

Grant Notley offers alternatives

by Allison Annesley

NDP leader Grant Notley voiced his criticisms of the Tory government's Heritage Trust Fund homeowners Mortgage Assistance Program Tuesday in a student address on campus.

Grantley prefaced his remarks with fair warning that some of his views would be naturally partisan but insisted that that made them no less valid.

Notley first expressed fear that the Trust Fund had become Louheed's "slush fund." He complained that while Heritage advertising will cost over one million dollars of the taxpayer's money, Alberta desperately needs funds for ambulance service, hospital, and private nursing home facilities.

Notley criticized the Tory 12 percent mortgage interest subsidy and 14 1/2% farm interest shelter, for all banks, including non-Albertan agencies to issue loans. "We're assigning the interest from the Heritage Trust Fund to the Bay Street boys," he said.

Notley would like to see the money from the Fund re-cycled back into Alberta through provincial lending agencies. The NDP Heritage Fund distribution proposal, said Notley, would allocate funds in three ways: farm development, small businesses, and mortgage aid. Notley promised that NDP mortgage aid would not be limited program like the Tory two-year plan, but would last out the term of the mortgage.

The eligibility requirements of the Tory plan outraged Notley, who asked, "What about all those who cannot qualify for a 15 and a half or 16 and a half percent mortgage? The minimum ear-



photo by Martin Beales

NDP leader Grant Notley spoke vociferously against the new Tory mortgage scheme in the Law building Tuesday.

nings requirement would still be \$35,000," Notley sneered.

"We need to give the extra income (from mortgage interest savings) to income groups who'll spend it in Alberta, not the higher income groups who'll spend it elsewhere," Notley said, whereas he maintains, "We see the Trust Fund as a vehicle to diversify and expand the Alberta economy."

Notley complains that with the use of any bank system, the Tory filing system will be massive and slow down the subsidy program. With the NDP program of utilizing only Alberta institutions, Notley says, "Banks would be forced to create an innovative low interest loan

program to compete. The Tory proposal offers no incentive to compete."

Notley did not offer any renter assistance proposal in aid of all the lower income people he mentioned the NDP was committed to helping though. He claimed that such a program was still in the works and not yet ready to present.

When questioned about university funding Notley favored tuition-free post-secondary education.

In his spiel to promote the NDP as one of the three only viable choices in the upcoming election, Notley dismissed some of the competition by process of

elimination. "The Liberals," Notley said, "are not credible in Alberta. The only race will be between the Liberals and the spoiled ballots."

Education continued from pg. 1

at least five credits. The students had to have a minimum overall average of 60 percent with no mark less than 50 percent.

These changes were made because students were using the fifth 30 level subject in order to enter the Faculty of Education. For example, students were gaining admittance with the use of a 50 percent in English 30 and a 95 percent in Physical Education 30. These students tended to perform

poorly in the education program. The faculty discovered this tendency because they were monitoring students who were not succeeding in their studies.

Referring to the Tories, "The crucifixion has occurred and Resurrection is not in sight."

"What you have are fringe candidates and three choices: Tories, the WCC, and the NDP."

"The worst result," says Notley, "would be another Tory massive majority...another four years of stifling, insufferable Tory government."

"The second worst result would be the extremist on the right, the WCC, to become the official opposition. The dialogue in the Legislature would be between the right and the extreme right."

Notley then dismissed Tory opposition to the WCC with this comment, "If the Tories want to know where the separatists came from, perhaps they should look in the mirror. Everything that's wrong gets blamed on Canada."

The Faculty of Education was the only faculty who had previously used the fifth 30 level subject for an admission requirement.

Dean Worth also stated that "additional changes may occur in accordance with higher standards in following years."

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