

Broadbent knocks unemployment figures

by Martin Cohn

New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent said in Halifax Tuesday that unemployment figures for the month of December are "misleading", since they underestimate, by almost half a million, the number of Canadians out of work.

Broadbent was commenting on figures released Tuesday morning by Statistics Canada which showed that the labor force—the total number of employed workers and those seeking work—dropped from 11,287,000 in November to 11,165,000 in December, a decline of 122,000.

(These are the unadjusted figures which do not take account of seasonal fluctuations. The seasonally adjusted figures declined by only 25,000.)

Broadbent said these workers "withdrew themselves from the labor market for the simple reason that when you have more than a million unemployed, a good number of Canadians (do) stop going back to knock on the door five, ten, fifteen times to be told they can't get a job."

The Federal NDP leader said when all the men and women who "want to work" are included in the figures, the total number of unemployed is 1.3 million Canadians, instead of the 813,000 reported by Statistics Canada's methods—a difference of almost half a million.

Broadbent estimated that current unemployment rates cost the economy \$10 billion a year, through lost productivity, and increased payments for welfare and unemployment insurance.

Speaking to 250 businessmen at a Board of Trade luncheon, Broadbent proposed a Federal Government

Full Employment Act to spell out government responsibilities for unemployment. The proposed Act would require annual forecasts of unemployment rates along with employment targets and annual reports on the government's progress.

Similar policies are now in effect in Western Europe and in the United States, such as the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment bill passed last year, he said.

Broadbent said that in conjunction with NDP development strategies, unemployment could be reduced to six per cent by 1982 and to four per cent by 1984.

The current seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 7.1 per cent.

Criticizing post-war economic policy under Liberal governments, Broadbent said they decided "to go for the fast buck," by "selling off" Canadian resources to industrialized nations that in turn processed these raw materials themselves.

Broadbent attacked interest rate policy under recent Liberal and Conservative governments which try to "compensate for deteriorating balance of payments situations," but only worsen unemployment and inflation in the short run. A press release issued just before Broadbent's speech said "he called for a two-point (two percentage points) reduction in interest rates," but he made no such statements to his luncheon audience Tuesday.

Broadbent told the *Gazette* later that his "made in Canada" interest rate policy would not cause a decline in the value of the Canadian dollar. He said that with inflation three per cent higher in the U.S., American investors



Photo by Martin Cohn

Broadbent with Halifax NDP candidate Alexa McDonough

would still find it attractive to invest in Canada despite his proposed lower money interest rates in Canada.

If present American inflows of capital were to continue, as Broadbent suggests, Canada's current accounts deficit would continue to be balanced and the exchange rate stabilized. But Broadbent did not explain the connection between a higher inflation rate in the U.S., and its influence on investors' tendencies to choose investments with the highest rate of return.

If American investors did not continue to invest in Canada under lower interest rates, the Canadian dollar would likely decline in value. NDP Finance critic Bob Rae reportedly has predicted that the Canadian dollar might fall as low as 75 cents in U.S. terms under NDP interest rate

policies.

Outlining NDP economic proposals, Broadbent said the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) would be "revitalized," and he criticized a 42 per cent reduction in its budget over the last decade "in this part of our country." Broadbent criticized federal government funding of the Sydney Steel Corporation (Sysco) to date, in which "money was spent in dribs and drabs." He reiterated an NDP campaign pledge made in the last election to put enough money into Sysco "to make it a first-rate steel industry."

Broadbent also proposed a national marketing agency for fish, along the lines of the Canadian Wheat Board. Active promotion of Canadian fish catches by a marketing board would achieve "massive or-

ders," that "would inject millions of dollars of needed capital" into the region, he said.

A Small Business Assistance Program and an Economic Investment Fund for publically approved projects would also be established by the NDP.

Before appearing at the Board of Trade luncheon, Broadbent walked through Scotia Square with local NDP candidates, stopping to greet bystanders. An entourage of about 20 press photographers and T.V. personnel trailed Broadbent through a cafeteria as he shook hands, prompting three noon diners to leave before the lights and cameras could focus on them.

After the luncheon speech, the Broadbent campaign flew on to Sydney for a rally with steelworkers Tuesday night.

Clark's biorhythms fail him

OTTAWA (CUP)—The fact that Prime Minister Joe Clark's biorhythms were in a "double-critical" phase December 13 may have been a contributing factor in the sudden toppling of his government on that day.

This is the conclusion reached by volunteer researchers of the Canadian Institute of Parapsychology. They had been investigating the correlation of biological cycles when events on Parliament Hill aroused their curiosity: where, they wondered, were Joe Clark's biorhythms?

When the PM's name and date of birth were fed into the institute's computer, the print-out showed both physical and intellectual cycles at the critical zero-line as they passed from positive to negative. His emotional cycle was already negative, having passed the critical phase 48 hours earlier.

The probability of this phase or its equivalent occurring by pure chance on Clark's biorhythm chart December 13 is calculated at less than 1 in 100.

J.P. Rae, director of the institute, explains that the critical or zero-point for each

cycle signifies awkwardness, perplexity, incoherence, subnormal coordination, a certain recklessness or, in the instance of the intellectual cycle, indecision.

This assessment is based, Rae says, on massive studies carried out by a multitude of researchers during the past 88 years.

The sudden collapse of Parliament is not attributed solely to Joe Clark's double-critical phase in the institute's assessment, for the biological cycles of several other principal figures were also at critical or negative junctures.

Opposition leader Pierre Trudeau's chart shows his intellectual and emotional cycles extremely negative while his physical cycle is at a positive peak, indicating a bullish disposition.

NDP leader Ed Broadbent's chart shows December 13 falling on a physically critical day. This is immediately preceded by an intellectually critical day and is immediately followed by an emotionally critical day. Altogether, a rare combination, very close to the triple-critical phase which occurs just once in 58.2 years!

Can you vote in this election?

Notices of enumeration—in the form of cards—were mailed to those full-time university and college students whose names were on the final voters' lists for last May's federal general election.

The cards were mailed to all such voters on or before January 11th, to the addresses of students as of last May.

A student who is absent from his residence of last May or who doesn't receive an enumeration card, should take action to ensure that he or she is able to vote in the 32nd federal general election to be held on February 18th.

The need for corrective action by some students arises from these circumstances:

—A student may have changed his ordinary residence since last May.

—A student may have been ineligible to vote last May and is not on a voters' list, but since then has become eligible.

The factor that governs if and where a student (or any eligible elector) may vote is that his or her name be on the final, revised voters' list, in the polling division, in which the voter ordinarily resides on December 31, 1979.

For many students, "ordinary residence" means the home of parent or guardian—even though they may be away attending university or college in another place.

If you are a student in that category, and were on the voters' list for the last election, here's what to do:

First, find out if an enumeration card has arrived at home, confirming you are on the list. This should have been received by January 15. If so, but you are going to be away on election day, you may vote at an advance poll to be held on three days, February 9, February 11 and February 12.

If you are unable to vote either on normal election day or at an advance poll, you may be able to vote in the office of the Returning Officer on February 4 to February 8, inclusive, and on February 13 to February 15, inclusive. (This privilege is only available to those who cannot vote either on election day or at an advance poll.)

Some students will be unable to vote on any of those days. If you are absent from your ordinary residence at

those times, because you're a full-time student, you may vote by proxy. To do this, obtain and complete a proxy application form at any Elections Canada Office, or on campus. In effect, you will be authorizing another eligible voter, who is on the same voters' list as you are, to cast your ballot. The form must be given to the Returning Officer back home by yourself or by your proxy voter no later than Friday, February 15.

Any student who has moved since last May and established a new ordinary residence, or who has not received an enumeration card by January 15, should contact the Elections Canada Office in the electoral district where he or she now lives.

The phone numbers of Elections Canada Offices can be obtained from the Elections Canada advertisements that will appear during election period, or by calling local telephone directory assistance for the number, which will be listed under "Elections Canada".