



## EDITORIAL

### Political timing

It's Pre-election time in Alberta folks. That starts with a capital 'P' that rhymes with 'G', that stands for GOODIES!

I don't believe that there is anyone in Alberta who isn't expecting Peter Lougheed to announce an election date within the next two or three weeks. The timing of his mortgage relief program is a dead giveaway. It was also the most perfect time to make such an announcement.

Let's examine that for a moment. Timing in politics is supposed to be very important. Sometimes it's not what you announce but how and when you announce. It should be only reasonable then that the timing of this announcement was well considered.

How long had the opposition (such as they are) parties been screaming for such a program? Two months? Six months? Years? Yet through the screaming and through all the suffering the Tory provincial government remained silent. People were beginning to believe that this government had gotten out their winter ear-muffs far too early this year.

But lo-and-behold if not in early August did not the two big city dailies in this city print just the whiff of a rumour that a mortgage reduction scheme was perhaps in the works? The people perked up their ears and what did they get from the government? "Caucus is examining the possibility."

But yes! The possibility was now there and the people waited. Through another month of rumours and predictions and possible dates they waited. And finally their prayers were answered on September 7, 1982.

The people of Alberta got an almost unbelievable reduction scheme. You could now get a 12 1/4% mortgage on your new home or your existing one. Small businesses could receive loans at a maximum rate of 14 1/2%. There was joy throughout the land.

But why the almost interminable wait? Why not sooner? Much sooner as a matter of fact. But the one key word in all of this is 'almost'.

The resident separatist party, the WCC, had just finished their leadership race and were now trying to regroup for a concerted attack via an election campaign. They were almost ready.

The NDP have always been ready to go to the Polls and, after waiting for the government to talk, were getting ready to announce their own mortgage relief plan. They were almost ready.

In announcing their program as they did they kept the other parties at bay and also assured themselves of another big election win. For one thing, which party is going to try and knock a program that gives people interest rates at lower than 5% the going rate?

Gordon Kesler is yelling that it is too little too late. But I don't think that even he is ready to believe that people are going to take a chance on not having the program put into place by electing someone else to power. Especially an unproven party like the WCC.

The NDP are not fools either. Even though the province of Alberta has a history of swinging wildly in elections, this package of goodies will definitely ensure that the people remain true blue.

Whatever you think of the man personally, you have to admire Peter Lougheed for his political chutzpah. He was getting increasing pressure from his own party to announce his scheme, yet he held on. There was pressure from the opposition, the press and most especially, the people. He still held on. He knew how just as much as when he had to announce his plan. Make it an election campaign promise without making it an election campaign promise. Think about that. Campaign promises of this sort tend to have an air of desperation about them. An announcement by a government in power is power in action. It speaks of a confident government in power, with no intention of being anything else but in power.

The timing was absolutely perfect.

Andrew Watts

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## « LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

### Save our endangered women

Once, a number of women got together for a meeting. Some came because they were curious. Some came because they felt they knew very little about other women and that the meeting would be a good opportunity to learn. Others came because they were fed up.

Fed up with being ignored, dissatisfied, restricted, physically abused, or just scared. Most of these women knew that with every new day, they faced a greater chance of being raped — exposed fully to the worst kind of hatred, that they would live with more and more ridiculous, hurtful media images of themselves and children, or simply have to recognize that they might never be fully accepted or respected on the basis of personal accomplishments and principles.

Having heard about groups of women organizing and learning together in other universities, they wondered why the University of Alberta had no such outlet. A Women's Centre should exist. But where to begin?

It was soon clear that not every issue could be covered, and not every opinion would agree with the next. What was needed most of all was a clearer understanding of the problem.

Maybe the generalization made last year about the Women's Centre saying a lot but not doing much, was true. But we find it necessary to speak, and see and share, to understand. This year we are organizing a film/speaker series on specific issues important to women, and emphasizing

discussions of the films, the issues and where we move next. A newsletter will back up the series by providing an outlet for more perspectives and a public voice for women's events.

Our introductory meeting is planned for Sept. 22 between 4 -

6:00 in Tory rm. 14-9. Anyone interested in working positively to remove the ugly boundaries is welcome to attend.

Marie-Louise Sorensen  
 Women's Centre Member  
 Arts IV

## Outside Sources

Many eminent British and American physicians recommended marijuana as an effective therapeutic agent. Dr. J. Russell Reynolds, Fellow of the Royal Society and Physician in Ordinary to Her Majesty's (Queen Victoria's) Household, reported in *Lancet* in 1890, for example, that he had been prescribing cannabis for thirty years and that he considered it 'one of the most valuable medicines we possess'. Sir William Osler, professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins and later Regius Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford, stated in his 1898 discussion of migraine headaches that marijuana 'is probably the most satisfactory remedy for that distressing condition.'

The Consumers Union Report on Licit and Illicit Drugs, 1972

I don't smoke pot, and I'm glad because then I can champion it without special pleading. The reason I don't smoke it is because it facilitates ideas and heightens sensations - and I've got enough shit flying through my head without smoking pot.

Lenny Bruce, circa 1965  
 How to Talk Dirty an Influence People

Eating cooked grass is the easiest way of getting stoned and gets you much more stoned and keeps you stoned much longer than does smoking or any other way. There is no tell-tale odor to be reckoned with, there is no harsh burning to your throat and lungs, and you never cough, and if a sudden knock cometh at your door, you can devour the contents with pleasure.

Setting aside the argument of the impulse convenience of smoking, the only qualitative factor of smoking over cooking is that smoking gets you high faster. And if you must get high that fast, you probably use the grass because of a whole bunch of wrong reasons and should immediately become an alcoholic.

Jack Margolis & Richard Clorfene, 1969  
 A Child's Garden of Grass

"You're all doomed," screamed the prophet John Algar. "The type-setting machines are possessed by demons." Bill Inglee collapsed, green goo gushing from his mouth. Martin Beales and Vic Marchiel spread themselves in the shape of the cross and stood chanting on either side of their puking comrade to receive a faucetful of green puke each. Jim Weir, clutching the satanic type-setting machine by the throat, yelled: "You bastard, take me instead." Instantly his eyes rolled back in his head and realizing what was happening he brushed past the gibbering John Roggeveen and flung himself out the window. Heather-Ann Laird turned away from Barry Grows to hug the whimpering, now cleansed typesetting machine; "She doesn't even remember what happened," she said wonderingly.

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