

Today Viewpoint writers say 'thank you' to the student body--The Montreal Star in toto, David Estrin individually--and analyze Model Parliament platforms

Party Platforms--What Do They Say?

By Barry Rust

Model Parliament, an opportunity for students of politics to engage in meaningful, symbolic debate, has been retained at U of A. But for what?

Model Parliament is also, or can be, an opportunity for interested and supposedly enlightened students to express their politics—a sounding ground for policies and ideas which conceivably could affect the national political scene. But seldom do more than 30 per cent of eligible voters appear before a ballot box on election day. Friday less than 20 per cent bothered to exercise their privilege and again the cry of "student apathy" has been raised.

However, apathy is simply another term for disinterest. One must always ask "is there anything for the disinterested to become enthused about?" After considering past performances and policies of parties represented in this election, I favour taking the student off the hook.

CLIMB OFF HIGH HORSES

When are the politically oriented on this campus going to climb off their high horse of ideals? When are they going to get down to politics, the business of locating and researching specific problems, recommending specific solutions on basis of carefully considered evidence?

Once again electors were presented with such enlightening terms as economic planning, civil rights, human rights, discrimination, prejudice, status quo, surplus, shortage, reform, foreign control, industrial encouragement, individual freedom, development, redevelopment, progressivism, and that noble word, democracy.

ADMIRABLE ENDS

Owen Anderson's Social Credit group went on record as supporting low-cost housing, universal acceptance of human rights and greater economic security, and suggested we must solve the problems of automation and a leisure economy.

These, I am sure, are admirable ends. But hardly worth awful reference and dedication to the Social Credit party.

Moderation and stability, the Socreds maintained, are "characteristics of the party, as demonstrated in previous Model Parliaments." The statement follows a boycott of parliament by Social Credit last year.

Ken Kerr's New Democrats once again endorsed the need for economic planning. Doubtless they received no argument from anyone. They also favoured free education, dynamic and effective foreign aid, cheaper insurance and "generally the best possible life for all Canadians." Perhaps significantly, the NDP leader stated his party was against sin and for motherhood. With such a program the party hopes "to provide an alternative to the endless, brainless exchange of personal abuse and mutual debunking that passes for political discussion as our country floats peacefully nowhere."

CONCRETE PROPOSALS

Much of the Conservative program is made up of concrete proposals and reveals considerable academic political thought. The PCs suggested political parties be made legal entities, research and committee work be given the Senate and electoral divisions be reapportioned every ten years.

However they also proposed such profound measures as industrial encouragement, welfare payments to the needy, (what better group?) urban renewal and farmer assistance with a view to stabilizing the agricultural economy.

What appeared of value in Bill Winship's platform was lost amongst issues designed to impress the student body with the PC theme of "modernization." The theme was based on an assumption "Canadian institutions are essentially good" but certain parts need reform "if Canada is going to maintain its present status in a changing, competitive world." Indeed, if the world is changing, Canada must re-

form in order to keep pace. The Conservative theme is an old and tired one namely the party isn't really staidly conservative.

SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

To their credit, the Liberals offered a detailed program of specific proposals. They form government based on a program calling for wider divorce laws, admission of Red China to the United Nations, a new censor law bill, Sunday sport, and a hold-the-line policy on fees. They also dug into the past, perhaps with just cause, for such issues as establishment of an ombudsman committee and salary increases for nurses.

But Stan Church has a few other things to account for, beyond borrowing without explanation and old, nebulous Conservative proposal to develop the North, and advocating greater contraceptive distribution on grounds (unsubstantiated) that pregnancy inhibits co-eds rushing to classes and is therefore not a good thing.

It may be recalled last year's Liberal Prime Minister, after failing to out-filibuster a want-of-confidence motion, dissolved parliament without having introduced a single bill. Did the Liberals offer any guarantee Mr. Church would act differently? Does one exist even now? Indeed, if the participants of Model Parliament do not have respect for their activities, they can hardly expect other students to have a concern for campus politics.

CURRENT STATE

Perhaps a statement of Mr. Kerr best describes the current state of campus politics. He suggests, "no one is interested in how you're going to change Canada," but rather it's "what you want to do."

No, Mr. Kerr. We know pretty well what you want to do. Please, along the rest of your Model Parliament colleagues, in the name of God and country tell us how you intend to act.

Or, shall "mock" parliament continue to be a mockery? The new members of parliament have their challenge.

Thanks, Thanks, Thanks

To The Editor:

On behalf of the French Canada Week committee I should like to extend to you and the members of your staff (especially Adriana Albi, editor of the FCW edition) our sincere thanks for the excellent coverage given to the week by your paper, before, during, and after it.

There could not have been better cooperation between The Gateway and our committee in acting to make this campus aware that le Semaine canadienne française was going to happen and was happening. In every possible aspect this was the case; for instance, the editorials, if nothing else, always served to create an interest in FCW.

Personally, I am quite satisfied with the results of the week, although improvements could have been made in many areas, including program content and over-town publicity. However, for such a large venture as this to be originated and planned in the short period of three months is a tremendous undertaking, and for the manpower, talent, and time available I believe a creditable job was done.

The success of the week is due to the energies and help of many individuals and organizations, and through The Gateway I would like to mention and thank some of these.

First mention must be given to Students' Council for being the first to support and give financial aid to the week. My personal thanks goes out to them and to Francis Saville Dave Jenkins Michelle Lefebvre Liz Kostash Jim Dube Janis Kostash Bernard Lefebvre Myrna Kostash

Joe Clark Kirk Miller
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Huguette Lefebvre Iain T. Macdonald
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Ron Johnston Ray Marusyk
Joanne MacDonald Sally Scott
Bruce Olsen Dave Parsons
B. Schepanovich Gabriel Audy
Gordon Cline Jacqueline Kirton
Dick Ellenwood

Many, many others were involved in the project besides the above students and some of these I would appreciate having mentioned. They are:

Dr. Walter H. Johns
Mr. Joel Stoneham
Mrs. Bernardsk of the Rutherford Library
Miss Margaret Richards
Mr. Bryan Clark
Mr. Alf Strand
Jenner Motors Ltd.
Mrs. J. Grant Sparling
Major R. C. W. Hooper
Kappa Sigma Fraternity
Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity
Amby-Lenon Florists Ltd.
Ford Motor Co. of Canada
Bright's Wines
Labatt's Breweries
Friends of the University
Board of Governors of the U of A
Air Canada

The above is certainly not a comprehensive list, but does indicate the extent to which the CUS French Canada Week committee is indebted to so many generous individuals and organizations.

Once again, may I offer my thanks and those of the FCW committee to you, Mr. Editor, The Gateway, the above named persons, and to all those students, faculty, and staff members which helped with or participated in la Semaine canadienne française, to make it the success it was.

Sincerely,
David Estrin
CUS Chairman

Well Done, U of A

Star Compliments Campus

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The students of the University of Alberta in Edmonton performed a notable service, not least to themselves, by organizing and carrying out what they called "French Canada Week." It was a sustained effort at interpretation of a kind that has become familiar to us here in the East these past few years. It was, however, a new venture for the Alberta campus and only good can come of it.

Much of our trouble in this country has been the result of sheer lack of communication between our two chief language groups, a lack which, in the past, was by no means only because one group spoke English and the other French. A whole complex of circumstances was, and indeed still is, involved. We lived far too much, and often quite unconsciously, apart. It is fair to say that these two solitudes are now dissolving at breakneck speed. The two cultures will never merge. Nobody even wants that.

What is certain is that, never again, will we allow ourselves to slide back into our old ways. We will be henceforth always conscious of each other. Communication will not lapse: it will increase; and with this new basis of understanding much good will flow from it.

This does not mean that we have "solved" our problems. The chances are that that condition of things will never arrive. What we can achieve is understanding together with the development of patience and tolerance on both sides of the fence. The students of the University of Alberta have made a substantial contribution to this end and deserve our congratulations.

It should be regarded only as a beginning. If the real value of last week's meetings is to be fully realized, this form of activity must be sustained in other ways. The study of French Canada by English Canadians, and indeed the study of English Canada by French Canadians is not a one-shot affair.

Immature Behavior

To The Editor:

February 8 I found out why the engineers get such good pay when they first start in the business world and why they don't improve pay conditions in the years to come—companies pay to hire them and find later that they've hired little boys.

On the basis of about 8 engineers being seen and caught stealing door-plaques off the doors in the basement of the Bio-Sciences building, I can come to no other conclusion.

Further, as they ran to escape, I called them names that would anger any man, but rather than turn and face me, they ran faster away.

An irate sufferer of immature practical jokes,

Robin Leech

Fee Increase

To The Editor:

Gateway must be commended for its stand on fee increases, with the blatant exception of Bruce Ferrier on Feb. 9. It is precisely because students do "realize that they are not in a position to set policy for this university," that we must nevertheless try to influence this policy by expressing our views. As

Chairman Dr. C. M. Macleod in the very same issue is quoted as saying, "the Board never ignores the students' feelings on a matter of concern to them." Essential to the existence of a university qua university are students.

Time spent at part-time jobs is time not spent on studies, for the most part, and trying to meet increased student fees can indeed put a squeeze on already squeezed budgets. These are the students who are in "desperate straits." The others who drive cars are a minority (who may also be "struggling" precisely because they do drive cars)!

What Mr. Ferrier and Student Awards officials don't seem to realize is that Canadian Student Loan money is not available to students whose parents are neither very poor nor of very poor integrity. For to qualify, one must not only pass a means test oneself (show lack of means), but one's parents must also swear under oath their financial inability to contribute to your education. So, if there are in fact many loans given in this predominately middle class society, one wonders . . .

Anyway, many otherwise eligible and responsible young people must either persuade their parents to "fork over," or do as many (even many who want to study), must do—enter the stream of poorly educated workers. And this today, when education is considered such an important necessity of life, and these same jobs will likely be eliminated in another ten years. What then? Society then either gives them a dole or insists that they retrain—when they have perhaps lost all enthusiasm for learning.

Give them the chance to begin with! By a reduction rather than an increase in university fees!! And the government to complain to is the Board of Governors, for they set the fees which students do have to pay. We don't want a university only for the rich and the dishonest; we want all who can benefit thereby to not find financial barriers to their pursuit of learning.

B.F. finally got it correct in his last paragraph, in his most commendable call for a reduction of fees to zero. This will happen only when students (and student papers) do intelligently argue for it, and society realizes that real education deserves to be universally "forced" on the capable, even as the nursery schools known as Jr. and Sr. Hi are now forced upon virtually everyone.

Doug Hendrickson

Model Parliament

To The Editor:

We have just concluded a Model Parliament campaign in which our main plank was economic planning and development. This policy is obviously inapplicable while we are in opposition. We do not believe in piecemeal planning. We do not want to just patch the tube we want a whole new tire. Therefore we would like to thank those who have supported our ideas and offer this explanation as to why these ideas cannot be pursued in the present model parliament. In lieu of economic programs we intend to concentrate on the field of foreign affairs in our activities in this house.

Kenneth J. Kerr
Leader,
Campus New Democrats