

# Pros and Conservatives

news commentary  
by Wesley Oginski

Once again the true blue Tories have convinced the people of Alberta "to elect a government, not an opposition."

An estimated 80 per cent of Alberta's eligible voters swept in another Tory bastion on Tuesday. Figures place the Conservatives with 62.5 per cent of the popular vote. The New Democrats dragged behind with a measly 18.5 per cent.

For some reason the people of Alberta have decided they prefer a single party government. We now face another four years of closed door politics.

Perhaps that statement is strong, yet Alberta is again under government rule that does not have to answer to anyone for the duration of this term. A four member opposition (which is essentially split into two camps at the present) cannot and will

not be an effective voice of dissent. The 75 elected true blue Tories can easily shout down any opposition.

Will 75 Tories, two NDP and two independent candidates form an effective government?

Depending on how "effective" is defined, the PCs have the best of two worlds. They definitely have an impressive mandate from the people of this province. Some of their past

actions have not been efficient, nor fruitful. Then again, would any other government in Canada have created a Heritage Trust Fund?

Albertans waited four years for mortgage and rental assistance, and the promise of a Northern Alberta children's hospital (maybe). Will the citizens of Alberta wait another four years before Lougheed's cohorts deal with the economy again?

## It's money not morals

Waterloo (CUP) Canada's policy towards the third world should be based on self-centered pragmatism, not altruism, according to a federal cabinet minister.

Herb Gray, treasury board president, told a Wilfrid Laurier University audience October 15 that foreign aid programs can no longer be justified as

a moral obligation of the developed nations to the world's poor.

Gray, who is considered to be one of the more left-leaning ministers, said the lesser developed countries want exclusive rights to basic manufacturing. The third world countries say they are better suited to producing textiles, clothes and footwear, and the developed countries should concentrate on high-technology industries, he said.

But Gray added it is unfair to expect Canada and other rich countries to let their basic manufacturing move to the third world during a recession.

"The process of adjustment must take place in balanced, delicate fashion," said Gray. "The world is incapable of a handling a rapid transition right now."

He said Canadian International Development Agency investments are planned to ensure maximum benefits to Canada's economy. And he criticized Canadian companies for being slow to invest in the third world.

He justified Canadian investment in countries with exploitive labour conditions by saying, "the federal government cannot extend its standards to private companies solely because they're Canadian based."

But he said Canada's per capita aid level is higher than most country's. "Canada, therefore, should not be embarrassed for falling short of its commitment."

## Disarming votes taken

OTTAWA (CUP)—This fall voters in hundreds of Canadian cities will be asked to vote on something they've never seen on a municipal ballot before: disarmament.

They will be asked if they support balanced moves towards removing nuclear weapons and whether they support giving the federal government a mandate to negotiate agreements towards that goal.

Operation Dismantle, the referenda organizers, have ridden the wave of enthusiasm for the new peace movement to win approval for referenda in 137 municipalities representing four million Canadian voters. Operation Dismantle is a small Ottawa-based group of peace activists who have organized to convince city councils to approve the disarmament referenda.

They hope 'yes' votes for the disarmament will pressure governments into serious

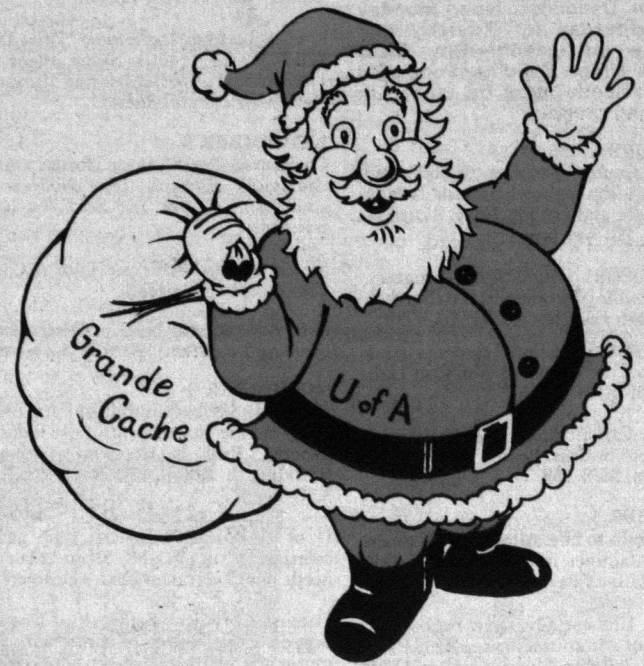
negotiations. They believe a global referendum on the question will eventually succeed.

They claim to have the support of 137 MPs from all three parties, as well as endorsements from the Canadian Labour Congress and the Canadian Council of Churches.

Many cities refused to hold disarmament referenda because they said nuclear weapons are not under municipal jurisdiction and the vote might invalidate elections for mayor and council.

Peace activists say there is no danger the referenda will jeopardize municipal elections. They're more concerned about letting the public know how to vote.

"There's a hell of a lot of people who do not know there's a referendum on and we do not have the money to advertise," says Bruce Rosove, the Ottawa Yes campaign co-ordinator. "It's very difficult to reach the public."



## Santa needs grand cash

Hi, I'm Santa Claus. You've probably already heard I'm looking for financing so's I can go to Grande Cache this Christmas.

And I know what you're saying. You're saying, "Hey man Santa Claus doesn't need any dough to go to Grande Cache, those elves make all the toys for him for nothing."

Got news for you. This is the 1980's, you know recessions and depressions, money is tight.

Like, even my elves are unionized now, and calling for a strike.

So like I said money's tight. I'm looking for backers so's I can make a special trip to Grande Cache where that mine was shut down.

You can bring you money around to the *Gateway*. If it's a cheque make it out to the Grande Cache Family Centre. They'll give you a receipt, it's all legal and on the up and up.

I gotta go and argue with the elf union delegate, their contract comes up next month and the situation does not look too good.

Just think of me and think of Grande Cache and keep that coin rollin' in.

### • SPECIALTY MUFFINS

Baked Fresh Daily  
Only Natural Ingredients Used  
No Preservatives

### • HOT DOGS & EUROPEAN SAUSAGE

Homemade  
Contain All Meat, No by-products or fillers

### • OLD FASHIONED ICE CREAM

• Cones • Shakes • Floats

For a Special Treat  
have one of our special  
ice cream creations:

- banana split
- raspberry fudge
- almond cherry
- banana fudge
- hawaiian delight
- fresh banana

We also carry:

Hot/Cold Drinks  
milkshakes, floats,  
sundaes, yoghurt

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