

NB NDP - oriented towards the worker

Callaghan also gave his solution to the unemployment problem. "The government gave \$3/4 million to McCain Foods to build a holding dam to prevent their wastes from polluting the Saint John River. I can see myself getting \$500 to build a septic tank," he sarcastically commented. "All these free hand-outs should be used to build roads, schools, new housing, etc. It's a continuing process of employment. The hospital has to be built; it has to be staffed; and it has to be maintained. These new oil refineries employ lots of people when they are being built, but after they're finished, there are only two men inside pushing buttons. The same is true of

the Mactawuc Dam. I was inside a pulp mill in Cape Breton and I saw only 3 men inside the whole factory!" Under a socialist government, Mr. Callaghan presumably conceives of no such extent of automation.

Callaghan foresees many problems for the party. The NDP is oriented towards the workers and the unemployed, yet it seems to be these very people who are most opposed to the party. "It was the unemployed who flung the eggs at Tommy Douglas. But it's being unfair saying this problem is only in N.B. Ontario was the only place where we were going to be elected, yet it was one of the most humiliating defeats. Something is wrong where the union leaders can't get their rank and file to vote NDP, although they can get their unions to donate money to the party. The people you are trying to help will give you the biggest argument."

To remedy this, Callaghan advocates changing the whole attitude of the party—becoming a distinct party. This is why they had the break-up in N.B. The Waffle did not want the NDP to be just another party like the "twiddle-dee, twiddle-dum" Liberals and Conservatives. But Callaghan also sees the danger of the party becoming

"Bastardized" like in Britain where the Liberals and Labour have sort of amalgamated.

This current split in the party has brought it much publicity, but most of it adverse. The very people in whom the NDP seeks to find support were shocked and outraged by the radical manifesto. Although it is a workers' party, most of the NDP ideology and policies are much above the understanding of the common worker. The ordinary worker wants better job security, a higher standard of living, and better pension plans. He is afraid of such talk as doing away with free enterprise, confiscating private property left and right without compensation, and setting up farmers' communes. This kind of talk may sound communistic to him, and as such, would be abortive.

The convention in Chatham put the party back on its old footing, although some innovations in party policy were implemented because of the manifesto. One such resolution was to have 10 per cent of all funds received by the party to be used to provide a continuous advertising campaign for the NDP. This resolution is aimed at attracting the public's at-

tention and keeping it. The same is true of the manifesto "For a Socialist N.B."

Another resolution that was approved stated that the NDP take a stand on current issues, showing the public how the NDP would handle such issues if they were elected to office. The Waffle also wished to provide the public with an alternative for the Liberal and Conservative governments. Both factions want to show the people of N.B. how party policies would improve the economic lot of the province over governmental policies now in use. So, in short, both factions have almost the same goals in mind, although different ways of stating them and implementing them.

Although some twenty Waffle members did attend the convention in Chatham, Callaghan was not one of them. In a press release signed by Robert Elgee, representing the NB Waffle, it was stated that "although the NB Waffle was opposed to the decision of the federal council, and although it insisted that the New Brunswick NDP had the right to determine its own policy, the NB Waffle recognizes the authority of the federal council and will abide by its decisions." The release also encouraged Waffle members to attend the

Chatham convention, and announced a meeting of its own for Dec. 5 in Fredericton.

Albert Richardson was re-elected as party leader in Chatham, by acclamation. Also opposed was Barry Houle of Albert County who became provincial party president. Said Mr. Houle, "We have just gone through a difficult period. We have an obligation to the people who might have been disillusioned by the activities of a group within the party within the last few months." In saying this he echoed the sentiment of the majority of right-wing NDP'ers.

The NDP party in NB seems to have returned itself to the status quo of before the Sept 25 convention. If it has, the future can indeed be rather bleak. Although Donald MacDonald, the federal party president, was optimistic about party chances in the next election, here in NB the New Democratic Party will probably see another humiliating defeat. For those of us who wish an alternative to the lack lustre Liberals and Conservatives, Richardson's group does not seem the answer. We can only hope that one day NB will see a New Democratic Party of the calibre of those in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.



Nightly Entertainment
this week:
Justin

Santa says...
BUY YOUR BOOTS
before
YOUR FEET GET WET!
FIT-RITE SHOES
356 Queen St.



Photo by Phil Shedd

Candidates for Law Queen

oops!!

We might have gotten your picture but we didn't get your names.

JEANS EAST
in the loft of the
r-cade
(above ski shop)
FEATURING A COMPLETE LINE OF **Lee**
JEANS & JACKETS

have
you
a better
answer?

- FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS
- FOR PLANNING YOUR STUDIES
- FOR MORE LEISURE TIME

TRY USING A
STUDENT'S TIME DIARY
FOR BETTER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF
YOUR TIME
AVAILABLE AT YOUR BOOKSTORE