

Keep Petrocan for well oiled future

Maureen Brown

NDP leader Ed Broadbent is so committed to the preservation and expansion of Petrocan as a Crown corporation that some day he would like to be able to drive from coast to coast, purchasing his gasoline at retail Petrocan outlets with a Petrocan credit card.

Broadbent was invited to speak at York University last Friday by the York Student Federation. His address was received with much enthusiasm by the capacity crowd in Curtis Lecture Hall A. After Broadbent delivered his speech, students were given the opportunity of discussing the issues with him.

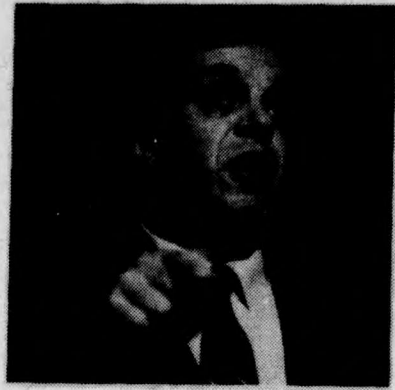
In his prepared comments, Broadbent said Petrocan is the most remarkable success story in his 11 years as a politician and he has never seen anything comparable. The corporation has grown from \$500 million in assets, at its inception four years ago, to \$3.5 billion in assets.

Broadbent gave several reasons for retaining Petrocan, namely: giving Canadians control of their own energy resources; leaving the timing of research and development also to Canadians; and allowing for negotiations from state to state instead of through the multinationals.

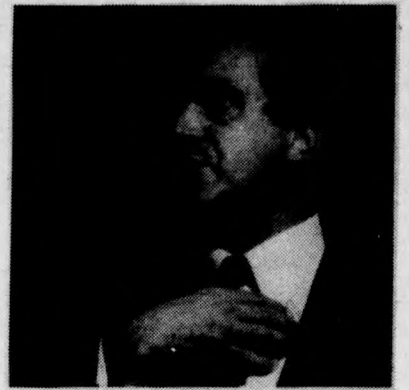
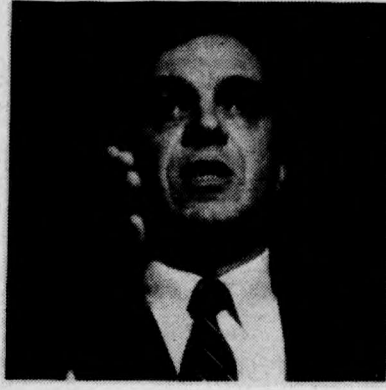
Broadbent claimed that "only a Canadian government would sit back and say we have something good, so we should abolish it."

One of our country's biggest problems is that we don't make long-range decisions to develop secondary resources, he said. "An example is the \$10 million Research Center constructed by Petrocan last year in Calgary. We should be proud of expanding instead of apologetic."

When Broadbent spoke here last week it was the culmination of a week-long tour across Canada. "Every



Bryon Johnson



place I went, in large cities or small, the verdict was overwhelmingly in favor of keeping Petrocan as it is," he claimed.

"Mr. Clark," he said, "has produced this confrontation and I have no alternative but to push a confidence vote. Two-thirds of Clark's cabinet want to keep Petrocan. There's only one guy in this country who doesn't want to keep it and I think he's marching to a tune no one else can hear."

"Why is he doing it?," he wondered aloud, noting that Tories have traditionally not been opposed to the public sector.

Asked if he would press for stricter legislation to prevent anti-competition among the oil companies, Broadbent said he would like to make the legal process for prosecution shorter and not so secretive. He said that the United States is a good example. There they have public hearings.

Broadbent disagreed with the Finance Minister's

statement of the previous Tuesday that Canadians should start paying world prices for oil in the near future. Broadbent thinks it would be a mistake to accept world prices right now because the consumer price index would rise and we wouldn't be able to maintain our competitive edge.

On the way to a press conference after his speech, Mr. Broadbent was asked about Sinclair Stevens' announcement the previous day that the Government would be putting up five more corporations for sale. He said that he feels Stevens has a shopping list and that revenue from the sale of Petrocan and the other corporations will be used to subsidize the mortgage interest deductibility plan.

During a press conference, Broadbent said he believes Clark could be persuaded to change his mind on the sale of Petrocan if Canadians remain firm in their conviction. He urged Canadian voters to add muscle by writing letters and contacting their MPs before October 9.

Our Town

Environmental Studies

Jean Gottman, Oxford Geographer and founder of the concept of megalopolis, will talk about the emerging network of transactional cities on Wednesday, September 26 at 4 pm in 503 Scott.

Glendon

The Glendon Rock Ensemble is playing in the Old Ding Hall at 9 pm on Saturday. Admission is \$2.

Yeomen Wrestling

General organization and team meeting. All newcomers and veterans invited. Monday, September 24 at 5:30 pm. Tait McKenzie Wrestling Room. Coach Albert Venditti can be contacted by 661-1978.

ZYork Women's Centre

Open House, Thursday September 20 from 2:30 to 7 pm. Come and find out about the center.

Chinese Students' Association

Organization and orientation meeting on Monday, September 24 from 4 to 6 pm at Founders Senior Common Room. All students are welcome. Free *dim sum* and refreshment.

York Catholic Community

On the weekend of September 28-30, York Catholics will be going to the province of Quebec for the annual "La Montee". This is a unique intercultural experience which rings together students from the two great language groups of Canada. For further information, contact Dennis Hudecki, 661-3882.

York Sailing Club

Membership meeting on Monday, September 24 at 4 pm. Room 5105 Ross. Looking for undergraduates, male and female with some racing experience to race at the intercollegiate level. Most regattas to be held at Royal Military College in Kingston. Contact Bonnie Bowerman at 881-0448, or Michael Hart at 449-0836.

York University Choir

Curtis Lecture Hall F. Every Thursday from 6-8 pm. For information call Joanne Finlay at 667-6064.

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