly everyone was salivating for.

Calling the summer election was indeed a gamble for the Grits. The country was in a volatile mood politically. Canadians were uncertain of the economic future after struggling through a recession with massive unemployment and high interest rates. As people were losing their jobs, their homes, their businesses and farms, parliament was often hamstrung with acrimonious debate and procedural manoeuvres designed to slow down what the opposition saw as a government stomping on their rights. While unemployment climbed up as high as 13 per cent, the government was preoccupied with Pierre Trudeau's self-appointed mission of bringing home the constitution.

Five years of political frustration came to an end for Canadians on July 9 when Turner called the election to "clear the air"—to give a new government a "fresh mandate" as soon as possible. Turner seemed confident that the new government would be his.



Prime Minister Turner addresses the crowd at Halifax's Historic Properties.

Peter Katsiitis, Dal Photo.

The Grits counted on the momentum of the leadership convention to take them through the next two months to the Sept. 4 election date. While both the Conservative Party and the NDP were amassed at the starting line, the Liberals found themselves in disarray. With all attention focussed on the convention, Turner inherited a party with no election plans. There was little time to assemble a campaign team, coordinate policy and recruit the kind of high-profile candidates the Liberals needed in order to put a new face on the party.

A new face was desperately needed, for the public was clearly hungry for change. Turner's challenge was to convince the electorate that his Liberals were different and at the same time remain loyal to the party's past.

The election had hardly been called when ghosts of Liberal past quickly caught up with Turner. Canadians were outraged by an agreement previously reached between Turner and Trudeau to appoint 18 Liberal faithful to patronage posts on the same day the election was called. The appointments could not have

been made earlier without the government losing its majority in the Commons. The massive number of appointments immediately tainted the campaign and put the Grits on the defensive.

Error compounded error for the Turner team. After reluctantly agreeing to a televised leaders' debate, Turner put in a poor performance against both Broadbent and Mulroney. At one point he criticized Manitoba's relatively low unemployment rate stating it was the result of an exodus of people from the province. In fact the situation was the

reverse and Turner later apologized.

Playing the role of the "tactile politician," Turner was caught on camera patting the behind of party president Iona Campagnola. The act sparked debate on his behaviour and his sincerity on women's issues. Again Turner later apologized.

Mid-campaign the Liberals recruited Senator Keith Davey to help out with their faltering campaign. Within two days Davey became campaign chair, and the man Turner originally appointed to the task—Bill Lee—stepped down. Davey had long been associated with Trudeau's electoral victories and was nicknamed the "reignmaker." The old Liberal party was visibly moving in on Turner's "fresh face" image.

The Liberals were not the only party to make mistakes. Immediately after the starting pistol went off, the Tories were caught debating the costs of their own election promises. A leaked document belonging to Conservative finance critic John Crosbie suggested Mulroney's election promises would cost as much as \$20 billion. Mulroney challenged the figures and said the cost of Tory programmes would be off-set by increased government revenues from an economy Mulroney thinks he can set straight.

About a week later the Conservative leader had a lot of explaining to do after making statements to a reporter he thought were off the record.

After denouncing Liberal patronage appointments as "vulgar...shameful and scandalous," Mulroney told a reporter aboard his campaign plane: "Let's face it, there's no whore like an old whore. If I'd been in Bryce's (Liberal MP Bryce Mackasey) position, I'd have been right in there with my nose in the public trough like the rest of them." When reminded that he once told a partisan Tory crowd that he saw a lot of potential senators in the audience, Mulroney was quoted as saying: "I was talking to Tories then, and that's what they wanted to hear. Talking to the Canadian public during an election campaign is something else." Mulroney later apologized for the remarks, claiming he wasn't serious about them at the time.

The only campaign devoid of major errors was that of the New Democrats. The party faced its biggest test in years with polls indicating at the start of the campaign that they would lose all but a handful of their seats. Calling the NDP the choice for ordinary Canadians, Broadbent brought his party back from the brink of extinction. Only a year before a nervous party membership had publicly ruminated about the future of Broadbent's leadership.

Labelling the two frontrunners "the Bobbsey twins of Bay Street," the NDP emphasized the lack of difference in policy between the Conservatives and the Liberals.

The presence of an active women's vote paved the way for a leaders' debate on women's issues. Although Broadbent clearly stole the show from the other two leaders, most

Continued on page 12

Choice group lobbies candidates

By MICHAEL DANIELS

The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) has been sending postcards to the campaign headquarters of the three major federal parties across the country to inform the candidates of the opinion of the majority of Canadians on abortion rights.

By sending this information to

the candidates, CARAL hopes to bring public attention to the issue of abortion rights in the current election.

"The politicians need to know where the people stand on this issue," said Kit Holmwood, a spokesperson for CARAL. "Although 72% of Canadians believe abortion is between the woman and her doctor, they haven't voiced this opinion The information the politi-

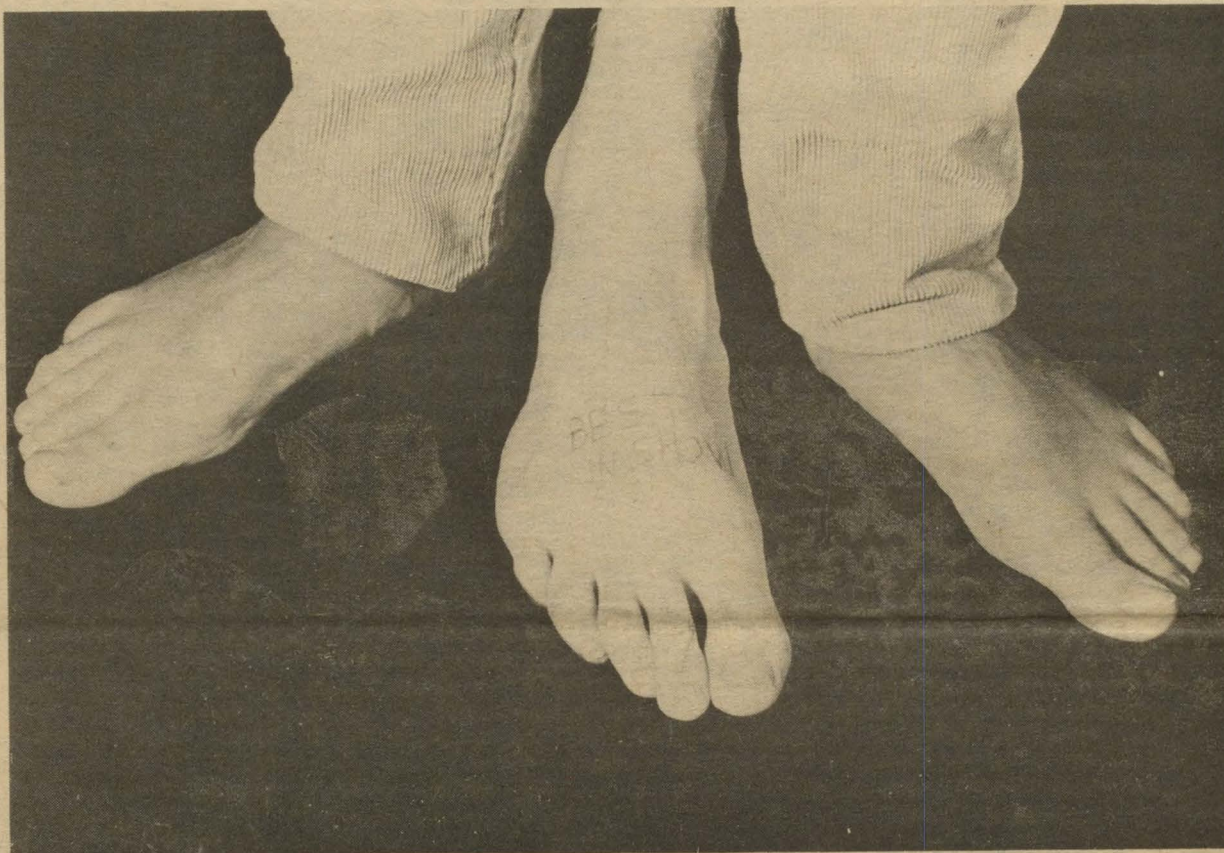
cians do receive is from anti-abortionists."

CARAL, which has been active in Halifax for the past year, is lobbying for the repealment of section 251, an outdated abortion law.

"We would like to see the present system of therapeutic abortion committees replaced by abortion clinics, where women can find counselling as well as freedom of choice," Holmwood said.

Another goal of the League is to see the inception of programmes to educate and counsel students on the subjects of sex and abortion.

In Halifax, the response of the parties has been varied. The New Democrats have responded enthusiastically, putting the postcards up on the walls of their campaign headquarters. The Liberals and Tories, who support the existing law have shown little response, focusing instead on other issues.



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THE GAZETTE

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Editors

Samantha Brennan
Elizabeth Donovan

Contributors

Ken Burke
Wendy Coomber
Michael Daniels
Rick Janson
Mary Ellen Jones
Cathy McDonald
Stew Murray
David Olie
Charlene Sadler
Joan Sullivan
Martin Thibideau

Typesetters

Fred Rowe
Peter Wilson
Stew Murray

Advertising

Dwight Syms

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Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

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The education dilemma

BY MARY ELLEN JONES

Jean Lapierre, federal minister of youth, stood before the placard waving Liberal youth like Donny Osmond incarnate. Dressed in blue jeans and a mod shirt, Lapierre clutched the microphone as if he were about to break into song.

"It's great to be in Halifax," he says as the floor demonstration erupts, rabid youth chanting the names of the local Liberal candidates.

Behind them is a larger audience patiently waiting for the politicians to finish their speeches and return the stage to the free rock band playing that evening.

Despite the fact that the youth rally took place in Dalhousie's Student Union Building before a crowd largely made up of students, neither Lapierre or the speakers to follow talked about the issue of education.

After years of blaming each other, neither the provincial or federal politicians really want to talk about the sorry state of funding for universities and colleges.

While enrollments have dramatically increased over the last four years, funding has dropped in the Maritimes by 15 per cent in inflation adjusted dollars.

Universities have been struggling to cope with more students for less dollars in a variety of ways.

Tuition fees—already among the highest in the country—continue to exceed inflation and threaten access to the system for students from low income backgrounds. Expansion of programmes and the acquisition of updated equipment for existing ones is next to impossible, threatening the mandate of universities to remain at the leading edge of their fields. Academic talent is harder to draw upon when salaries are no longer, challenging the basic quality of education.

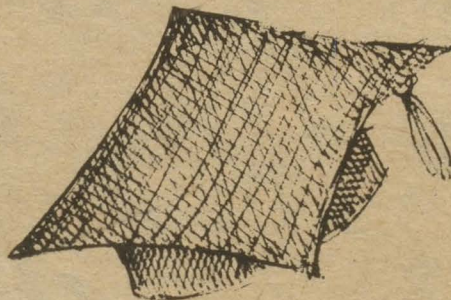
Post-secondary education funding comes from a variety of sources. The federal government pays the lion's share of funding in the Atlantic provinces, followed by the provincial government, students, and a trickle of donations from other sources.

In the midst of a massive federal spending spree this spring—designed to placate voters before an impending election—post-secondary education became a lonely island of restraint.

The federal government's Bill C-12 put post-secondary education funding on the infamous six and five programme, cutting \$118 million out of the national PSE system last year and another \$260 million this academic year.

The legislation coincided with the government's creation of a ministry of youth and its professed concern for youth unemployment. It is ignored that one of the best ways of creating jobs for youth is by first providing adequate education and training.

The Students' Union of Nova Scotia invited the three candidates in Halifax riding to debate the issue at Dalhousie. Although New Democratic candidate Tessa Hebb accepted the invitation, both Conservative candidate Stewart McInnes and Liberal incumbent Gerald Regan declined, resulting in the debate's cancellation.



Although *The Gazette* obtained interviews with McInnes and Hebb on the issue, Regan would not make interview time available to talk to us. This is despite the fact that four major educational institutions reside in his riding: Dalhousie University, St. Mary's University, The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and The Technical University of Nova Scotia.

The Conservatives' McInnes states bluntly that his party had "no specific policy about education."

"There is only so much economic pie and it is shrinking," he said. "if you give to education you take from something else. We recognize the shrinking dollars for education, but

there is pressure all around. We must get the economy moving again in order to gain confidence in world markets so that the money taken out of Canada in the last few years will be returned."

"The New Democratic Party feels that education is one of the essential public services in this country and we must maintain this public service," says Hebb. "Funds must be available to the universities for them to run smoothly."

"A lot of the problems with the funding of post-secondary education stem from the 1970's when John Turner resigned as Finance Minister," she said. "The federal government shifted the majority of the

funding load to the provinces. Here starts the vicious cycle where the federal government begins to cutback and the provinces don't give enough of their fair share to the funding of post-secondary education."

Hebb says the NDP is calling for the reinstatement of the old formula prior to the six and five limits of C-12.

Carolyn Zayid, vice-president external of the Dalhousie Student Union, says it is extremely difficult to know which party will be the best on education because "no particular party has taken a direct stand on the issue."

In addition to reducing the federal commitment to funding the PSE

system Bill C-12 also specifically earmarks funds to education. Previously education funds were transferred in a lump sum to the provinces along with funding for the health care system. Provinces didn't always parlay the allotted funds to education. In some cases dollars for scholars turned into funds for highway construction.

"The Canadian Federation of Students wants to have the funds earmarked without six and five restraint, like the medicare and hospitalization plan," says Zayid.

The NDP agrees. "There must be accountability on the part of the provincial government," says Hebb. "Accountability is the essence of good government."

McInnes said he was not that familiar with C-12, stating "there were so many issues to cover in an election campaign."

Dalhousie Student Union president Alex Gigeroff not only wants to see the funds earmarked, but would like legislation on the books to make sure the provinces comply.

"The Canadian Association of University Teachers proposal for a National Education Act is a positive solution," says Gigeroff. "It is an act which is similar to the Canadian Health Act. In the Health Act provinces which allow health care user fees are penalized."

The same sort of idea would apply to education and force the provinces to stop diverting funds into areas other than post-secondary education, he explains.

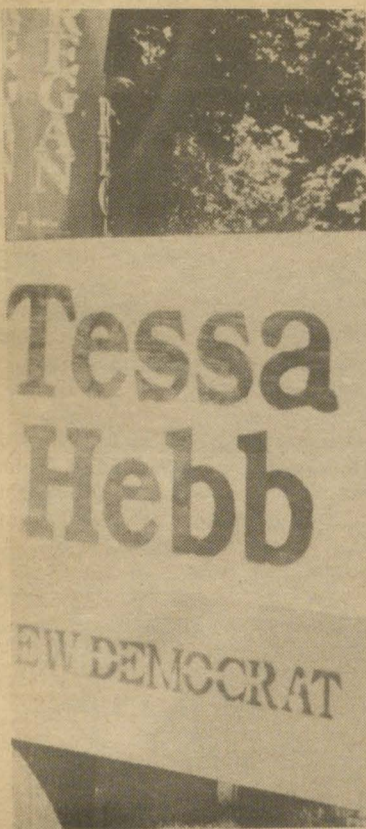
The CFS and SUNS are also both concerned about the inadequacies of existing student aid programmes. With tuition fees rising as a result of the cutbacks of C-12 and student loans becoming tougher to get, student representatives fear that accessibility to universities and colleges will be further eroded.

"SUNS would like to see the problem of student loans looked at long and hard with a bit of realism injected into it," says Judith Guthrie, SUNS executive officer. "It is difficult to determine an average figure needed for student loans across a country as large as Canada."

"Prior to the '70's the ratio of loans and bursaries given to students by the provinces was a 50-50 arrangement," says Hebb. "Now it is more like a 65 per cent loan to 35 per cent bursary. With higher loans and lower bursaries it is denying access to many working class children. It is fundamentally wrong to deny access to any Canadian."

McInnes said the provinces are doing "reasonably well" in loans.

Education is clearly an important resource in the development of any society. Caught in a kind of limbo between poor federal-provincial relations, universities are struggling to survive without any clear strategies from either the federal or provincial governments. While countries such as Sweden, Japan, West Germany, Switzerland, and Austria are investing more of their private and public moneys in post-secondary education and training, Canada's institutions have suffered from neglect. If the future of this country lies in its universities, federal politicians in this election leave us with little hope.



Hebb fights for NDP Maritime foothold

By S. BRENNAN AND E. DONOVAN

Women's place in Canadian society, youth unemployment and jobs for all are the most pressing concerns of ordinary Canadians, says Tessa Hebb, the NDP candidate for Halifax. Charging that both the Liberals and the Conservatives are closely tied to big business, she asserts her party best represents the interests of the ordinary Canadian.

"In Nova Scotia one out of every two families is hurt by unemployment," says Hebb. "These are not just figures, they're people's lives."

Women are especially burdened

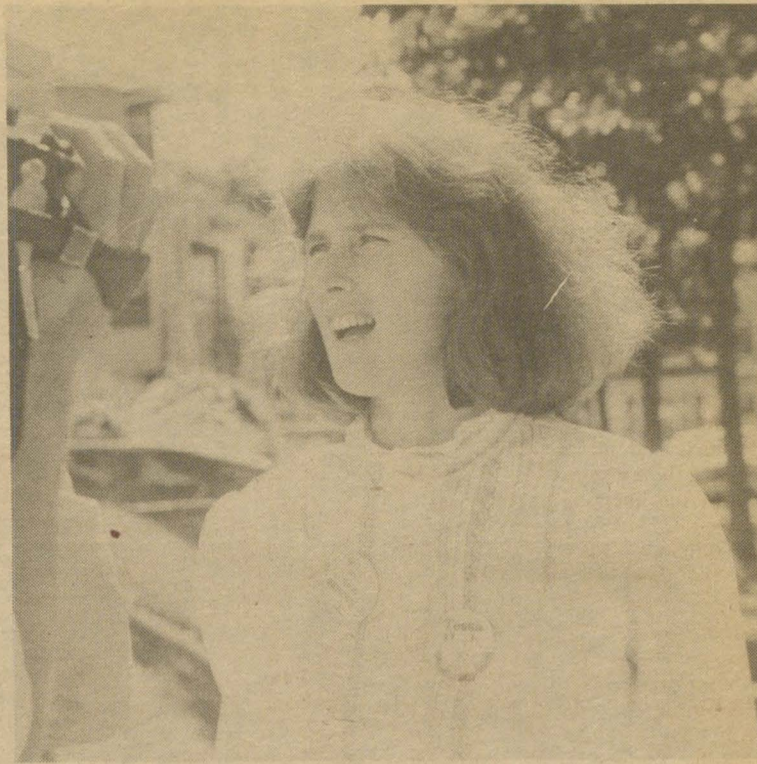
as they face both unemployment and lower wages in the workplace, says Hebb.

She says that the government must gear all of its energy towards a full employment policy and that the present solutions provided by the Liberals and the Conservatives are inadequate.

John Turner's proposed youth apprentice scheme "First Chance" ignores the reality of the problems unemployed youth face, says Hebb.

"I know people who already have a trade or who have been to trade school, or on an apprenticeship programme and cannot find a job," says Hebb.

Hebb is critical of the present



Tessa Hebb speaks before the media on the campaign trail. Photo: Peter Katsiitis, Dal Photo.

system of tax breaks for large corporations and favours a system where tax credits would be an incentive for job creation.

"These corporations should have to earn their tax credits," says Hebb. "Raise the corporate taxes and for so many thousand jobs they created they would be entitled to a number of tax credits."

Hebb is eager to point to the success of the NDP in Manitoba where they formed the provincial government. Manitoba shows that a full employment policy works, she said.

"Nova Scotia could share this success if government spending was put into our own resources and communities instead of given to corporations."

The NDP's stand on taxation reform has greatly influenced both the Liberal and Tory election agenda. According to Hebb the NDP is the moving force behind proposals for a minimum tax rate which would ensure high income earners pay their share of taxes.

"Pensioners, women over 65 of whom two thirds are living below

the poverty level, all have their income tax taken off," says Hebb. "Yet 8,000 (people) who made more than \$60,000 paid no income taxes."

Our present taxation system shows a need for a party to fight for ordinary people, says Hebb.

"They (Turner and Mulroney) don't represent ordinary people. As a result there are a lot of people who think the best option coming out of this election would be a minority government. By letting the NDP hold the balance of power we can temper any kind of drastic move."

Hebb attributes a great deal of the positive reaction she has received in her door to door campaign to provincial NDP leader Alexa McDonough.

"When I was campaigning in all four provincial ridings in Halifax people complained that they never saw politicians until election time except for Alexa's riding in Chebucto," said Hebb. "In Chebucto it was common to hear that people had seen Alexa just the week before."

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The candidates

Prostitution and forces concern McInnes

By JOAN SULLIVAN

Women's and youth votes have attracted a lot of attention from politicians this election, but Stewart McInnes isn't targeting these groups.

McInnes, the PC candidate for Halifax, said he has difficulty "discussing these groups in isolation." He insists the interests of these specific groups are "fundamental to all Canadians."

"The issue of attracting the youth vote and women's vote has been raised, but having addressed them one comes to the realization that (their problems) have common denominators peculiar to everybody."

Still, McInnes has some complaints about the federal government's treatment of these groups.

He called the large number of older women living in poverty a national disgrace, and added "Mr. Mulroney is very concerned about this unpalatable situation."

Mulroney will enforce equal work for equal pay, "not only in the government sector, but also in the private contractors who deal with the government."

Pensions for homemakers will also be investigated, said McInnes.

Young people have also been short-changed by the Liberal government, he said.

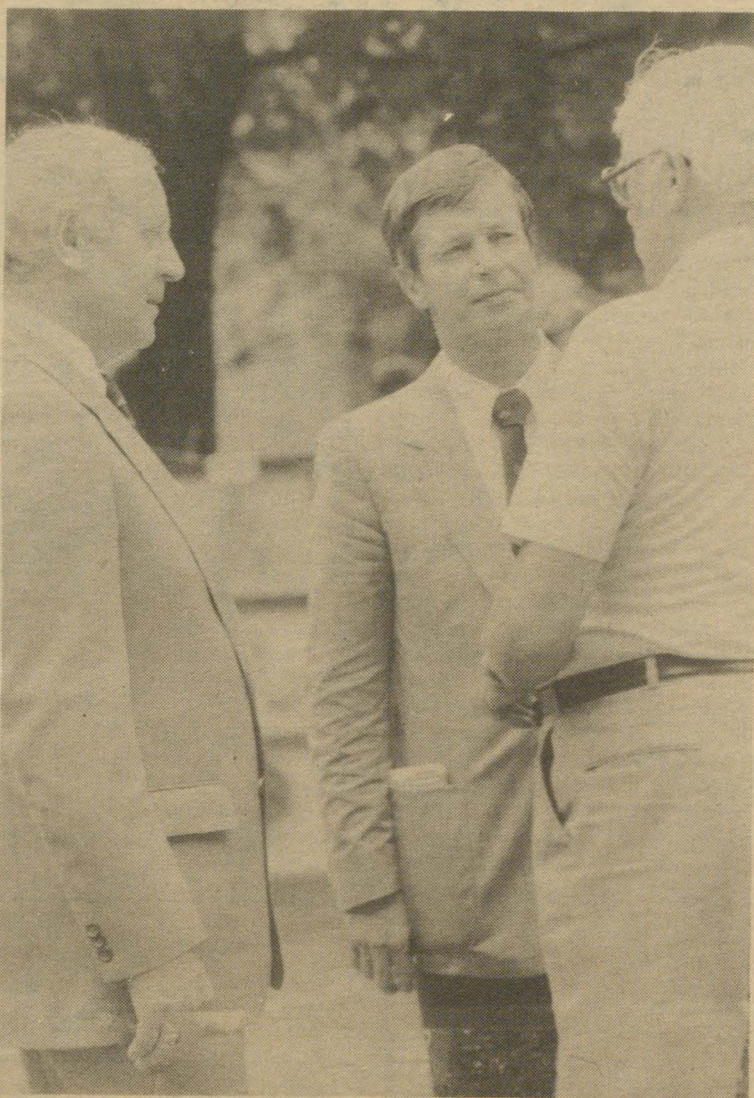
"You have 500,000 Canadian youth graduates with some vision and immediately they are dashed on the rocks. There's a stain on them that will take a long time before it's removed."

McInnes said he has talked to many parents who feel their children's mental health suffers when they can't find work. They complained their children "just hang around the docks," McInnes said.

"Special attention is warranted."

McInnes thinks the solution to these problems lies in "new money."

"We need to create a climate of confidence. We need new business investment. We need economic justice and economic equality for all Canadians."



Premier John Buchanan out campaigning with PC candidate Stewart McInnes. Photo: Peter Katsihis, Dal Photo.

While he sees the need for such things as job programmes and day-care centres, he says nothing can be done "to get the snowball rolling until we initiate new economic activity."

McInnes has more complaints about the federal government's handling of two groups of Canadians: the prostitutes and the military.

A group of Halifax residents recently asked McInnes to walk with them along Hollis Street.

He was shocked by what he saw.

"I saw a lot of dialogue between girls and their customers. There's an incredible volume of traffic in that area, and noise going on until the early morning hours."

He said he'd heard reports of physical and verbal harrassment, and people had had their lawns used for illicit activities.

"I've talked to people who keep lodging houses and find it difficult to keep tenants ... people whose child-

ren or wives cannot go out in the evening after supertime."

McInnes says he's not trying to deal with the whole issue of prostitution, he just wants them out of the residential areas.

Although residents marching with placards have deterred some of the activity, McInnes says its not enough.

He suggested a House of Commons Committee should study "the social and economic implications" of prostitution.

In addition, the Nova Scotia government should seek a court injunction similar to one secured in British Columbia. The provincial government in B.C. recently brought down legislation to keep prostitutes out of a specific Vancouver residential area.

While Halifax residents may be upset about prostitution, McInnes thinks all Canadians are upset about the state of the armed forces.

"Our offshore conventional forces are not only inadequate, they hardly exist. The equipment is obsolete."

McInnes blames the federal government for allowing the situation to deteriorate.

The PC's want to rebuild the armed forces "solving some of the unemployment situation," for policing and peacekeeping purposes, McInnes said.

This would take "a massive amount of money," he admitted, but he didn't say where the money would come from.

The Tories have been embarrassed by former Finance Minister John Crosbie's inadvertent release that their election promises would cost Canadians \$20 billion.

Joan Sullivan is Atlantic Bureau Chief for Canadian University Press.

Old clan makes way for new

In trying to put a new face on a party publicly perceived as having been too long in power, Prime Minister John Turner received a lot of help from the Trudeau clan.

Prominent Liberals who chose not to run for re-election include: Monique Begin, Pierre DeBane, Maurice Dupras, Denis Ethier, Marc Lalonde, Romeo Leblanc, Thomas Lefebvre, Allan MacEachen, Mark MacGuigan, Bryce Mackasey, Len Merchant, John Munro, Jean-Luc Pepin, Yvon Pinard, Pierre Trudeau, Charlie Turner and Eugene Whelen.

Rhinos seek Newfoundland

The Rhinoceros Party of Canada announced a made-for-Newfoundland platform in July to seek out voters and candidates in Canada's eastern-most province.

The party's Newfoundland planks include: not building a causeway to the mainland, developing a new breed of mosquito that will hatch from its egg in winter and immediately freeze to death, and a 400 kilometre fishing limit which will be drawn off-shore in watercolour to make sure the fish will see it and stay within the Canadian boundary.

"Just because fish go in schools doesn't mean they're smart, so we'll draw the line right out there where they can see it," a spokesperson told the St. John's office of The Canadian Press.

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Liberal candidate Gerald Regan on the campaign trail. Photo: Peter Katsihtis, Dal Photo.

The candidates

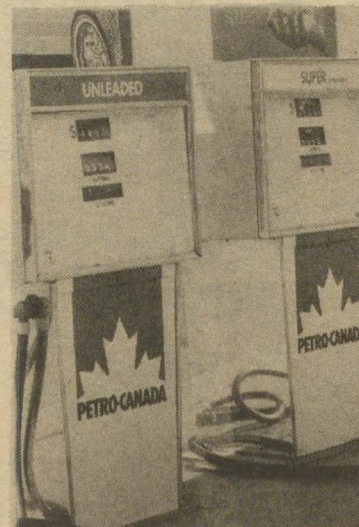
Regan avoids student press in re-election bid

By RICK JANSON

Gerald Regan, Liberal candidate in Halifax riding, has been running a low profile campaign in this election. Campaigning door to door and on the streets, Regan's approach has sharply contrasted with the high-profile effort of his Progressive Conservative opponent, Stewart McInnis. In fact, his campaign remains so low-key that he even refused to make time available to talk to us.

On Aug. 23 *The Gazette* caught up with Regan at a Liberal youth rally. When we asked if he would briefly answer at least a few short questions on education, he said he had to go and mingle with the crowds, but would try and get back to us before our deadline. He never did. Regan also refused to debate with the other two major candidates in an education forum that was supposed to happen at Dalhousie. *The Gazette* has attempted to set up an interview with Regan since the beginning of the campaign.

Regan's campaign centers on his performance in the past and not on



Regan diffuses discussion of energy policy by stating "no part of the NEP is sacred."

Photo: Peter Katsihtis, Dal Photo.

election call. Although he wasted no time in criticizing the Tory energy platform unveiled before the election, he has diffused the energy issue by stating "no part of the NEP is sacred," and promised changes to be announced after the election.

His campaign literature focuses on federal dollars spent in the riding on projects he readily takes credit for.

"I find tremendous irony in (Prime Minister) Turner today calling down Brian Mulroney about buying people with their own money, when you have Gerry Regan playing Santa Claus here the past few days," said McInnis in an interview with the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*.

NDP candidate Tessa Hebb agrees.

"I think people really resent that kind of feeling that they're being bought out by holding out this sort of ... whether it's a threat or a promise, I can't tell," she also told the *Herald*.

The Halifax riding is considered to be a bellwether riding, traditionally voting for the winning party nationally.

what he and his party plan to do in the future.

Regan took over from Jean Chretien as energy minister just prior to the

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A DAY IN SEPTEMBER

By KEN BURKE

(Note: While interviewing Ignatius Kennedy, the independent candidate for the federal riding of Halifax, the writer was struck by the feeling that he was a character in a play. The play featured himself, the candidate, Floyd Cromwell, a worker for the Kennedy campaign, and Elaine Kennedy, the candidate's wife. In the interests of fairness, then, the transcribed interview will be presented in play form.)

Setting: A small white stuccoed apartment belonging to Elaine and Ignatius Kennedy.

Kennedy is an older man, his wife has not yet reached middle age, and both Floyd Cromwell and the Writer are in their early twenties.

The Writer: On your mailbox it read 'Prof. Ignatius Kennedy.' What are you a professor of?

Ignatius Kennedy: These days it seems you have to have a professor in front of your name. (pause) I am a professor of UFO-logy, recognized throughout Canada and the United States. I've spoken to one of the largest universities in Canada—Carleton University in Ottawa. (pause) I spoke there once.

Writer: How do you spell UFO-logy?...

Writer: You say that you're running in this campaign for "peace." What does this mean with regard to specific peace issues?

Floyd Cromwell: (Urgently to Ignatius) Well, do you wanna go through the whole campaign with him?

Ignatius: All right.

Floyd: Well, we'll just give you what we gave the others (walks to mound of papers, begins rummaging)

Ignatius: Do you want the newsletter? (brightening)

Floyd, Ignatius and Elaine Cromwell: (rapidly) Do you want the release? The newsletter, give him the newsletter, give him that.

(Floyd hands release to Writer)

Ignatius: It's the same one we handed out eight thousand of in the riding. (pauses to extravagantly spit tobacco into a plastic cup on a table) To make matters short, son, this is it. If you don't want to use any part of it, go on to the next question....

Writer: Have you ever run for election before?

Ignatius: (grinning) Isn't that funny, I thought you'd never ask. I ran in 1963, in the County election in Halifax, as an Independent—not backed by any slush funds, as I call them, or bagmen. In 1965, I ran in this riding in the federal election of that year. It was like this peace campaign, except on corruption of the white collar boys in Halifax and Ottawa at the time. (pause) The next time I ran was three or four years ago in a provincial election. I did not run here, I ran in Cape-East. Jeremy Akerman (former Nova Scotia New Democrat leader) resigned and his seat was open. I ran on a platform of equality for mankind. I didn't think that was given enough recognition at the time....

Writer: Are you running for peace because you feel it isn't getting enough attention in this election campaign?

Elaine: Oh, that's a very good question!

Ignatius: You must remember, this election wasn't called when I started. I started last October (pause) writing (pause) a poem (pause) for peace. At the time, I would say (looks upwards) I was inspired. I wrote it for the Pope, John Paul the Second.

Elaine: He wrote it for the Pope, specifically because of his peace efforts. He made peace with the man who shot him, which I thought was a good noble gesture.

Ignatius: So I wrote this poem in his honour. Now bring the poem out here to give the boy (Floyd goes to closet for poem). You'll have this poem for yourself.

Writer: Oh. (pause) Thank you.

Ignatius: They're selling it at all Zellers stores incidentally, for \$2.69 apiece. (Floyd hands the writer a poem entitled "Peace" and a song named "A Day in September" on hard cardboard backing) There's what I wrote, now read it.

(Long pause, as the writer reads)

Writer: This really must have taken a lot out of you.

Floyd: That's a very interesting comment!

Ignatius: Now, are you ready?

Writer: For what?

Ignatius: Oh, I also happen to have it on 45 rpm record.

Elaine: It just happens to be ready to play (presses the play button in the recorder on her lap).

Ignatius: (as music starts) Besides a poem, I wrote a song! (The song plays. Synthesizer and high, hymn-sing-ish female vocal for four minutes and twenty-two seconds.)

Ignatius: (as music ends) You get the message? You get the message?

Writer: Yes, certainly. You couldn't listen to it and not get the message.

Floyd: Hold on now (motions with hands. A bell is heard donging on the recorder. The other song is about to start) After the three bells....

(Two minutes and fifty-eight seconds of "Peace" later...)

Ignatius: That record and these here (poems), you'll have these as a gift. There's no charge, no bribe or anything. It took a lot of months to put this together. And anytime this record is played on the air in Canada, I gave permission that the royalties (3¢ per play) go to the Sick Children's Hospital burn unit....

Ignatius: What time will this come out?

Writer: The Thursday before the election.

Ignatius: Well, you may notify your students that on Sunday, September second... (looks at Floyd) You're organizing this. You know all about this (Floyd nods).

Floyd: We're organizing a PEACE RALLY at Victoria Park in front of the Robbie Burns statue. And I would like you to make clear that it's a peace rally, not a peace protest. By no means is it a peace PROTEST.

Ignatius: It is non-political. And the record and song will be played there.

Floyd: We could get thousands, we could get—who knows how many people could show up.

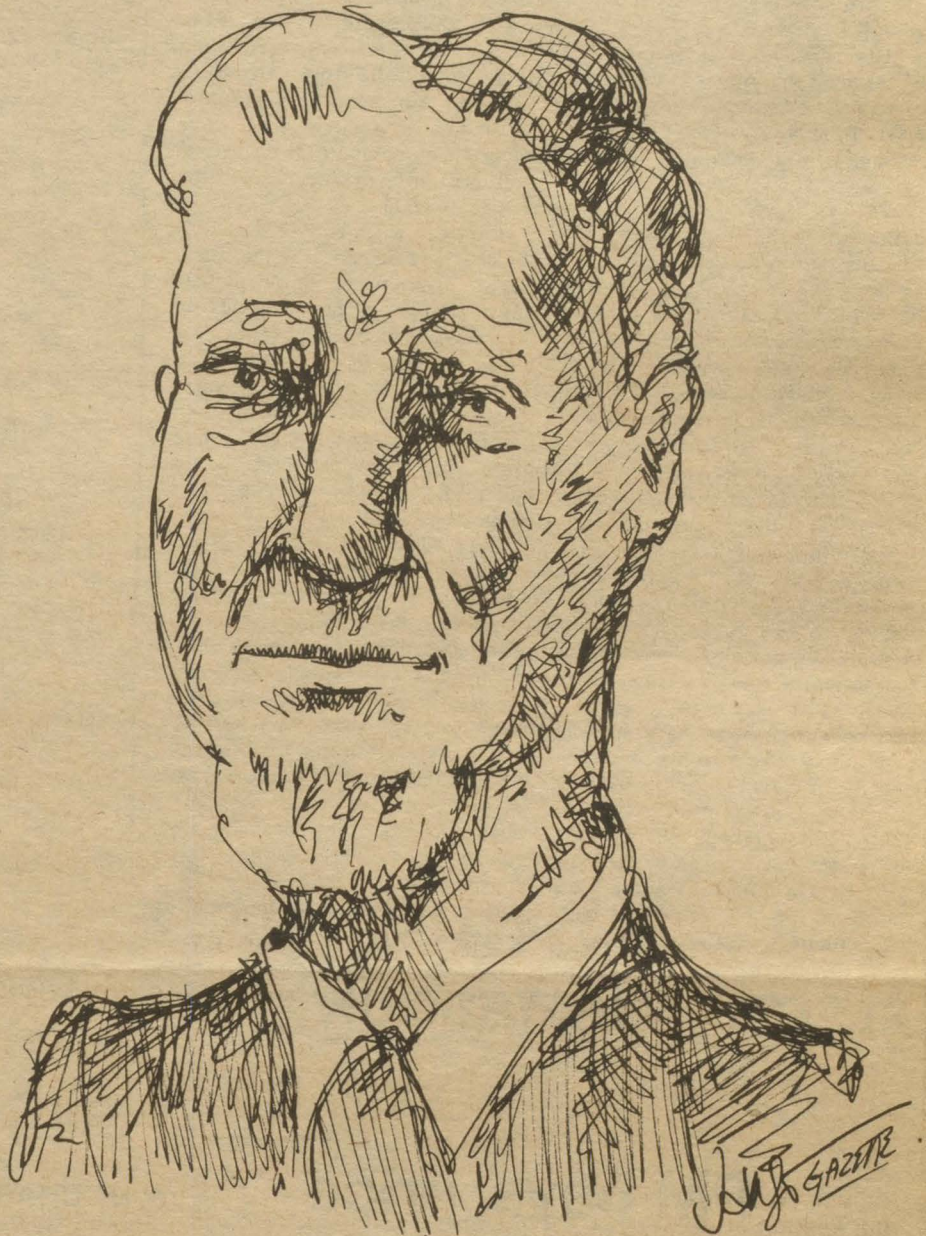
Ignatius: People who are interested in peace, not politics. Although I'm running in this federal election, I'm also the author of this great song and poem that are going worldwide....

Writer: What would you do if you won?

(laughter from Elaine)

Ignatius: (As if in reverie) What would I do if I won... First of all, I would give \$25,000 a year out of my salary to set up a peace movement in Canada. The armed forces (pause), I would double their size. (Pause) Not for war, I would turn it into a merchant marine navy. The uniforms would be....

Floyd: (whispering) Emblems...



Ignatius: All emblems of peace, representing a peaceful nation going around the world. It would solve one-quarter of the unemployment problem. (Long pause) If elected, I would have installed (pause) a large computer (pause) in Ottawa, and would have coming from each province, and each university student which qualifies, instead of being on welfare, these students would be working smaller computers employed today, and sending their information back to that main computer in Ottawa.

Floyd: (leaning forward intently) Do you understand what he's saying? The reason why he said what he's saying?

Writer: I'm not ... quite clear on that, no...

Floyd: The idea is for these young people to put their ideas in the computer, and see if it's good enough for them to get backing... (to Ignatius) Should I read this, to him?

Ignatius: (shaking his head) That's too deep for him. I don't think he's... Find that other part about the students—the ninety per cent part.

Floyd: Oh, yeah, yeah, lemme find that. Just give me a second to find that.

Writer: We'd certainly be interested in what you'd do for students.

Floyd: You realize this can't be released until tomorrow. This policy is going right across Canada tomorrow on the Canadian Press.

Ignatius: We sent it to the Chronicle-Herald.

Floyd: So at least they put it in.

(long pause, as Floyd looks through sheets and sheets of papers)

Ignatius: Ninety per cent.

Floyd: I know, I know.

(Floyd finds it, motions for attention)

Floyd: For students maintaining ninety per cent grades, he gets his education free!

Writer: Mm-hm.

Floyd: If he doesn't get ninety per cent grades, he doesn't get his education free.

Ignatius: It's incentive for the student to work a little better, to study a little more.

Writer: Uhh, I think most of the scholarships that are awarded in universities are given to people that earn grades of ninety per cent (pause) Or in some cases even less.

(Pause)

Floyd: Already get scholarships. Is that true?

Writer: At virtually every university.

(Pause)

Ignatius: Reduce it down to seventy-five per cent. Put down seventy-five, it gives them more.

Floyd: They're not getting enough, that's the point...

Writer: What kind of reaction are you getting?

Ignatius: Well, I knock on the door, and they say, "Come in, Mr. Kennedy." And after they listen to me, (pause) they say, "Well, it's different"....

Talk to us Gerry

During the Liberal youth rally here in the SUB, Gerald Regan approached the crowd like one would approach an assembly of grade-schoolers.

"Hey gang, are you having fun?" he asked in the most condescending of tones—never mind the fact that most of the crowd were of university age and were sipping on an alcoholic beverage.

We have been frustrated in this campaign with Regan's attitude towards us. Although Regan has availed himself to other media, he has refused to make time available to be interviewed by us. Is it that he thinks students are unimportant, or is he avoiding some pretty choice questions on his government's attitude towards youth and post-secondary education?

In an orgy of spending designed to placate an angry electorate this spring, education became an isolated target for restraint. Bill C-12 put the post-secondary education system on the six and five programme, cutting \$380 million in transfer payments to the provinces over two years. When Regan had spoken to us in Sept. '82, then as secretary of state, he said education wouldn't be put on the six and five programme unless the economic situation got much worse.

How can we take Liberal promises to reduce unemployment seriously when the government is cutting back on one of the best methods of helping youth to eventually find work?

It is no secret that university educated youth are faring better in the unemployment crisis than their less-educated counterparts.

Stop gap programmes designed to provide relief for unemployed youth do not address the problems of structural unemployment. Moving into a post-industrial society it is more important now than ever to prepare tomorrow's workforce for the changes to come.

Instead of a strategy to deal with the changing demands of the workplace, governments throw money into make-shift programmes that do little in solving our long term economic problems.

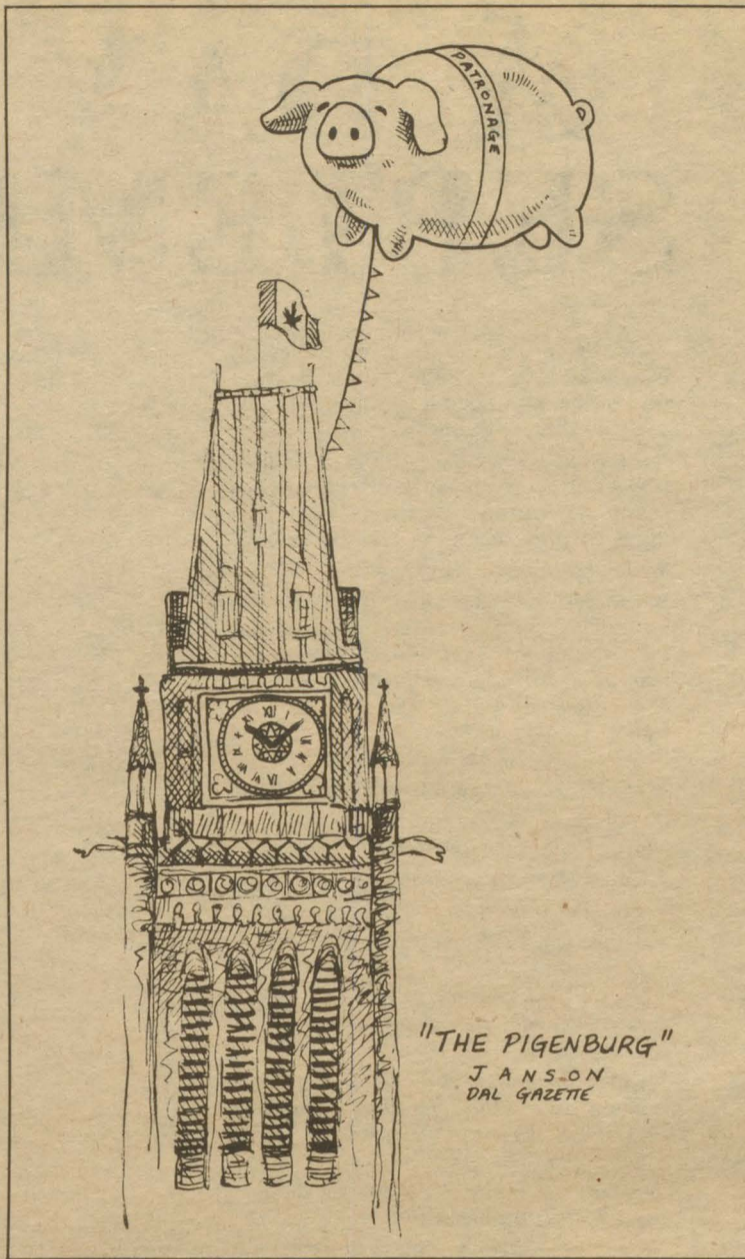
Education is a relatively small investment compared to the costs of dealing with high unemployment and at the same time a workforce incapable of dealing with the demands of employers.

The reduction of funding for post-secondary education will inevitably rebound onto students, increasing tuition fees and reducing the quality of the education they will receive.

Facing these factors, education becomes less of an alternative for youth.

It is shocking to find that none of the candidates in this riding are making education an issue, especially when one takes into account the number of post-secondary institutions in it.

Hey gang, are you having fun? No Gerry, we're not.



Stew— Tell us you're kidding

One of the big surprises in this campaign for us is PC candidate Stewart McInnis' lack of knowledge on education issues.

McInnis apologized for his lack of understanding of the federal Bill C-12 (involving cuts to federal funding for post-secondary education) by stating "there were so many issues to cover in an election campaign."

McInnis also apparently told a number of PC youth supporters that he was not that familiar with education issues.

Considering McInnis has been a long standing member on the Dalhousie board of governors, we have to seriously question his participation and commitment on that board. How can we trust this man to give rational input on the university's most important decision-making body if he is not even familiar with education issues in the heat of an election in a university riding?

Letters

Deadline for letters to the editor is noon, Monday before publication. Letters must be typed double-spaced and be less than 300 words. Letters can be dropped at the SUB enquiry desk or brought up to *The Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.

ELECTION NOTEBOOK

PM pays price patting posteriors

Despite numerous and pressing election issues facing the nation, almost an entire week early in the campaign centred on John Turner's penchant for posterior patting.

July 20 CTV news caught on camera Turner patting the behind of party president Iona Campagnola at a meeting at Edmonton. The previous day Turner apparently surprised Lise St. Martin-Tremblay—vice-president of the Liberal Party's Quebec wing—with a similar pat.

The following week the issue dominated the media as everyone got their two cents in on the issue.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Status of Women went into business manufacturing \$1 "Turner Shields"—a cardboard device that ties around the waist and covers the posterior.

After nicknaming Brian Mulroney's campaign plane "Billion-air" and Ed Broadbent's aircraft "Ordin-air," reporters couldn't resist calling Turner's charter "Derriere."

While in a riding in Nova Scotia, Turner was presented with a jar of something called "pickled bums."

The issue also surfaced during the first televised leaders' debates.

"In the past actions like his towards women were quite acceptable, but now ... this attitude is not acceptable," said Ed Broadbent, visibly awkward debating the issue.

Several nights later Consumer Affairs Minister Judy Erola criticized Broadbent on the CBC's *The Journal*, stating bum patting was never acceptable.

Turner at first declined to apologize. He said his bum patting was part of his warm, tactile style and was not a sign of disrespect. He said it was a gesture of friendship and comradery.

Turner's wife, Geills, went on national television and said the whole thing was a "bum wrap."

Shortly before the national debate on women's issues, and shortly after senator Keith Davey took over the faltering Liberal campaign, Turner apologized for his actions.

Sinclair pessimistic about recovery

By CHARLENE SADLER

Economic issues are topping a shopping list of the nation's woes during this election. A record low Canadian dollar, climbing interest rates and unemployment have dominated the few policy oriented speeches Canadians have had to hang on to.

Alasdair Sinclair, professor of economics at Dalhousie, says he is pessimistic about any instant recovery.

Sinclair says the government deficit puts a constraint over what can be offered. They can only spend so much before the spending becomes a liability, he says, and there is a perception that the spending limit is at its peak.

Sinclair says the government is faced with the dilemma that if it wishes to spend more it must get the money from either raising taxes or cutting back on other programmes.

"So if the Canadian people want to see the Navy doubled they are going to have to pay for that somehow."

He sees both pros and cons to Canada's weak dollar. The low dollar makes Canadian goods more attractive domestically and to other countries, protecting our trade situation and creating needed employment in certain sectors of the economy.

However, on the flip-flop, imports—most notably from the U.S.—are more expensive and add to the inflation rate. Sinclair says the low dollar is more of a political problem at the moment.

"Politically a low dollar is seen as bad, or weak," he says. "It is an insecurity to the Canadian people."

Sinclair sees world interest rates as being a major economic concern. He points out that high interest rates make the cost of homes, factories

and new equipment prohibitive and slows down economic development.

Tax reform is something Sinclair says should be an important part of the political agenda. In the past 20 years there has been a shift away from taxing corporations to taxing individuals, and he thinks that trend should be reversed. One idea worth investigating, he says, is shifting taxation to shareholders who would pay tax as they gain financially from a company's performance, rather than directly taxing the corporation.

Ittinuar changes party (again)

Peter Ittinuar, the first Inuit to sit in the House of Commons, changed his party colours for the third time since being first elected MP in the riding of Nunatsiak in 1979.

Originally elected as a New Democrat, Ittinuar was wooed over to the Liberals in 1982 and recently chose to run as an independent.

Ittinuar quit the Liberals, claiming the party hierarchy was ignoring his allegations of irregularities leading up to the riding's nomination meeting.

"I am not wanted by the executive and apparently not by the Ottawa Liberals, perhaps because of the court case coming up, perhaps because it is presumed that I am already a criminal," Ittinuar told reporters.

Ittinuar is to appear in provincial court in Ottawa Nov. 5 for a preliminary hearing on charges of theft over \$200, breach of trust and uttering a forged document, after a lengthy RCMP investigation into his travel expenses.

A bad thing may be a good thing

By DAVID OLIE

With the drawn-out inevitability of death itself, it appears the federal Tories will soon be upon us. This, like other man-made disasters, is all the more tragic because it could have been avoided but, nevertheless, may end up improving the human condition after all. The loss of the *Titanic*, for example, led to improved methods of navigation at sea, though that can hardly be seen as compensation for the victims of the sinking itself.

Basically, then, my thesis is this: The election of Byron Baloney and his Terrible Tories will be such a bad thing that it may turn out to be a good thing. In the short term, of course, it may well be a horror story, and those of us who can be classified as "progressive" will be in the

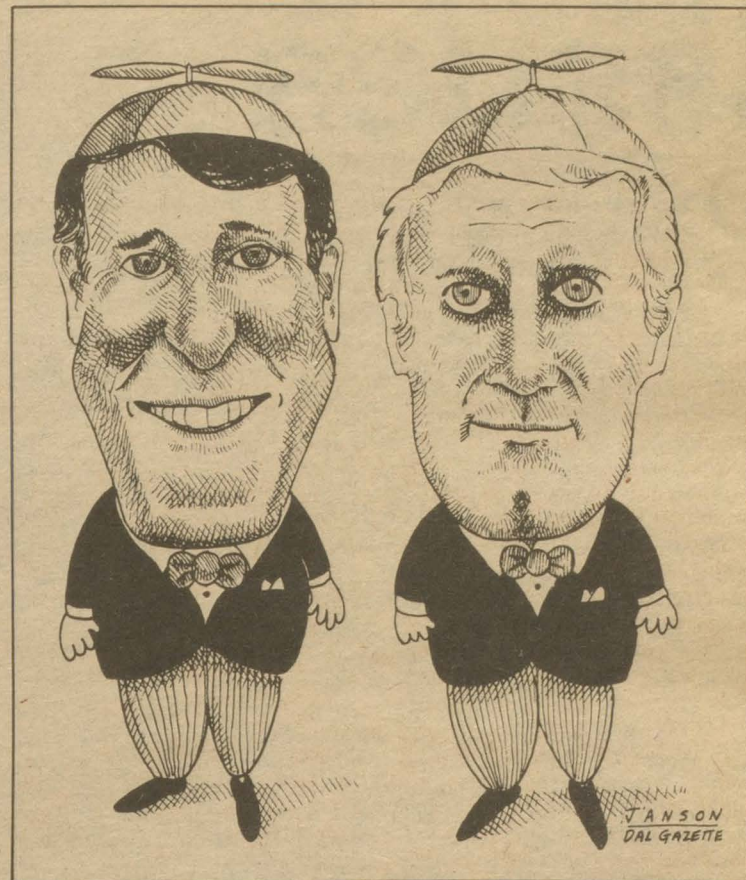
trenches for the next few years, fighting a rear-guard action against the Blue Horde that we will probably lose. Medicare in its present form and dozens of other social programmes are probably goners, and any forward movement on disarmament and other progressive issues will be stalled, if not beaten back. Lord knows what will happen to post-secondary education, but it can be safely assumed to be nasty. All this will be enormously aggravated by the expected downturn of the economy. These will not be pleasant years.

But, out of adversity is born strength. Perhaps the greatest shot in the arm received by the Canadian left in recent years has been the formation of Operation Solidarity in British Columbia. In the face of the Blue Horde, I predict the nationwide expansion of this movement, and the

left may become a cohesive force once more. If the Tories can do that for us, I, for one, will be very grateful.

The problem with the Tories, in a nutshell, is this: They have been out of power too long, and, through long disuse of the muscles of power, they have become mentally atrophied, a condition for which, I believe, there is no cure. Their endless frustration of the last two decades has made them neurotic to the point of being incapable of wielding power, the repeated rebuffs from the electorate has made them feel unloved and unwanted, so they have withdrawn into themselves, where they do have support, and have kept the spark alive by resorting to faith, rather than reason. They have *faith* in free enterprise, *faith* in the military, *faith* in large corporations, and *faith* in the U.S. of A. They have replaced policy with dogma, the dogma of any small and persecuted sect, and now, without thinking about it, they are about to loose this dogma on Canada.

Canadians, being reasonably intelligent beings, would not normally ever let these beasts loose in the halls of power, but this is another effect of the Tories long lapse from power. Canadians have: A) had it up to here with the Grits; B) forgotten what the Tories are all about and; C) decided to take pity on them. To a lesser extent they did the same in 1979 and, soon realizing their ghastly



error, made a hasty correction in 1980, adding immeasurably to the neurosis and frustration of the Blue Horde. (Like some other primitive creatures, a frustrated Tory can be distinguished by the way it tears at its own flesh; thus we have the assassination of Joe Clark.)

I have faith that, after four long, lean and miserable years, the self-preservation instincts of Canadians will re-assert themselves and the

Tories will be put on ice once again. Meanwhile, the trench warfare, though bloody and somewhat disheartening for us lefties, may prove to be the necessary glue to bind us together in the future, a future when Canadians, realizing that the Tories are *not* an alternative may finally turn to us.

David Olie is a member of King's-Dal Young New Democrats

Election to cost \$95-million

Democracy has a price. By the time this election is over Elections Canada will have run up a tab of \$95 million—or \$5.60 per eligible voter. The money will be dispersed by as many as 500,000 cheques to enumerators, returning officers, deputy returning officers, poll clerks, and other staff. \$2 million will be spent on advertising designed to reach voters who were missed by door to door enumerators. About \$15 to \$18 million will be spent helping candidates and political parties with election expenses. Hundreds of tonnes of materials have been shipped to 282 ridings, which will in turn distribute materials to 68,000 polling stations across the country. 110,000 enumerators are responsible for registering 16.5 million eligible voters.

Cluster at political centre just marketing

By WILLIAM G. WATSON

The current election campaign was barely days old before the perennial complaint was heard that the differences between the major parties are mainly ones of style rather than substance.

There is a lot of truth to this. While Opposition Leader Brian Mulroney is upset at the Liberals for stealing his natural gas policy, Prime Minister John Turner argues that the Tories haven't got any other policies (which suggests, though he naturally doesn't say so, that they are copying the Liberals' own favorite electoral strategy).

And New Democratic Party Leader Edward Broadbent tells anyone who will listen that he offers the only real alternative to Tweedledum and Tweedledee. Though possibly true, this has not yet attracted large numbers of voters to his own brand of policies: different obviously need not mean better.

What people don't seem to realize is that the fact that there are no glaring policy differences between the two major parties is a sign, not that our political system is intellectually corrupt, but that it is working exactly as you would expect it to. To understand why, however, it's best to think of political parties—as economists do—as if they were gas stations.

The most efficient way to distrib-

ute gas stations across the land would be to put them all the same distance apart (allowing for some variation, perhaps, according to population density). But, in fact, gas stations tend to cluster together—particularly at intersections, because that's where the bulk of the traffic is. Anyone who moves down the road a little risks being outflanked by his competitors.

But, in the same way that gas stations can be outflanked by setting up too far from where others congregate, political parties can be outflanked by adopting too extreme a position on the political spectrum. Set up too far left, for instance, and the other party will nudge in beside you and steal the centre-left, the centre, and all the right-wing voters, as well, since they have nowhere else to go.

The obvious outcome of a game of this sort is that in an essentially two-party system parties end up bidding for the support of those voters who inhabit the middle of the political spectrum—the "median voters," as they're called in the literature. With all the in-depth polling that currently goes on, it's not hard for parties to get a good fix on just where median voters' preferences lie, and it's not surprising that they offer similar policy packages to try to attract them. What is interesting in the current campaign is that polling has persuaded both major parties that the middle of the political spectrum has

shifted right.

Of course, another reason politicians don't like to emphasize policy differences is that policy is so hard to run on. For at least a generation, Canadian politicians will remain spooked by Robert Stanfield's disastrous endorsement of wage and price controls in the 1974 election. The one sure way to be put on the defensive in a campaign is to put forward specific policy recommendations.

On top of that, there's the difficulty of getting complicated policy messages across. Here blame must be shared between a press that is either too partisan or too lazy to explain at length and a public that is simply unwilling to listen.

About a month ago, a Toronto-based newspaper ran a banner headline on its front page declaring that the Department of Finance was giving consideration to a flat-rate income tax which, the headline said, would benefit the rich. Never mind that of the two Finance officials whose views were solicited one said "No comment" and the other could not be reached. Never mind that a responsible department should be assessing a wide range of policy alternatives at all times.

And never mind that because of the large number of exemptions that area of greatest advantage to higher-income taxpayers the current tax system leaves most people, rich and poor alike, paying roughly the same percentage of their income in tax,

anyway. (Try getting *that* message across on a 30-second TV clip.)

Little wonder then, that the Conservatives have backtracked frantically on any talk about doing away with universality in social programmes, even though the effect of reducing universal access would be to make the programmes in question more, rather than less, progressive in incidence.

So, faced with two major parties running on what seems to be the same platform, what's a voter to do? First, it's best to realize that there *are* policy differences between the parties, even if these remain largely unspoken. Between the two leaders there may not be much one way or the other: Mulroney seems to be a fairly Red Tory and Turner is obviously a Blue Grit.

But despite their own strikingly similar political coloration, the leaders are surrounded by people who have readily identifiable ideological interests. Whenever there is room for manoeuvre, Mulroney is likely to be pulled rightward by his party and Turner leftward by his.

But it's also best to remember that a Prime Minister often has very few degrees of freedom. Thus, while Mulroney might well shave a few more billions of dollars off the deficit than Turner would, neither man could eliminate it in short order. Similarly, neither is likely to undertake dramatic reversals in, say, Canadian trade policy. The exigencies of

interest-group politics are simply too compelling.

Thus it seems that—as usual—the choice between candidates must be based mainly on style. A political system like ours is going to generate much the same kind of policies whoever is in power.

Moreover, for many people the main attraction of modern politics is as an entertainment medium. Voters should therefore ask themselves which is more likely to grate first: Turner's boardroom prose, mesmeric stare, and reverberant throat-clearing? Or Mulroney's gilded hyperbole, husky baritone, and jaunty chuminess? And how will each principal control his supporting cast? Can Turner prove that it really is possible to clean house without first removing those responsible for the mess? And how long will Mulroney, if he acquires the lease, be able to keep his caucus-mates from bloodying the carpets?

These and similar questions are more the stuff of melodrama than of seminars. On the other hand, if we did get an issues-oriented campaign, we would probably soon complain about how unbearably dull it all was. Best to relax and enjoy the glitter and the fun.

William Watson teaches economics at McGill University, Montreal.

The Issues

Everyone was well aware of the pitfalls before the election was called. The media hoped beyond reasonable expectation that this might be an issue-oriented campaign in which Canadians would have real choices outlined clearly before them. Instead the media became complacent in turning this election into one of image and electoral strategy. Policy statements seldom dominated the front pages, while polls grabbed the spotlight, turning the election into a kind of political stock market. Publics were supposed to jump on or off a party's bandwagon according to how their performances stacked up.

The heated exchanges between the parties involved issues that seldom touched the welfare of the average Canadian. Although the patronage appointments that kicked off the campaign put an ugly pallor over the Turner effort, the stale debate that followed offered little or no hope for Canadians with more pressing concerns, such as high interest rates, and unemployment.

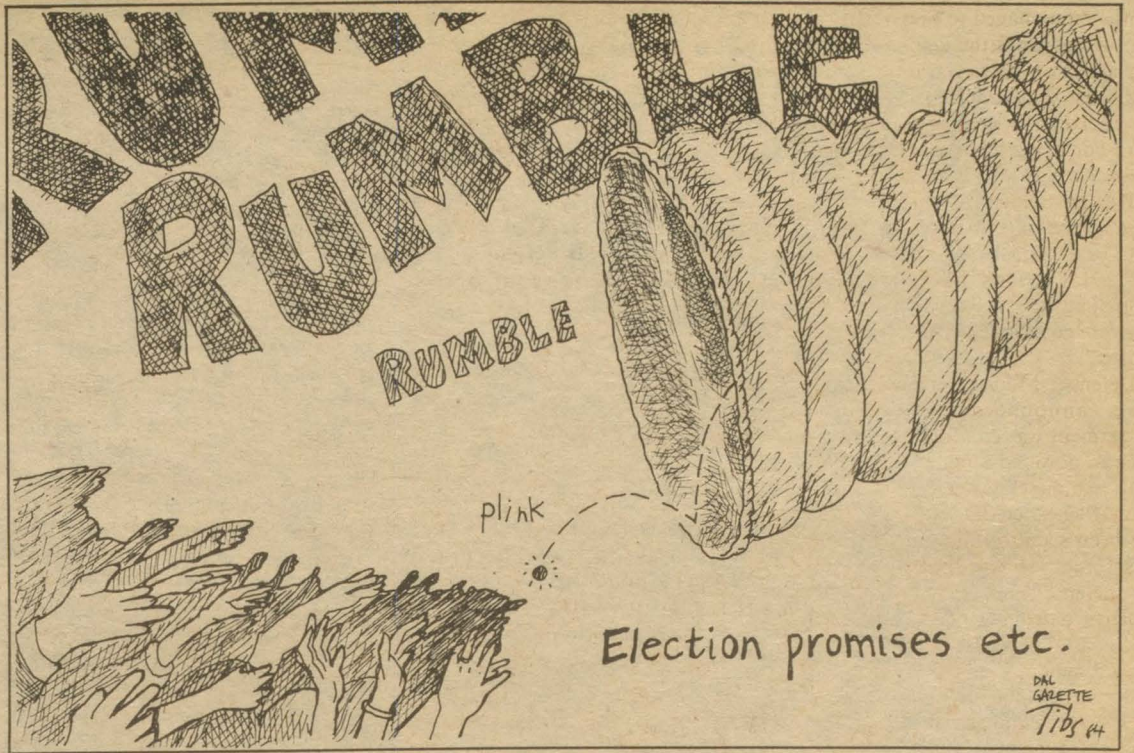
The leaders questioned each other's integrity frequently. Turner called Mulroney a "let's pretend Liberal." Mulroney constantly linked Turner to the Liberal's recent unpopular past. Ed Broadbent called the other two "the Bobbsey twins of Bay Street."

Petty name calling filled in the void left by a lack of serious differ-

ences in policy. They want to reduce the deficit, although none are outlining how. They all want tax reform. They all want to beef up Canada's conventional armed forces. They all want to retain social services. They all are respecting the principles of the national energy programme. They all want to reduce unemployment, but again none are saying how. They all support the aspirations of the women's movement.

In a rush to the political centre the three major political parties have created a kind of political totalitarianism with democratic structure.

The *Gazette* looks at some of the issues that have lurked around the peripheries of this election and examines what differences we could find in the platforms of the three major parties.



Pushing the peace button

By CATHY McDONALD

All three parties have been pushing the peace button this election campaign.

A Gallup poll result released early in the campaign made the nuclear weapons freeze a prominent election issue. Fully 85 per cent of Canadians favour a mutual and verifiable nuclear weapons freeze, the poll showed.

The Liberals and the NDP have both tried to appeal to peace movement sympathies, with the NDP's full endorsement of the peace movement's election agenda, and the Liberals' considerable variations on the nuclear weapons freeze issue.

The Progressive Conservatives tried to downplay the issue, making the decrepit state of the Canadian Forces their prime defense issue.

The NDP has identified strongly with the Canadian peace movement,

supporting among other things a freeze on the testing and development of nuclear weapons, including the controversial cruise missile testing in Alberta. The party points to other nations that oppose NATO policies by refusing the cruise, saying if Canada is serious about stopping the arms race, it should do the same.

Both the Liberal and PC parties hoped to show their concern for world peace by strongly endorsing former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's peace initiative. Liberal Leader John Turner said he will continue Trudeau's efforts to bring leaders of nuclear powers together to discuss the issue. Turner wrote to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko during the campaign, and also appointed a new Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament, Aug. 17.

The Progressive Conservatives have said very little about a nuclear weapons freeze. Although former leader Joe Clark reported in late July on his findings from a cross-Canada commission into the nuclear arms issue—launched at the peak of Trudeau's peace initiative—Tory Leader Brian Mulroney has not released it.

PC External Affairs critic Flora MacDonald made an extremely cautious statement Aug. 16 in support of a freeze, "provided it doesn't lock in nuclear superiority on either side." Mulroney supports the cruise testing, and views any move to stop it as a unilateral disarmament action.

The most fun over the freeze issue has been in the Liberal camp, when party president Iona Campagnolo departed from government policy Aug. 8 to support a nuclear weapons freeze and no cruise missile testing. Six Liberal candidates quickly followed her lead, including former aide to Trudeau, Jim Coutts. Finally, on Aug. 24, Turner admitted to endorsing the freeze "personally," but explained as Prime Minister he had no choice but to stand behind Canada's allies in developing the cruise missile.

Meanwhile, the Progressive Conservatives have attacked the Liberals for neglecting Canada's Armed Forces, pledging to increase the force size by 8,000 and return distinctive uniforms to the three divisions. While Mulroney did not announce the cost for this, Turner estimated a \$580 million price tag.

The Liberals oppose a return to the three uniforms, away from the current unified green uniform, saying the money would be better spent on tools. At the same time, the Turner

Continued on page 11

Coalition continues ad campaign

By RICK JANSON

While interest groups across the country vie for headlines in this summer's election, there is one group that has long been content to buy their way into Canadian newspapers.

Since 1967, the National Citizens' Coalition has been purchasing ad space in Canadian newspapers to espouse their right wing views of "more freedom through less government."

Recently, the 30,000-member group defeated the government's Bill C-169 in an Alberta court challenge. The legislation originally placed restrictions on the type of advertising a non-political party could sponsor during an election. The proposed restrictions would have meant the cost of advertising "directly promoting or opposing a candidate or a political party during an election" would be subject to election expense ceilings. The government declined to appeal the court's decision.

On July 19 the NCC ran a full page ad in the national edition of the *Globe and Mail* trumpeting their victory: "Federal politicians didn't want you to read this ad... Now that we are free to speak out, the Coalition would like to tell you about the six issues on our Agenda for Canadians."

Based on a Gallup poll the Coalition sponsored in March, the ad states that Canadians—and the NCC—want Petrocan and other crown corporations sold, the federal government forced by law to balance the budget, an end to indexed pensions for MPs, private

Six issues Canadians should make Politicians debate:

Our Agenda for Canadians.

Federal politicians didn't want you to read this ad. That's why all three major parties passed Bill C-169 in a splendid show of togetherness. Bill C-169 was designed to stifle freedom of speech and make this election a closed shop for politicians. The politicians would have succeeded if the National Citizens' Coalition hadn't overturned the law through a landmark, constitutional court challenge. The Liberal government says it won't appeal. Now that we are free to speak out the Coalition would like to tell you about the six issues on our Agenda for Canadians—ask your candidates about them.

1. Canadians want democracy in the workplace and the right to own a living.
In a free and democratic society citizens shouldn't be forced to join unions or pay union dues in order to earn a living.
When they are, they often find themselves unwillingly supporting Canada's official socialist party, the NDP. Citizens who are forced to join unions often find themselves unemployed through strikes or when companies are forced to shut back because of high and uncompetitive labour costs.
The Commission of National Gallup Poll on the six issues of our Agenda for Canadians.
The poll shows 69.9% of decided Canadians want the Right to Earn A Living (R.E.A.L.), a three to one margin. Then among "labour" respondents, 61.6% wanted R.E.A.L.
In the poll we also asked if union secret, mail balloting, votes and the
2. Nationally, of decided respondents, 57% approved while only 27% disapproved—a better than two to one margin.
Shouldn't you know where your candidates stand on ending crown corporations?
Find out before you vote.
3. Canadians want the Federal Government forced by law to balance the budget.
Canada, blessed with abundant natural resources, is well on its way to becoming a national debtor.
For the past ten years under the Liberal government, the federal deficit has increased by over 100%.
Canada has been
4. Nationally, of decided respondents, 61.9% of Canadians disapproved of fully indexed pensions for MPs while only 28.2% approved.
Shouldn't you know where your candidates stand on fully indexed pensions?
Find out before you vote.
5. Canadians want

property rights entrenched in the constitution, and curbs on union powers.

David Somerville, NCC vice-president, says the Coalition is encouraged by the response it has had so far.

The NCC has found 84 candidates to support their stand against fully indexed pensions for MPs and Somerville claims the Conservative party is also endorsing that position. He said *The Globe and Mail* recently ran an editorial supporting the idea of selling-off some crown corporations and that even Liberal Senator Michael Pitfield has endorsed the idea of selling Petrocan.

Although the government of Joe Clark found the selling of Petrocan to be an unpopular stance among the electorate in 1980, Somerville says the public's perception of the issue

has changed.

"It's taken five years to do. We could take a lot of the credit for it."

The Conservatives had problems with the issue because it wasn't part of a "philosophical pedigree," "They had no reason for selling it," he said.

The NCC wants the crown corporation sold in order to help reduce the federal deficit.

Discussion of "balancing the budget is just under the surface," said Somerville. "They're starting to talk more clearly and honestly on the issue. I don't think these guys are taking any courageous stands on anything. If Turner was being honest with Canadians... he knows we can't keep all these social programmes and reduce the deficit at the same time."

Somerville says the candidates are on the wrong track with job creation programmes.

"We're completely opposed to job

creation—in the long term it's going to cost us jobs. It's a sad joke to say the government can create jobs," he said.

"The only way to create jobs is to get government off the backs of the free enterprise system."

In the Halifax area politicians discount the impact of the NCC.

"I must admit we haven't seen too much of them," said Liberal candidate Ben Prossin (Halifax West). "They haven't had any impact here yet. We haven't felt any feedback from any voter on anything they said."

Prossin says the NCC's "Agenda for Canadians" is an unrealistic programme.

"It's derived from 19th century thinking. It's a flakey programme," he said. "Extremism in any variety—left or right—is unacceptable to mainstream Canadians."

Duncan Haslam, campaign manager for NDP candidate Dennis Theman (Halifax West) charges the NCC "is a cover for the Conservative Party in Canada."

Somerville denies any connection to any party and says the Coalition is no longer considered right wing.

"Ten years ago it was right wing," he said. "In the 60's and early 70's the pendulum swung left. The pendulum has come back to us."

Somerville says that even if Brian Mulroney's Conservatives get elected, the Canadian public can still expect to see the NCC's ads.

He points out that in Ontario the NCC has taken out two ads attacking the Conservative Davis government for its purchase of SUNCOR (Ontario's mini-Petrocan) and Davis' stand on the constitution.

"We won't be letting up on government," Somerville promises.

campaign managed to find a \$50 million savings from the defense budget, to place in an election promises fund. A defense department source said 60 per cent of the savings would come from delaying miscellaneous purchases such as tools.

The prestigious British publication *Jane's Fighting Ships* added fuel to the Tories' attack Aug. 22. The editor said Canada's forces are in an "appalling mess." Jane's blamed the Liberal government for "years of neglect."

Defense Minister Jean Jacques Blais announced Aug. 24 his department was considering adding a nuclear powered submarine to Canada's two diesel powered subs.

NDP Leader Ed Broadbent has not been silent on the state of Canada's forces. He pledged to increase the defense budget to enable the effective patrolling of Canada's 200-mile coastal zone. He didn't include a cost estimate.

Both the Liberals and Conservatives have emphasized the importance of keeping Canada's commitment to NATO. The NDP has not drawn attention to its long-standing policy to leave the alliance.

Minimum tax tip of iceberg

The New Democrats have been getting a lot of mileage this election out of their promises of tax reform.

In 1982 there were 239 Canadians with incomes over \$250,000 who were able to take advantage of tax breaks and subsequently paid no tax.

NDP Leader Ed Broadbent started the ball rolling proposing a 20 per cent minimum tax rate for Canadians earning more than \$50,000 per year.

Mulroney followed suit, promising a minimum tax during the first televised leaders' debates. Later Mulroney backed off, stating minimum tax on wealthy individuals is only one option that should be studied in the interest of making the tax system more equitable. Towards the end of the campaign his support firmed-up again, promising that a minimum tax should be a "handsome amount" and that if the PC's are elected this stand will be reflected in their first budget.

Mulroney took some heat in the campaign when it was discovered that he had been involved in investments designed to reduce his own tax load.

Prime Minister Turner was the last on the bandwagon, promising a minimum tax of 13 per cent on those earning over \$60,000 per year.

Major tax reforms were tried twice in the last 20 years and the advocates of those reforms were badly mauled politically. Business and professional associations have provided the opposition in both cases, stifling attempts to close-up key tax breaks for the wealthy and the corporate sector. Over the last decade taxation has shifted away from corporations and rested on mostly middle-income Canadians.

The minimum tax rate only scratches the surface of a Pandora's Box of inequities.

Although politicians have hedged carefully around the thorny issue of universality, a government conscious of the federal deficit will undoubtedly be looking at ending the universality of some programmes and tax schemes. It may be a good thing.

For example, child tax credits designed to help low income parents do quite the opposite. To get the

benefit of tax credits one has to pay in the first place. Low income Canadians receive little or no benefit from the credits, while middle income and wealthy parents benefit fully.

Some tax reformers have batted about the idea of replacing tax credits with a guaranteed annual income supplement. The scheme would basically subsidize incomes of Canadians according to an established criteria of need and abolish tax exemptions.

Peter Pocklington's flat tax rate—which would abolish all tax exemptions and establish an equal across-the-board tax rate for all Canadians—has been dismissed by all, including the Tories who called the former leadership candidate's idea "half-baked."

Promises aimed only at youth

By WENDY COOMBER

Whenever unemployment is mentioned in this election the solutions are invariably directed towards youth, almost to the exclusion of the 24-65 year-old unemployed.

The strategies of the federal parties are simple: the Liberals are emphasizing job training (for those who have never had a career start), while the Progressive Conservatives are stressing job creation. Both of these plans require use of federal funds. The New Democratic Party is covering all sides by advocating both methods but with funds gained from imposing new taxes on large, previously untaxed, corporations.

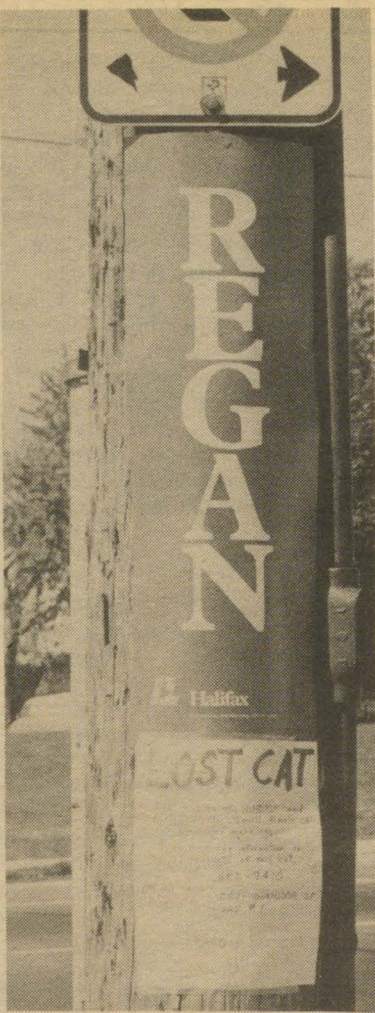
John Turner and the Liberals are throwing their trust behind a \$100 million youth job training programme called First Chance, saying the programme is meant to "break the vicious cycle of no job without experience and no experience without a job." Turner expects to fund the programme by diverting \$80 million from other programmes and taking another \$20 million from the Unemployment Insurance fund. Although he is expecting First Chance to expand after the first year to a \$1 million project, Turner is not yet sure where those monies will come from.

Brian Mulroney, national Conservative Party Leader, says he will wage a struggle against unemployment by creating at least 200,000 new jobs for youth; his party, however, reports that unemployment will remain above 10 per cent until the year 2000 and that not much can be done about it.

Mulroney's proposed solution is a \$250 million programme giving employers of young workers a special tax credit to help pay their employees' salaries. At the same time Mulroney vows to eliminate the political side of grants and federal financing arrangements, saying, "It is time to halt the unacceptable practice of permitting members in power to distribute federal funds arbitrarily." The Tory Leader also favours granting loans between \$15,000 and \$75,000, taken from the Unemployment Insurance fund, to young people interested in beginning their own businesses.

On a more specific level, Mulroney is quoted as saying he will create programmes to help Quebec textile workers adapt to technological change.

Ed Broadbent and his New Democratic Party have announced a Youth Initiative Fund of \$1.5 billion for young entrepreneurs, financed by an as yet unspecified



levy on medium and large corporations and a 20 per cent tax on incomes over \$50,000, saying the government could raise over \$150 million this way.

Besides the Youth Initiative Fund, Broadbent has also asked Turner to postpone a \$1.1 billion increase in the federal sales tax planned for this fall, saying the delay would save 50,000 jobs. He further suggested eliminating the federal sales tax altogether, thereby "putting an extra \$150 into the hands of the average Canadian family" (per year).

In a move to alleviate unemployment in general areas, Broadbent announced a \$100-million-a-year programme to encourage the development of alternative employment in one-industry towns. The NDP Leader said 700 such communities whose basic mineral or wood products are facing declining markets can be helped. This Single Industry Community Diversification Fund will seek matching funds from provincial levels and be available to new companies wishing to establish themselves in appropriate areas. The party hopes the cost of the programme will eventually be offset by increased stability

in employment and reduced need for social benefits.

Broadbent also plans to eliminate taxes for farm fuels, arrange a moratorium on farm debts, return to the cheap Crowsnest Pass freight rate, and impose tougher Canadian content requirements on companies engaged in offshore oil exploration before they can qualify for Petroleum Incentive Programme subsidies. He said construction of one modern drilling rig would provide 1500 Canadian jobs for 18 weeks.

John Turner will be concentrating on the older unemployed group in the West by seeking markets for western coal and prairie grain. Brian Mulroney's election promises include providing low-interest loans to farmers, and setting up a \$25,000 fund for young entrepreneurs.

Looking for sincerity in pledges

By CATHY McDONALD

Addressing women's inequality in society is of major concern to voters in 1984, judging by the actions of Canada's three major party leaders.

The leaders have given "women's issues" an unprecedented amount of attention, speaking to a wide range of concerns.

And their actions have been closely scrutinized for signs of insincerity.

The parties are being compared by the number of women they nominated for election, on the party leaders' personal behaviour (the notorious bum-patting affair), and finally in a full review of platforms debated by all three leaders on national television, Aug. 15.

Female versus male voting preferences—the so-called gender gap—has changed dramatically over the course of the campaign. Women favoured the Liberals over Progressive Conservatives by 12 per cent last April. By August there was a five per cent gap the other way, according to the most recent poll commissioned by the *Globe and Mail*.

It's hard to tell what issues or impressions caused that change, but Liberal Leader John Turner and PC Leader Brian Mulroney have said women's issues are a top campaign priority.

NDP Leader Ed Broadbent accused his opponents of following a fad, without any deeper sympathy for the cause. His party won the campaign's first sincerity test, nominating more women than the other

two parties combined.

Turner summed up his view by saying, "The fundamental issue is economic for women."

On the question of equal pay for work of equal value, Turner said he would enforce existing equal pay legislation on Crown corporations, but he would not apply the policy to companies regulated by the federal government, like railways and telephone companies. Turner preferred, instead, a "persuasive guideline posture."

Existing legislation says where two different jobs hold the same degree of difficulty, for example cashiers and store clerks, the employees should be paid equally. The law applies to companies within the federal jurisdiction, and is enforced by the Canadian Human Rights Commission when a complaint is made.

Business interests have opposed equal pay for work of equal value, saying market forces should determine job value, not government. However, Brian Mulroney has also come out in favour of the policy, and would extend it outside Crown corporations, to companies within the federal jurisdiction.

Both Turner and Mulroney said they will ask any company seeking a federal contract to provide a list showing what percentage of employees were women.

Broadbent goes further than the realm of government contacts in promoting equality in the workplace. The NDP wants to make affirmative action programmes mandatory in the private sector, where a company has more than 50 employees. In a situation where a female and male applicant have equal job qualifications, affirmative action means the woman is hired.

Along the theme of economic inequality, Mulroney read some grim statistics during the television debate. He said 47 per cent of families with women as their chief support live below the poverty line. Also, the majority of women pensioners, about 345,000, are poor.

As for solutions to these problems, all three leaders said pensions, access to jobs and job training should be improved.

Broadbent said an NDP government would put \$300 million into making day care universal. Turner said he would bring day care and other women's concerns to federal-provincial talks for discussion.

Broadbent said the Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan should be doubled, and wid-

Continued on page 12

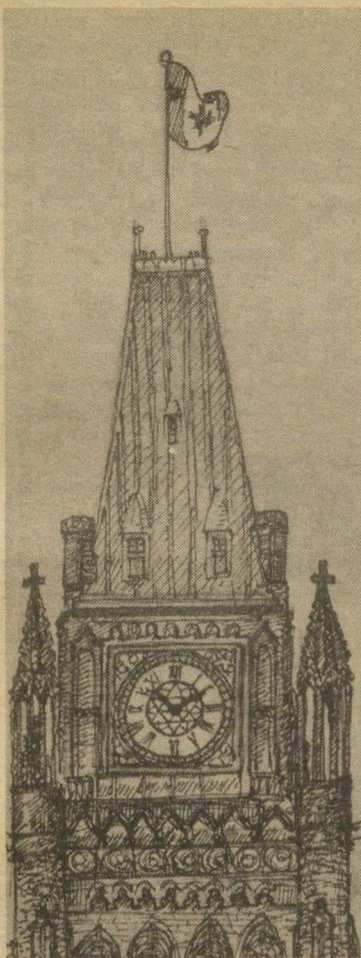
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Dalhousie's Student Lounge

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See you there!



Continued from page 1
 conceded that the real victors of the debate were Canadian women.

Regionally, the breakthrough for the Tories happened in Quebec. Two weeks before election day a Gallup poll had indicated the Tories were out in front in the longtime Liberal fortress.

"It's reminiscent of 1976 and the antipathy towards (Robert) Bourassa," one Quebec Liberal organizer told *The Globe and Mail*. "The difference is that in 1976 and in 1981, people weren't facing up to reality. This time people are—and if we had a good organization, we could pull it off. Regrettably, I don't think we have the organization anymore."

As the election wound down

Turner accused Mulroney of being a "let's pretend Liberal." What many will be speculating on is what the Tory party really has in mind once in power. This election has been characterized by a Conservative leader leaning to the left and a Liberal leader leaning to the right, but what gets forgotten in the pursuit of personality politics is that these people lead parties with historical policy positions that are not being debated. For example, although Brian Mulroney is making all the right noises about women's issues (albeit vague), we cannot forget that his party is overwhelmingly against affirmative action. The so-called "hidden agendas" are the surprise we will all be waiting for after the Sept. 4 election.

Continued from page 11
 ows should receive half the pension credits earned by their deceased husbands.

During the televised three-way debate, Mulroney made noticeably few specific promises, instead stressing his commitment and concern.

On the pornography issue, all three leaders said they would amend the criminal code to include gender under the hate literature section.

The three parties agreed a

national registry should be created to track down spouses truant in paying child support and alimony.

On abortion, Broadbent strongly supports freedom of choice, meaning accessibility to abortion facilities should be increased. Turner is satisfied with the current law which leaves the decision up to hospital abortion committees. He said the law is the best compromise on a highly polarised issue. Mulroney accepts the law, but would allow a free vote on the issue in parliament.

Libertarians to hold balance of power?

Dennis Corrigan is predicting a handful of seats for his Libertarian Party in a minority government Sept. 4.

"I could see us in a coalition holding a balance of power," the national party president told the *Globe and Mail* in July.

The Libertarians have been campaigning since 1973 on a platform of less government, reduced taxes and free trade with the United States.

In 1980 Corrigan gained 58 votes more than the Rhino candidate in his own riding of Toronto Beaches.

"I'm running to win, certainly, absolutely," he says. "I'm not saying it's likely, or probable, but it could happen."

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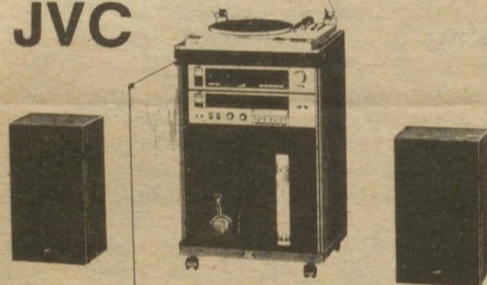
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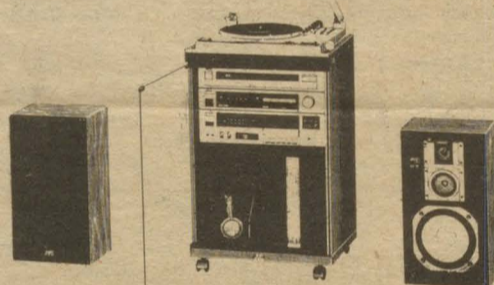
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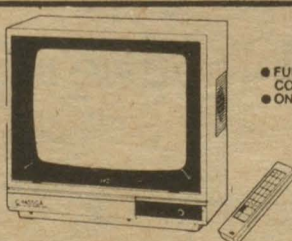
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