

# Tommy Douglas - politician with a purpose

By donalee moulton

This Tuesday marked the 40th anniversary of Tommy Douglas' involvement in politics. To commemorate this anniversary a testimonial dinner was held at the Anglican Diocesan Center, by the members of the Hants East New Democratic Association. To head the celebrations were former mayor Alan O'Brien, and M.P. Andy Hogan, as well as high ranking members of the Federal and Prov. N.D.P. executive.

The purpose of the dinner was to acquaint people with Mr. Douglas. To achieve this goal there was only one speaker- Mr. Lloyd Shaw, former federal NDP candidate. Mr. Shaw gave a sketch of T.C.'s childhood and a more detailed account of his contributions to Canada via the political spectrum.

Mr. Douglas has worked as printer, prize fighter, Baptist minister, union laborer, Premier of Sask., and leader of the NDP federal party. Through T.C., revenues in Sask. increased 70% in the 17 years he was premier. (The creation of such crown corporations as power, airline, and bus occurred;) the 1st fault-free insurance came into being; the civil services were given collective bargaining rights (another first) and most

importantly he instigated revolutionary changes in the field of health and welfare. Withing six months of Douglas' term as premier, free health care service for cancer victims and mentally retarded patients had been put into effect and three years later the first health care program was introduced at the cost of \$5 to each person. The cries then were of socialized medicine. Today we in Canada consider this a right. Today as an M.P., Tommy Douglas has achieved what he set out to do when elected he is now the "best informed and most energetic oil critic in the House."

Douglas, in a humorous speech, managed to clarify his political stance as well as that of his party's. "Did you ever stop to think what Canada would be if there hadn't been a C.C.F. and an N.D.P.? There would be no medicare, no C.P., no national bank and no two price system for oil. Why? Because "we were the people who created the public demands"! Because "ours has been rather than a movement a fellowship.... a fellowship of people who feel this life ought not to be a jungle."

In Mr. Douglas' eyes capitalism has failed- failed to meet poverty, inflation, and unemployment. "In-

flation and unemployment are not the problems but the symptoms of the disease," he says, "and the disease is the maladaptive distribution of income." If we could reduce unemployment even to 4% we would increase the national wealth by 8 billion dollars.

Tommy Douglas feels "whether

we like it or not we are watching the death throes of an old economic system. "Our task now is to see what system is going to take its place and I want it to be a democratic system." To his followers Douglas is a man who "unlike so many politicians has never lost his purpose or his way."

## Delegation to visit

Canadian universities will host an official academic delegation from the Peoples' Republic of China 8-23 October. The delegation represents a return visit following that of a group of Canadian academics to China in the Spring of 1974.

The delegation consists of eight men and two women, all of whom are senior members of their country's higher education system. Arrangements for the tour are the responsibility of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). The delegates will be accompanied on their tour of Canada by officers of the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa as well as escort officers from the Department of External Affairs. Dr. Colin B. Mackay, a former executive director of the AUCC and a member of the 1974 Canadian academic delegation

to China will also travel with the delegates on behalf of Canadian universities.

Following their arrival in Halifax 16 October, the Chinese academics will visit the health sciences facilities of Dalhousie University and meet representatives of other institutions through the Association of Atlantic Universities.

The delegation will depart Halifax for Montreal on Sunday. They will visit McGill University on Monday and the following day will visit the Universite de Montreal and the Universite du Quebec a Montreal.

Wednesday will be a free day in Montreal and departure of the delegation for London will be on Thursday 23 October.

## SMU faculty

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Committee members, who meet about once a month, seemed to be in the dark as well. Our conclusion, therefore, is that an informal "kitchen cabinet" really makes the major policy decisions of the University, and the Board routinely goes along.

We agree with Premier Regan that the Boards at present "reflect the thinking of the business community". A university is not, however, a business. Our product is an intangible item - quality education - and it suffers when a Board or an administration tries to run a university as a business. Saint Mary's salaries, for example, are substantially below the Maritime average. This has caused many good professors to leave for other provinces, and students are resentful of this happening, which was demonstrated in the Valedictorian's address last May.

## Union

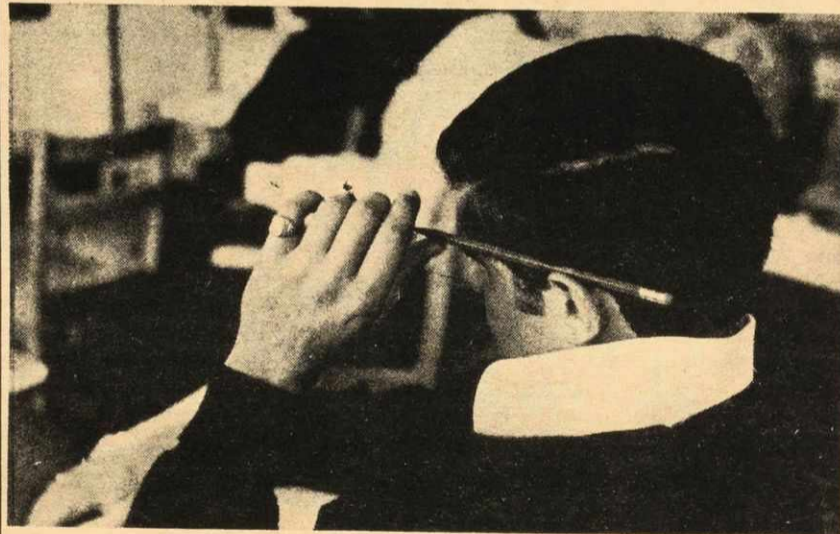
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conflict within the union movement to weaken the position of organized labour and working people in Canada. At the same time purifying the unions also takes energies away from organizing the unorganized and increasing the strength of the trade union movement by extending union benefits from the current 30% into further sectors of the labour force.

Jack Scott will be speaking on this issue, relying on his extensive historical researches as well as on his experience in the Teamsters, Packinghouse Workers, United Electrical Workers, Marine Workers, and Mine Mill and Smelter Workers Unions in positions from shop steward to executive member and business agent. Mr. Scott has already produced in addition to lectures and articles books on 1) the history of the working class in Canada- **Sweat and Struggle** 2) the Industrial Workers of the World in British Columbia- **Plunderbund and Proletariat** 3) the role of the American Federation of Labour in the foreign policy of the United States.

Mr. Scott's lecture is scheduled for October 23 at 8:00pm in the McInnes Room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building.

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