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Edits

Greg Halinda

It's hard not to notice the nip in the air these days. I don't mean that of cold weather. I mean the biting predictions of havoc that will result from the Alberta government's planned budget cutbacks.

Civil servants will be laid off, teachers will be let go, tuition fees will rise, and all kinds of social programs and facilities will suffer.

Government radio station CKUA may be liquidated. Apparently this is not a direct response to funding cuts, but how timely it would be.

Big-shot economist John Kenneth Galbraith recently declared that our economy was in pretty bad shape, even comparable to the days of the Great Depression.

How many of us have noticed? Maybe we're not accustomed to

living a technicolor depression. I don't see tumbleweeds blowing down West Edmonton Mall. I guess the 80's equivalent of a tumbleweed might be a 15-year old in jeans and leather jacket. Lots of them around.

Look at all those new building projects going up in downtown Edmonton. Eaton Place, Canada Place, the Boardwalk Marketplace. That doesn't happen during a depression.

Where are the dusty old boxcars with unemployed riding their rooftops? Perhaps we could compare our credit cards to these boxcars. People are leaning on credit in record numbers these days. If and when the credit train crashes, we'll all be in for a rude shock. That's

when the real depression begins.

Another security blanket we've been clinging to is the Heritage Trust Fund. The old one-liner, "Alberta's rich, we've got the Heritage Fund" doesn't seem to be in vogue anymore. The Alberta government will soon decide whether or not to "cap" the fund — stop pouring resource dollars into it — for the duration of these deficit years.

"The bigger they are, the harder they fall." This cliché seems to sum it up. Alberta has enjoyed a very prosperous 70's and 80's, and it's going to be a painful sobering-up period for the next 5 years. Those screaming now over higher tuition fees will look back on 1987 as the humbling of Alberta. Sales tax, anyone?

Taylor gives the Grit angle

by K. Graham Bowers

Provincial Liberal leader Nick Taylor attacked education funding cutbacks last Wednesday. Taylor was speaking at a discussion and question period hosted by the U of A Liberals.

Taylor said that the cutbacks show a "... complete lack of understanding of what creates jobs today." He claimed that "80 per cent of the jobs created in the last couple of years have been in the service sector."

Taylor feels that for this reason the Progressive Conservative government should be encouraging the service industries rather than the resource industries. Within the service industries, Taylor emphasized education.

"I have yet to hit a town where education was not one of the top three employers."

He also asserted that a university

education is more important for employment opportunities than it once was.

"The biggest utilities are the universities. They've become a necessity as much as water and power."

Taylor explained how an excellent university program can also be beneficial to the economy.

"Every foreign student drops on the average \$10,000 into the Alberta economy and they go home and become a buying point for Alberta products."

Taylor added that a reputation for excellent universities also attracts more private investment in the region, but "... nobody wants to locate where their children aren't going to have access to the best education possible."

Taylor urged his audience to participate in organized demonstrations and postcard mailing cam-

paigns because "... I'm afraid the three per cent is just the opening salvo and that there will be more next year."

Taylor insisted that cuts should be made elsewhere in the budget; for example, he thinks MLA's should make some sacrifices.

"We should be cutting our salaries, and we should be cutting our perks," Taylor said.

Taylor has led the Liberal party since 1974 but was unable to win a seat in the legislature until 1986, when the Liberals elected four MLA's, their first since 1967 and the largest number of Liberal MLA's elected since 1955. He faces a leadership review next month.

Among those who have expressed interest in the leadership are MLA D. Grant Mitchell, Edmonton Mayor Laurence Decore, and Calgary Mayor Ralph Klein.

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Please submit resumes and clippings to:

Dean Bennett
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Rm 282, SUB

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