

MODEL PARLIAMENT

PARTY PLATFORM

A COMMENTARY

Model Parliament elections will be held on Thursday of this week. The following is a list of polling stations and time. Arts Annex 10:00 - 3:00; A & A Building, 2nd floor, 9:00 - 4:00; Forrest Building, 10:00 - 3:00; Dental Building, 10:00 - 3:00; Pine Hill, 10:00 - 3:00; Dunn Building, 9:00 - 3:00; Kings, 10:00 - 3:00; Law Building, 10:00 - 11:00.

As promised last week the Gazette is running an analysis of the platforms of the three contesting parties. It should be pointed out that the views expressed do not necessarily represent editorial opinion.

N.D.P.'s

The New Democratic Party platform is a fairly good one. There are, however, two criticisms that must be made, one of them minor, but the other of so serious a character as to question the validity of their entire economic policy.

First, the platform is somewhat weakened by the inclusion of a number of long-term "goals". I am not suggesting that individually these goals are bad; however, three of these, world federalism, self-determination and the development of a supra-national state are a contradiction in terms. It is absurd to say that you believe in a supra-national state and at the same time self-determination since the two contradict one another. It is unfortunate that these three goals were included together since it again illustrates the unwarranted power that the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and other such groups have in making N.D.P. policy.

Secondly, and most important, is that the N.D.P. economic platform abounds in fallacies and completely untested theories. Space does not permit me to list them all; however, I will mention the most obvious.

Canada should not, as the New Dems proclaim "produce what Canada can produce best", but rather she should produce what will make her self-sufficient and less dependent on the economies of other countries.

The N.D.P.'s claim also that planning will have to be at the provincial level as well as the federal. This is not only economically unsound (the 10 provinces are arbitrarily chosen political entities, not self-sufficient economic units but it would also create a political nightmare (The Canadian constitution being what it is it would necessitate a different sub-constitution for each province. Can you imagine it, ten baby B.N.A. Acts!)

P.C.'s

If logic were the deciding factor on who was to win a campus election, which it isn't, then the Conservatives would surely lose.

Plank by plank: Voting age - "I don't think you are qualified to vote" said Mr. Oland, P.C. leader to the members of the Science Society last Thursday. This is the same Mr. Oland (20 years of age) who voted (?) at a party convention last February to keep Mr. Diefenbaker as national party leader.

Biculturalism - Excellent, by far the best plank in the platform.

Government Efficiency - "Look Ma, No Defence Policy", said the innocent little freshette to her mater when she received a copy of the P.C. platform in the mail. "How then," replied Mrs. Frosh, "can he talk intelligently about government efficiency when he completely disregards a section of the national budget that takes up 30 per cent of federal spending". And that is precisely my question.

Censorship - It is a bulwark of the Anglo-American political tradition (Mill, Jefferson et al that the only censorship that should exist in a free society is the censorship of the individual. The way that this plank is worded (ie that some censorship is necessary) it is obvious that Mill, Jefferson et al have disappeared.

Labor - 2nd best plank. Except that only 1/2 the enemy has been attacked. If they included Canadian Industry as well as Canadian Labor Unions then the platform would be at least 40% acceptable.

Other than that all I can tell you about the Tory platform is that they do not have a medicare plan (which after having witnessed the fiasco in Saskatchewan is not something that I could possibly condemn), and that they believe in Free Enterprise.

LIB.'s

"A Liberal", said Harry Golden, "is one who wishes to reform society without destroying the basic elements of that society". As such the Liberal Party of Dalhousie has put forth a platform in an attempt to cure the economic and social ills of this country.

This platform is not as concise as the Conservatives', nor is it as well organized as the New Democrats and as such at times it rambles and occasionally repeats itself. As Tommy Douglas once put it, "Economic planning to a Liberal is like driving a car without a steering wheel". This, however, may be unfair since the campus grits are not economic planners but rather are co-ordinators, i.e., economic theorists a la West Germany or Sweden, not Norway or France.

NATIONAL LOTTERIES

Looking at individual items; the system of National Lotteries might be better used for a program of national scholarships than for reduction in personal income tax since that reduction is minimal.

LIQUOR

Lowering the drinking age to 18 is not a good thing, per se. It means that you will have 15 year-olds being able to pass in the local taverns. However, if our provincial liquor act were beefed up enough (i.e. \$500 fine and 6 months for first offence etc., etc.) then it would probably be feasible.

As a whole the platform is fairly good, nothing too startling, nothing too radical, just sticking to the Canadian Liberal tradition, i.e. the inevitability of gradualness.



The Annual Sadie Hawkins Week activities wound up last Friday night with a dance in the Gym, at which Brock Rondeau (above) was crowned Campus King, 1964, by Delta gamma President Janet Young. Martin Giddy placed second in the 10 man contest. A prize was also given to Shirley Attis and Heather Killam for having the "most original date", which consisted of a 6 a.m. breakfast of baby food at the Grace Maternity Hospital. Earlier in the week, a group of fraternity brothers were severely beaten by our girls at a game of broomball in the rink. As to how much was raised towards the proposed S.U.B. building, Miss Young commented "Final returns are not in yet; however, we have made over \$220, which is a considerable increase over last year."

HELPING GUIDE

"IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR HEAD WHEN ALL ABOUT YOU ARE LOSING THEIRS. . . .", then you obviously haven't read the party platforms! You'll probably end up reading one or two, so far for the sake of sanity we recommend a few simple rules to dampen your passions:

- 1) Wherever the words "we will" are used substitute "we might", and "may try to" for "we promise to".
- 2) Whenever they ask you to read "with an open mind" you can oblige them by emptying it of all the garbage that you have consumed thereto, and closing it to all the garbage that must follow.
- 3) Delete such suggestions as "lowering taxes" by ignoring them - the same for "Canadians believe" or any other generalizations concerning Canadians.
- 4) If they give any reason for the shortness of their platform assume its because they have little to say and better things to do than attempt to educate the voters.

- 5) Remember that Biculturalism must be given the Russian meaning of the word co-existence (i.e. anything short of all out war).
- 6) For Federal Government read "Sugar Daddy" or "Big Brother".
- 7) For the "Conservative party believes" read "Diefenbaker says".
- 8) For "Liberal" read "Conservative" and just accept the term P.C. as meaningless and the term N.D.P. as a foreign translation of "socialism".
- 9) For "social security" read "charity".
- 10) When they use the word "you" just hope to hell they mean someone else.

- and when you vote, remember, they are only kidding, or are they?

CROSS COUNTRY

Campuses across the country seem to be following the pattern set on the National Political scene with Liberal minorities in evidence.

The breakdown:

THE LIBERALS

The Liberal victories have been at 1) Manitoba (min.), 2) Western (min), 3) Saskatchewan (min), 4) Loyola (maj), 5) Toronto (min), 6) Acadia (min), 7) Queens (maj).

- 1) Ryderon (maj).

THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES

- 1) MacMaster (min).

DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS

February 4 will see the Neptune premiere of Eugene O'Neill's American classic, "Desire Under The Elms".

This world famous play was first produced in New York in 1924 and has remained one of the most popular dramas to come from the pen of this prolific playwright. Set in rural New England among people of strong Puritan background it explores the stresses and agonies of the soul of man under conditions of extreme, illicit passion.

"Desire Under the Elms" is a powerful and gripping drama. It's a story of the passion of a man for his father's third wife, and hers for him and it is told starkly and uncompromisingly.

VOTE

LIBERAL,



D. Garth Burrow

WE STAND FOR:

- 1) Voting and Drinking at 18.
- 2) The Construction of a Super-highway from Fredericton to Sherbrooke through the State of Maine, thus cutting off the Hump.
- 3) Equipping our Argus Aircraft with nuclear depth charges.
- 4) Minimum wage, maximum working week at straight time, paid holidays for all, and standard working conditions.
- 5) Provision of 10,000, \$1,000 scholarships a year for Canadian college students.

VOTE

BURROW