

# Women in Politics Pauline Jewett

Some people are already leaving the gathering. She is wasting time. She must escape and get back to being a politician--meeting new people, reestablishing old alliances, again campaigning--rather than merely talking about being a politician.tj

tables are cleared and Jewett must still talk with this young Gateway reporter she had promised an interview.

personality stuff.

she recalls incidents in her parliamentary career when her sex did make a difference.

"I'm really, really happy, Steven--really." The words are insistent, but the tone is not. It seems a kind of quiet sureness, perhaps even serenity.

Steven is Steven Clarkson (Mr. Adrienne Clarkson), shining young Liberal candidate in Toronto's 1969 mayoralty race; the speaker, Pauline Jewett, former Liberal MP who this summer announced her decision to join the New Democratic Party and run as its candidate in Ottawa West.

The banquet of the CIC national policy conference has ended, most delegates seeking the quiet of their hotel rooms or the party action on the sixth floor.

The clatter of dishes being cleared punctuates what seems to be Jewett's first conversation with Clarkson since her announcement.

"You know it's a wholly different world--the NDP. I always knew--well you know too--that you can count on a certain amount of money from the national office when you're running for one of the two old parties.

"But in the NDP--not only does the national party not give you any money--but you have to send 20% of whatever you collect to the national office."

Although financing her campaign has been a fact of life for her since her nomination, there's still a sense of incredulity in her voice.

Clarkson is unimpressed; he raises the question of labour union support of the party. She replies, as he seems to have missed the comment in her banquet speech earlier, that only 39% of the party's support--direct and indirect costs--come from labour. "The rest is nickel and dime stuff that people send in--really."

She brushes back her short-cropped hair with the palm of her hand and lights a cigarette.

What about Lewis' statement in Edmonton that very week that foreign ownership is a non-issue in the current campaign? Clarkson challenges. Jewett, a founding member of the CIC, quite openly admits her concern over the report. Because it seemed so "gratuitous" she hypothesizes that it may have been taken out of context.

But she points to a campaign policy statement which lists the issue as one of the six with highest priority in the NDP campaign.

The conversation wanders--a London, Ontario, supporter wishes her well, and then one from Edmonton. She thanks them, chats a bit, but her attention is riveted on Clarkson.

What about the Lewis fiasco (this time Stephen Lewis) with the Waffle in Ontario? pursues Clarkson.

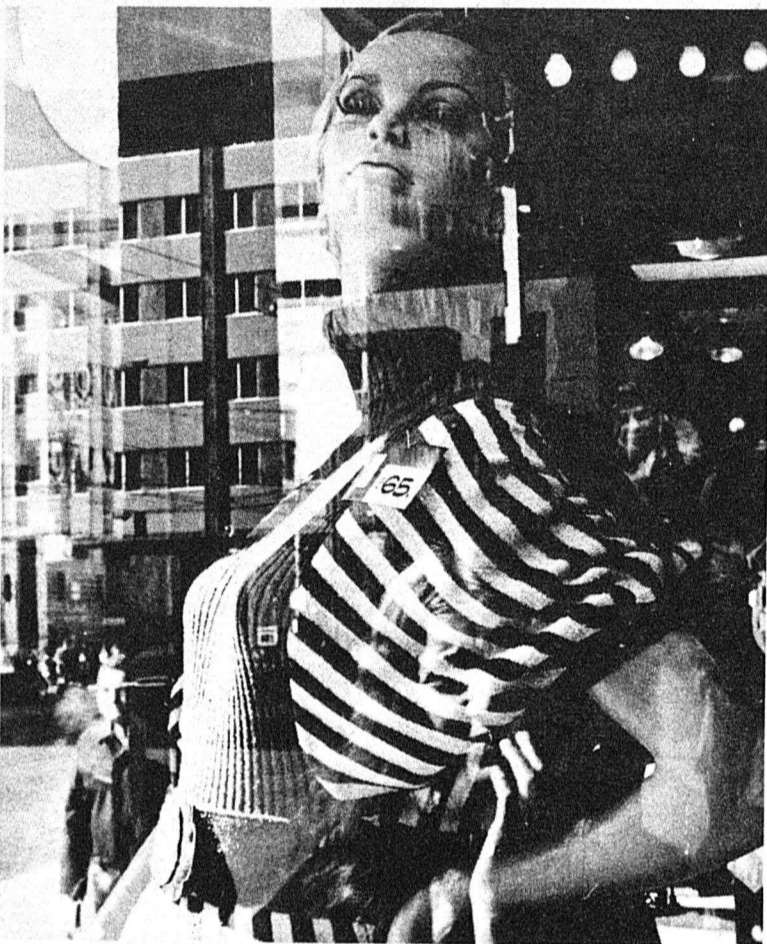
"Well, after Orilla, I talked to David (Lewis) and he said that right then I wasn't exactly his favourite person." She explains that she saw some necessity to deal with the conflict occasionally engendered by the parallel structure of the Waffle, but spoke out against the dissolution of the caucus which resulted from the Orilla meeting of the Ontario provincial party.

One can sense that they'd like to pursue the discussion, but nearly all the

"What time is it in Ottawa?" she wonders as we board the elevator to get to the sixth floor party. "Must be two a.m." She's tired--the second week of a campaign is always the busiest, she affirms.

I give women's liberation a lot of credit for it--they've at least raised the point so that women are seen as more equal participants in politics--you have a better starting point now."

The question seems to make more sense to her after she has answered several others, and



A glass of scotch at last in hand, she struggles to answer well a badly phrased question: Are there special costs a woman must pay as a politician which men don't? She pauses, looks off into the noisy cocktail crowd.

"Years ago when I first went into politics--you were met with a kind of wonder, and antagonism of course, but at its best, a kind of wonder." Another pause, a sip of the scotch.

"You did it on personality then. Now you do it a bit more on the issues--you can jump over some of the

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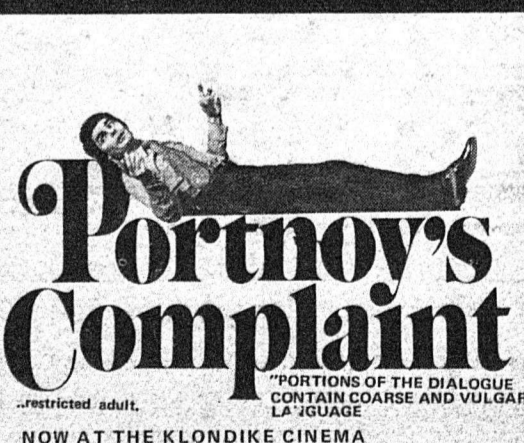
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