

Broadbent rallies faithful



Big Ed ends speculation that he hasn't got a prayer

Gary Heishorn

Bruce Gates

While NDP leader Ed Broadbent sat aboard his campaign jet, "Doctrine Air", waiting to make the descent into Toronto's airport last Thursday, he must have wondered if his swing through York University would be a bumpy ride.

But the turbulence that had rocked Prime Minister Clark's visit to Osgoode Hall Jan. 10 had been replaced by calmer conditions at Curtis L.

Buoyed by the rousing cheers and standing ovation of partisan onlookers among a generally polite crowd of over 600, the former York political science professor exclaimed, "I must say, the reaction is a little warmer today than it was when I lectured here!"

His self-deprecating humor, which led to his nicknaming the NDP campaign jet "Doctrine Air" during the May election campaign, created a receptive atmosphere for most of his one hour visit to York.

Broadbent attacked the Conservatives for their lack of

consistency on energy pricing—Finance Minister John Crosbie says prices will go higher and Prime Minister Clark says they won't. He used this to make a comment about the on-again, off-again television debate between the leaders.

Declared Broadbent: "The NDP has a solution for the televised debate if Mr. Trudeau doesn't want one: If we don't have a debate among the leaders, we can have one with Joe Clark in one corner and John Crosbie in the other, and have it moderated by the president of Imperial Oil."

"When are you going to start talking politics?" a heckler then yelled from the back of the crowd.

"We'll get to it," came Broadbent's reply.

But before he got to his three-pronged argument based on interest rates, resources and multi-nationals, Broadbent said: "The point of this election is that you will have to make a decision between Trudeau's 11 years and Clark's seven months." He claimed that Trudeau's Liberals had adversely affected the Canadian economy over the past decade, and that Clark's Conservatives were doing the same during their short stay in office.

"They're trying to see who can do the most damage the quickest," he said.

Broadbent proposed a series of changes:

● **Interest Rates**—Unlike the Tories and Liberals who, Broadbent claims, always say one thing and do the other, the NDP would lower interest rates. "We don't need high interest rates to govern the flow of capital in Canada," he argued.

● **Resources**—Historically, the Liberals and Tories have adopted the policy of "selling off" Canada's resources, Broadbent said. He said such a policy made sense many years ago "because we could get lots of money fast," but now that policy no longer works. He pointed to layoffs in resource towns - the result of lower prices in third-world countries for the same raw materials - as a good reason for Canada to change the policy. He said Canada should start refining and processing its own products under an industrial strategy.

"No resource is more important than energy," Broadbent said. He mentioned Clark's policy of exporting

natural gas to the United States—"enough energy to heat a million Canadian homes,"—a move made despite the Prime Minister's statement that Canada may have a shortage of fuel this winter on the east coast. Then he outlined Trudeau's policy "which was even worse." The Liberals had exported enough energy to heat "two million Canadian homes for 25 years," Broadbent observed.

"You may think that's absurd, you may think it's ridiculous. And you're perfectly right."

According to Broadbent, the NDP "would put an end to export of Canadian oil and gas completely."

● **Multinationals**—They have been a pet peeve of the NDP since the time of former NDP leader David Lewis, whose "corporate welfare bums" slogan gained political mileage in the 1972 election.

"But I don't blame them," Broadbent said. "They're in the business to make money, and when you're in business to do that, that's what you do."

Instead, he blamed the former governments, who have consistently handed out "ripoff" sums of money to these large companies. The reference was especially aimed at large foreign energy companies (at least 13 of the largest ones are controlled elsewhere, nine of them by the United States).

Broadbent said the NDP argue that Canadians shouldn't be paying large sums of money to these companies. He claimed that Shell Oil wants a guaranteed profit of \$15 million from the tar sands project. Instead, PetroCan should be expanded to do the job saving Canadians "hundreds of millions" of dollars. "Do that," Broadbent argued, "and Canada can say to Shell and Imperial Oil and so on, 'thank you very much, but goodbye.'"

Broadbent's message was that the NDP is not the bogey man of private enterprise and that it has Canada's future in mind. That future is a mixed economy of private and public enterprise, and Broadbent's "Third Option" is the alternative to the two traditional parties.

Quebec referendum

Forget special status

Michael Monastyrskij

Speaking before an unexpectedly large audience last Tuesday, Claude Forget, a member of the Quebec National Assembly and a former member of the Bourassa Cabinet outlined Claude Ryan's proposals for a new Canadian constitution. Supporters have declared the proposals "the federalist position in the referendum debate."

Forget called the idea of a Federal Council "the pivotal notion of our recommendations." Later, before a French broadcasting crew, he admitted that this was also the proposal that was most subject to question by English Canadians. According to the Ryan document, the council would be composed of provincial delegations headed by the premiers, and is intended to have to functions:

First, any federal spending that

would infringe on provincial jurisdiction would require to a two-thirds majority of the council. Its second, lesser responsibility, would be to give advice on federal policy which would have an indirect impact on provincial areas of concern. According to Forget the federal budget would fall into this category. Continuing, he said that it was "a way to bring into the mainstream of parliamentary life our federal-provincial conference."

He then stated that the document, if ratified by the Quebec Liberal convention, would be an important departure for the party, because since 1967, the group's official policy has demanded special status for Quebec. According to Forget, the constitutional debate in Quebec "has been characterized in the past by what Mr. Ryan called, appropriately, I think, the trade union approach." According to this approach, Quebec would take what it could without respect for the wishes of the other provinces.

Saying that the aspirations of the West made the special status debate "sterile," Forget added, "We do not want to suggest that what is good for Quebec in a new federation, is not good for the rest of the country."

Some Toronto columnists argue that if implemented, the document would change Canada into an association of independent states. They are particularly concerned that the federal government would not have enough funds to function.

In reply to their concern, Forget countered that "basically 75-80 per cent of our recommendations are a reflection of the present financial and spending controls."

Mr. Forget's speech was the first in a series of discussions at York on constitutional issues. Earlier, *Excalibur* spoke with one of the organizers of the lectures, political science professor Kenneth McRoberts.

McRoberts said he was struck by the fact that the document's "perspective is very Canadian." This, however, does not mean that he favoured the proposals.

"It would be easier for English Canada to recognize Quebec's national distinctiveness and to allocate certain powers to Quebec on that basis. That would be easier than to proceed in this way by granting a wide range of powers to all the provinces, which would exceed the demand of the provinces other than Quebec."

Communist claims Soviets were invited

Maureen Brown

William Kashtan, leader of the Communist Party of Canada, insists that Soviet troops are occupying Afghanistan because that country requested their aid.

Speaking to a small group of students at York last Thursday, Kashtan explained that in December, 1978, a twenty-year treaty of friendship was signed between Afghanistan and the U.S.S.R. The treaty included a section in which the U.S.S.R. agreed to give economic, political and military aid to Afghanistan.

"How many people know that what you have in Afghanistan is a democratic revolution, not a socialist revolution?" he asked. He accused External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald of keeping Canadians in the dark. "Everyone knows what the Soviets have done in Afghanistan—except Canadians," he charged. "MacDonald is supposed to be a Red Tory. The only thing red about her is her hair and I'm not sure if it is genuine."

Kashtan complained that his party is not being given a fair



shake by the media in this election campaign. "People don't know our position because the media don't want them to."

Kashtan said that the Rhinoceros Party seems to be of fundamental importance to Canada judging by the coverage they receive. He believes that by focusing on the Rhinoceros party, the media finds a useful way of sidetracking public opinion.

Last year the Communist Party was left out of the televised leaders' debate and they don't want to be left out if

there is another one during this campaign. Declared Kashtan "We intend to challenge the CRTC again on the question of the debate, and demand that we be given the right to debate."

Kashtan said the Communist Party is opposed to measures that lead to cutbacks in education and that they support the democratization of our education.

Kashtan is the Communist Party candidate in the Toronto riding of Trinity where in the 1979 election he received 192 votes.

Blown job

(ZNS) A Sacramento, California, woman is suing her doctor and a hospital claiming that a piece of surgical equipment that lodged in her throat for a few days following surgery has made her unable to perform oral sex.

The 32-year-old woman, is a superior court suit, contends that the end of a metal tube broke off in her upper lung or throat during surgery in August of last year.

She complains that, although the object was later removed, she tends to cough and gag and has a constant feeling that something is stuck in the rear of her throat.

A statement submitted to the court by a consulting psychiatrist says—in its words—"she states she's had to modify her usual sexual techniques and that this makes her feel deprived because she is not able to give her partner the joy and pleasure that she thinks is his due."