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The Dalhousie  
**GAZETTE**

... the  
Law

CANADA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

VOL. XCIV

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, JANUARY 31, 1962

No. 14

# NDP TAKES LAW SCHOOL

## JOBSON LEADS MINORITY GOVERNMENT

The New Democratic Party staged its first major victory in a campus election in Canada when it took 37 seats in the Dalhousie law school mock parliament elections last Friday to form a minority government.

### Mid-term break set for Mar. 14-17

Dalhousie undergraduates will get their first mid-term break when classes close down March 14-17.

The break announced by the faculty on the advice of the curriculum committee, and accepted unanimously by the Student Council members last Thursday.

The original proposal put forward by the Student Council was that the break should take place the first three days of the week following Munro Day, Mar. 13. However, the faculty were opposed to two weeks of classes being broken up, and made the counter proposal accepted by the student government.

Heather Hebb, representing the Student Council, told The Gazette that this was a big step towards better relations between students and faculty with relation to the making of university policy. She emphasized the break was essentially to allow students to catch up with their studies.

Dr. Henry D. Hicks, vice-president of the university, said he and a number of other members of the faculty had their doubts as to whether this was the most effective time and arrangement for a break.

"However," he said, "since this was the agreement reached by the committee on studies and the Student Council it was decided to try it and review it later rather than defer the matter."

He added that unless some positive action was taken at the end of the year the study break would go into effect again next year.

The Progressive Conservative party was runner up in the election with 32 seats. The Liberals took 28 seats, and the Self Determination Party five.

Parliament will be held this evening and tomorrow evening in the Law library.

Keith Jobson, 31-year-old third-year law student from Exeter, Ont., who heads the victorious NDP, told The Gazette it was significant there had been a victory for the NDP "within the very citadel of Tory power itself".

"This speaks well for the broad appeal of the New Democratic Party to left wing liberals everywhere," he said. "The lion has been bearded in his den."

Last year the 'New Party' took 13 seats in the mock parliament, while PCs went to power with 41 seats, followed by the Liberals with 34 seats.

Liberal leader Brian Flemming said the most significant trend in the law school elections, "and perhaps the only one", was away from Conservatism.

"I think there is no doubt in the student's mind that he is fed up with Conservative policies, and is taking a turn to the left where he must choose between the Liberals and the NDP," he said.

"The law school, most unfortunately, chose the NDP," Mr. Flemming said.

The Liberal leader belied the rumors that Liberals and PC's might form a coalition against the NDP.

"However," he added, "there is a possibility that the two parties will unite to at least throw the NDP out of office at the end of the first evening of the parliament."

If this is done, and an emergency election is required the following morning to determine who will be the government on the second even-



KEITH JOBSON

ing of sitting, this will really test the strength of the NDP.

Bill Atton, PC leader and leader of the opposition, was not available for comment.

NDP officials on the campus were the only ones who regarded the law school elections as setting a trend. Party leader David Jones said he considered the NDP victory in the law school "a sign that the NDP is making a definite appeal." Mr. Jones said he felt the victory would "strengthen" the campus NDP position.

Paul Murphy, Progressive Conservative party leader, said he thought the election results would have "not too much effect". He suggested that there was a "different situation" in the law school than on the campus generally. A Liberal party spokesman said he felt the NDP victory in the law school didn't "have any bearing" on campus elections. There were "not enough people involved to establish a trend," he said.

## Lack of Candidates Forces Postponement

Student Council elections have been postponed two weeks from Feb. 2 to Feb. 16.

Ken Myra, council member running the elections, told The Gazette the constitution states there must be two candidates for each position, "and we didn't have them so we had to postpone the elections."

### Only Three

At press time, there were three candidates for the posts of President and Vice-President of the Council: Al Robertson (Engineering), and Bill Sommerville (Law) running on one ticket, with Frank Cappell (Law) running for President in opposition to Robertson.

Mr. Myra termed it a "terrible disgrace" for a university the size of Dalhousie not to have people interested in running for these posts. He said it was hoped the constitutional amendments made earlier this term regarding elections would help matters next year, "and give people the initiative to act on their own, rather than have societies nominate candidates."

### Council Blasted

Council President Dick Thompson blasted Council members themselves for "not getting people interested". He said Council members should be working on the problem, and only a couple of them were. "The rest are just shirking their duty," he said.

# Grits praise Dief report

Ottawa (Special) — The national Liberal party last week congratulated The Gazette for its front-page coverage of Prime Minister Diefenbaker's speech at Dalhousie.

Walter Gordon, addressing the Canadian University Liberal Federation, referred to a blank space of several inches left in the front page of the Nov. 15 issue of The Gazette to report a speech of the Prime Minister.

"ACCURATE . . . WONDERFUL"

Mr. Gordon, addressing the Canadian University Liberal Federation, said he could believe The Gazette's report of the speech was "an accurate report."

"I suggest to you," said Mr. Gordon, "that when people begin to ridicule and laugh at the head of any government, it is time to make a change."

Said Mr. Gordon: "When I saw that wonderful account . . . I realized I am not alone in thinking that sometimes there are more words than content in his forensic utterances."

Gordon went on to castigate the Diefenbaker Government severely before the University Liberals. Addressing himself to domestic issues, he listed these as the major problems:

- A need to restore an adequate rate of growth again;
- A need for policies to reduce unemployment;
- A need to develop a trade policy for Canada with particular attention given to the European Economic Community;
- A need for "more sympathetic, progressive and responsible" improvements in social security;
- An "imperative necessity to restore public confidence in the authorities."

### NOT ENOUGH

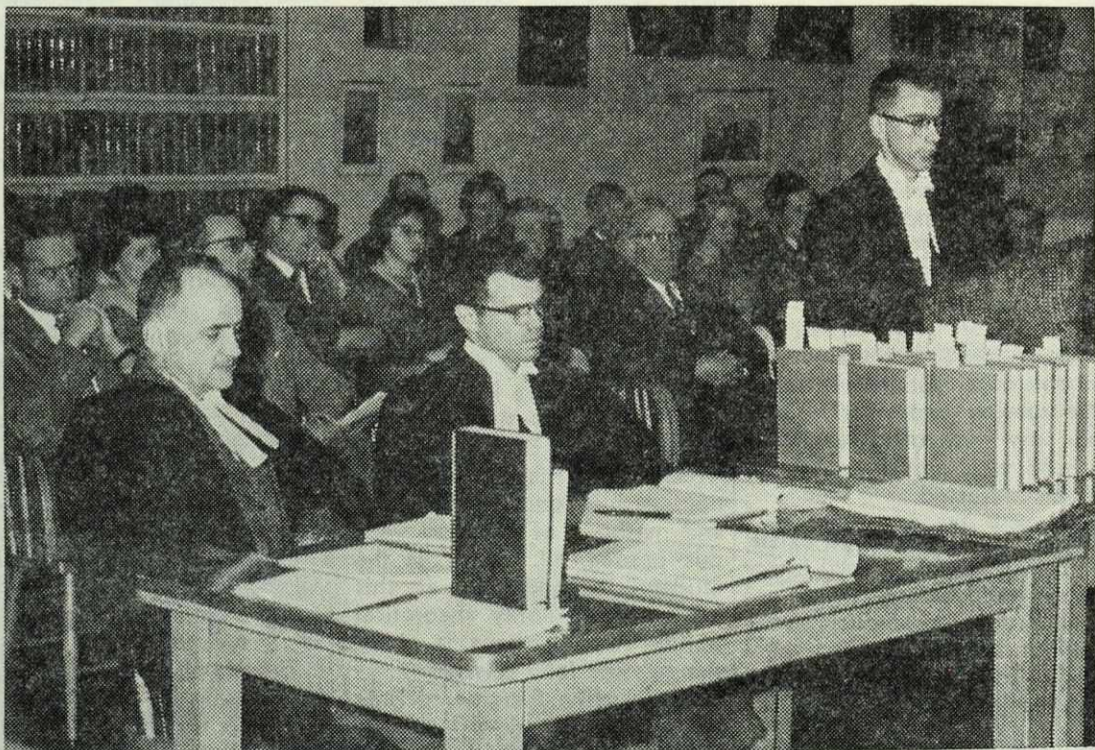
"I dare say," asserted Mr. Gordon, "The members of the present government mean well . . . but that is hardly good enough."

"The Liberal Party under Mr. Pearson's leadership can — and will — provide a — government that is prepared to govern."

Earlier in the day, Maurice Sauve, publicity director for the party in Quebec, told the delegates to prepare for a general election in the same way they would prepare for war. "All the principles of war apply to political strategy," he said.

He urged teamwork in election strategy, and adoption of modern techniques for political campaigning.

The oratorical contest was won by Jacques Sylvestre, of the University of Montreal.



An audience listens attentively as Larry Hayes, right, pleads his case in Law School's Smith Shield competitions. Hayes and Jim Kent, left, were Shield winners. Shown centre is Innes Christie.