

NDP takes on 'corporate welfare bums'

David Lewis, leader of the New Democratic Party, has raised a new Canadian election issue by attacking corporations that get tax concessions and development grants. What is Lewis talking about? Should tax concessions be abolished? How do they work? Why do they exist? Following is a report.

VANCOUVER — The 70-year-old lady sounded close to tears when she called David Lewis, federal leader of the New Democratic Party, on a radio hotline recently.

Her life savings, she said, were

invested in a few hundred Bell Telephone shares. And if Lewis were allowed to crack down on what he calls "corporate welfare bums," Bell would pare her dividends and the value of the stock would plummet, she quavered.

Not so, Lewis replied.

If Bell and other such giants were called on to pay their fair share of taxes they might well distribute more profits in the form of dividends.

And, he went on reassuringly, if necessary an NDP government would take Bell over, should the big monopoly have any notion of unfairly passing on costs to its customers and small investors.

The second part of the answer was only half serious.

But the hotline chat neatly illustrated the rumpus Lewis has stirred up with the central theme of his campaign for the Oct. 30 general election.

His David-and-Goliath challenge to the corporations which, he says, slough off their social responsibilities, has excited many people and frightened and angered others.

By his public pronouncements, he is not out to "get" the wealthy companies and damn the consequences for jobs and investment.

He wants, he says, to reform a system that has failed in what it was supposed to do, and at the same time has placed an unfair burden on people who earn less than \$15,000 a year.

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NDP joins race

By MARGOT BREWER

York-Sunbury voters will have three candidate choices when they head for the polls on October 30.

The NDP chose a twenty-nine-year old mother of two to represent them in the upcoming election at a nominating meeting held Saturday afternoon in the Cathedral Church Hall.

Beverly Wallace, a part time student at St. Thomas University, told a small turnout at Saturday's meeting that her main reason for running was the fact that "the cost of living is rising so drastically."

"As a wife and mother, I am most aware of this acute problem, and most of the people of York-Sunbury don't even know who their member is, so how could they direct their complaints to a authoritative source?" asked Mrs. Wallace.

"I agree with David Lewis' theories on welfare recipients and I feel that this will provide a strong platform for my campaign," she said.

Mrs. Wallace feels that there should be more women representatives in Federal Government because "the ones that are in there now seem to be doing a good job."

"I think that by running an NDP candidate in this district we are providing the electors of York-Sunbury with an alternative. I will be conducting primarily a door-to-door campaign and intend to see as many of the voting public that I can between now and October 30", she said.

Mrs. Wallace will be speaking at a public meeting on October 23 when NDP Premier Allan Blakeney, of Saskatchewan, will be in Fredericton campaigning for his party.

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