

Lewis calls Trudeau liar

by Pam Berman

David Lewis, former leader of the NDP, accused Pierre Trudeau of 'deliberately lying', at a NDP rally on February 10 held at Mount Saint Vincent.

Lewis was responding to a statement made by Trudeau in a radio interview earlier that day. Trudeau said that the NDP were moving in on Liberal policy such as Medicare and PetroCan but assured listeners that the Liberals, unlike the NDP, would not nationalize the oil companies. Lewis rebutted this and said that all three points were 'falsehoods'. Medicare and PetroCanada were in fact NDP ideas and the nationalization of oil companies was not a NDP policy.

"Trudeau is an intelligent man, he knows the facts which means that he deliberately lied," said Lewis, "and no one who tells those kind of lies deserves to be a leader of a party, let alone a leader of a country."

Medicare was introduced in 1967 under Pearson only because he was then in a minority government situation and was under great pressure from the NDP. In fact, it was the CCF Party in Saskatchewan who started a hospitalization program in 1947 and carried it on by themselves for twelve years until the Tory government of Diefenbaker brought in the plan for all of Canada, who actually laid the foundations for Medicare in Canada.

Speaking on the origins of PetroCan as one who was actually there at the time as leader of the NDP, Lewis said when Trudeau was in a minority government position the NDP demanded acceptance of three policies and threatened the defeat of the government if they were not accepted.

One was a lower domestic oil price and a higher one for exports. An export tax was the

second policy so that multi-nationals would not get wind-fall profits from the export prices and the third was a national oil company. Lewis stated that Trudeau ended up agreeing to all three points but PetroCan was not originally a Liberal policy.

On the question of the nationalization of oil companies, Lewis said this was not a NDP stance and said it would be a totally irresponsible action. The actual policy of the NDP, Lewis continued, is the expansion and strengthening of PetroCanada, not the nationalization of the other oil companies.

Lewis was interviewed afterwards and asked for his views on the situation of education and cutbacks. Lewis answered saying that the priorities in our country are 'cockeyed', and added that cutbacks in education, social services and cultural and artistic fields because governments think they are unpopular is unforgivable.

Lewis went on to explain that mortgage increases by both the Liberal and Tory governments, as well as the gas hike of eighteen cents a gallon in Clark's budget, were a result of the premise that their policies were based on. He maintained that the Liberal and Conservative parties believe that you have to feed the corporations so an economy can thrive. According to this line of thinking, Lewis continued, policies, such as deferring three billion dollars in taxes for the five giant oil companies and gas hikes that punish the working people of Canada, will make sense. "The NDP does not believe that corporations are the only answer, we have confidence in the ability of Canada's working people and we don't feel that we need to depend helplessly on the multi-

national so we can live", Lewis stated.

In reply to questions on post-secondary education and funding and the cost share program versus block funding, Lewis said that the danger when using block funding in educational assistance is having a provincial government with a 'twisted sense of priorities'. At the present under block funding the provincial governments set their own priorities and allocate federal monies with no obligation to put any certain percentage towards education.

When informed of the government of Nova Scotia's decision to give post-secondary education only 8.1 per cent funding which could cause ten per cent rise in tuition, Lewis said that the people of Nova Scotia should 'kick the provincial government out'. Recently, a report showed that 74% of Nova Scotians felt that tuition was high enough or too high.

"Obviously they are doing a grave disservice to the future of Nova Scotia."



Tom Higgins



Dalhousie
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graduation portraits

by J. Bains / Halifax

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foreign domination. Using agriculture as an example, he said that there would be two types of agriculture, socialized agriculture using land expropriated from corporation farms, and small farm economy of family farms. With appropriate incentives Canada can be made very quickly self-sufficient in food.

Again on the question of energy, Mr. Bains said that his party would not allow any increases in the price of oil nor would levy any excise taxes. The money for energy development would be obtained initially from the expropriation of the monopolies and afterwards from the expansion of the economy.

Self-reliant economy will not mean an end to foreign trade but rather a policy of equal trade with other countries will be followed. No balance of payments deficit will be tolerated. His party's aim is to make Canada

self-sufficient in such essential commodities as machine parts for manufacturing, automotive industry, printing and many other areas of the economy in which we already have the developed technological base. Bains also said that his party would end taxation in ten years after coming to power.

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This press conference was part of Hardial Bains' fourth trip across the country to popularize the views of the Marxist-Leninist Party during this election campaign. It is his second visit to the Halifax area in past weeks.