David Lewis present

York professor to run federally for NDP

By J.W. BELTRAME

Michael Copeland, economic professor at York University and part-time project director of the Canadian Transport Commission, was unanimously given the nomination as federal NDP candidate for York Centre. He was defeated in the 1972 election by Liberal incumbent James Walker.

Copeland accepted the nomination Friday evening at the York Woods Public Library, and gave a ten minute speech to the assembled party faithful, including NDP leader David Lewis. The 35 year old, Toronto-born professor warned the party members to expect an election sometime in spring, and possibly as early as late February.

In a frank speech, Copeland told the audience that efforts to control inflation have been, and are likely to remain unsuccessful, and that more hardship is caused from the cure proposed by the government, than from the disease of inflation. "It's more important to protect people from inflation," he said, "than to try and eliminate it altogether, causing much hardship."

He added that the suffering caused by the inflationary spiral can be alleviated by fixing wages increases so that they coincide with the increase in cost of living. Applauding the Trudeau government for fixing old age pensions to the cost of living, he called on the government to move into this area in the field of incomes as well.

He also called on the government to retain the export tax on oil, so that revenue derived as a result of the price increases on crude oil caused by the world-wide shortage, would go to Canadians and not to the multi-national oil conglomerates.

Copeland pointed out that this was justifiable because the Canadian people subsidized and protected oilmen's interests for over ten years by paying more for domestic oil than the world rate. Copeland accused companies such as Imperial Oil and Gulf of wanting to have their cake and eat it too.

"We as consumers and taxpayers helped them. But now that there is a world-wide shortage, they offer to sell us oil at world prices that are at least double what they were last year." Copeland said. "Since production costs have not risen, Canadians should not be forced to pay more for oil that belongs to them because of an external situation."

While criticizing the sell-out of Canadian resources, he called on the government to make amends by "changing the system of oil production in Canada." He added that if the throne speech did not produce the 'right decision', we could expect a federal election in the spring.

Although David Lewis waffled on the question of whether he would be willing to bring down the Liberals on general non-confidence motion if the Conservative were to support the government on the export tax issue, Copeland later said that such a possibility was extremely likely, and would depend on the wording of the new legislation.

In an interview with Excalibur,

NDP national leader David Lewis spoke at the nominating meeting for York professor Michael Copeland.

Michael Copeland

Copeland said he was pleased with his chances of ousting two-time encumbant Jim Walker. "If the NDP were to gain two per cent federally," he said, "Then I think there is a real possibility that York centre will go NDP. Of course if the NDP are wiped out on some issue, then there is no chance." He produced statistics which showed that Walker had the same number of votes in '68 as he did in '72 although the number of votes cast rose by 16,000 votes.

He said that Walker might have been defeated in '72 but the last minute resignation of the NDP candidate which Copeland replaced put the campaign in a shambles.

As an economist, Copeland stresses the importance of full employment and accused the government's policy of causing unemployment to fight inflation of being a "near-criminal act." He also said that it is a government's responsibility to "create an economic climate which will permit people to have jobs." Failing this he said, "Governments have a responsibility to create jobs themselves on a permanent basis."

Copeland agreed with the Quebec Appeal Court's decision to allow the James Bay Hydro project to continue. He pointed out that hydro power is the cleanest of all alternatives, and at a time of energy shortage, a small priority should not be allowed to stand in the way of the rest of Quebec. He, however, added that the Indians have not been adequately compensated for their losses. "As it now stands, the Indians are being asked to pay for what will benefit the rest of Quebec," Copeland said.

Commenting on the socialist ideal of decreased incomes disparity, Copeland admitted that the Canadian people were not ready for this type of socialism. "The middle class still believes in the rags to riches dream, and they are not yet able to desert their dreams of becoming millionaires overnight."

He is, however, in favour of implementing some of the recommendations of the Carter Commission and White Paper introduced by Edgar Benson. Among the recommendations are the limination of tax loopholes and the introduction of a capital gains tax, on all such incomes.

Mushy tomato missiles

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA (AP)—A travelling salesman here has taken to enforcing the new fuel conservation laws.

Ray Walker of Bloemfontein set off for work with a case of overripe tomatoes on the car seat next to him.

He intended to throw the mushy missiles at any motorist trying to pass him who exceeded the newly-imposed speed limit of 50 miles per hour. Besides the new speed limit the South African government has also restricted the sale of gas.