

Cameron on hotseat rationalizes rationalization

Judy Reid & Ryan Stanley

Don Cameron has a tough message for all those who come looking for handouts from the provincial government.

"It's simply a matter of dollars," said the Nova Scotia Premier in a speech at the Dalhousie Law School on November 19. He said that given the province's tight financial situation, Nova Scotians cannot expect much new support for social pro-

grams anytime in the near future.

Cameron defended his government's record on social spending. But, he said, the recession and the deficit are harsh realities, and "if we truly care for the programs, the only way we can guarantee is to equip ourselves to pay for them."

In his opening remarks, Cameron seemed most concerned with plugging the legal reforms which his government has introduced since it took up office 20 months ago. He cited

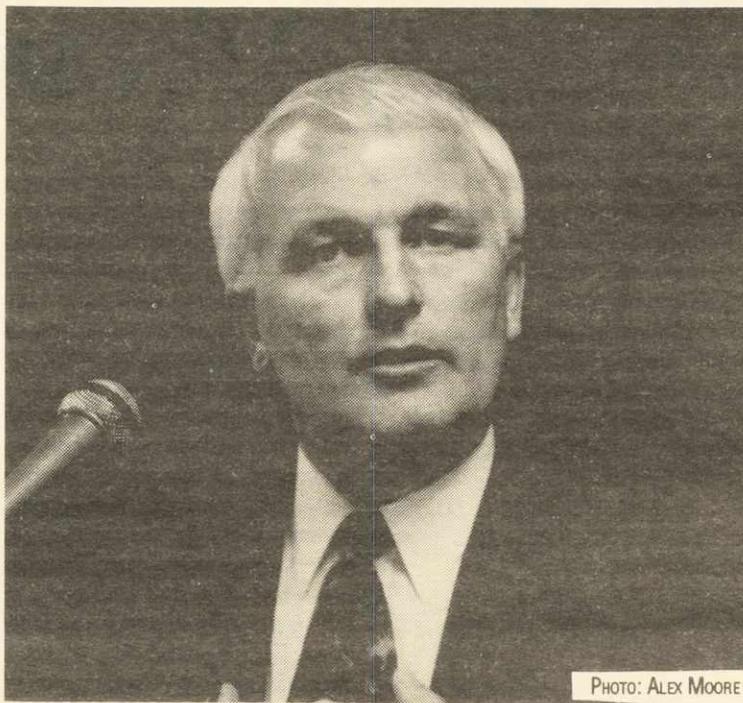


PHOTO: ALEX MOORE

changes to the system for appointing judges, aimed at removing political influence from the process, as well as the inclusion of sexual orientation in the provincial human rights code.

Students, however, challenged him on a wide range of issues. Several questioned him on the recent derailment of the Westray mine disaster inquiry. The Premier also responded at length to queries about

his agenda on the issue of aboriginal self-government.

He saved his sharpest words for the subject of the Senate. He called it a "repulsive" institution, and "symbolic of the very worst of our political

system."

Time and again, Cameron returned to the theme of financial responsibility. In an interview following his speech, he said that in the realm of post-secondary education, the elimination or merger of programs offered by more than one university will "pay big dividends."

On the subject of Dalhousie's mismanagement of funds, he emphasized, "I'm not here to beat up on Dal, but rationalization will make it difficult to repeat some of the mistakes of the past."

Despite the tight budget, however, Cameron insisted his government remains committed to pay equity in the civil service. He failed, however, to indicate how long it would be before results are seen.

In general, with his uncompromising talk, Cameron sought to project the image of a politician not interested in playing political games. "If the only thing you stand for is to convince people that the other guy is evil," he said, "then you really have to wonder about the political system."

Physician heal thyself

by Peter Angione

Every 17 minutes, a sexual assault is committed in Canada. 90% of the victims are female. Other statistics point out that 60% of college-aged males report that under the right circumstances they would use force, rape, or both in sexual relations with a woman.

One way for men to speak out about violence against women is with the White Ribbon Campaign (WRC). It was created last December by a small group of men to commemorate the murders of 14 engineering students in Montreal in December, 1989.

"The White Ribbon Campaign started in order to reach out to men to get them to take responsibility for violence against women," said Steve Patten of the WRC. "Statistics show virtually all violence against women is perpetrated by men and men are not getting involved to the extent they need to."

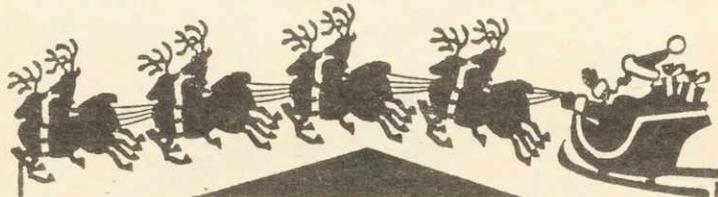
Since its inception, the WRC has grown from a spontaneous effort by a small group of campaign. The stimulate reflection and analysis among men, side women in end men's violence.

The Purple Ribbon Campaign is organized and is directed nationally. Patten will be getting the Purple Ribbon and supporting

At the national level, the WRC has a liaison committee with This allows women activists to comment on what WRC is doing so WRC can try to respond to any of their concerns. At local levels and on campuses, WRC has been encouraging correspondence with women's organizations.

There is worry, however, that the WRC may overshadow women's efforts. WRC is trying not to detract from the money that women can raise from their efforts. In fact, Patten maintains that "we are saying if you are going to give to White Ribbon then we also want you to give to a women's shelter, a rape crisis shelter or women's program of some kind."

Some women are concerned that because the WRC is novel and run by men, it is going to get more media attention. "We have told local groups we do not want WRC to be doing anything on December 6th," said Patten. "December 6th is a day of mourning for women, a day for women to express their anger, a day for women to express their grief. White Ribbon and other men really need to take a backseat on that day."



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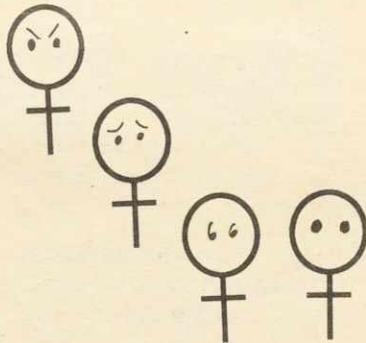
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