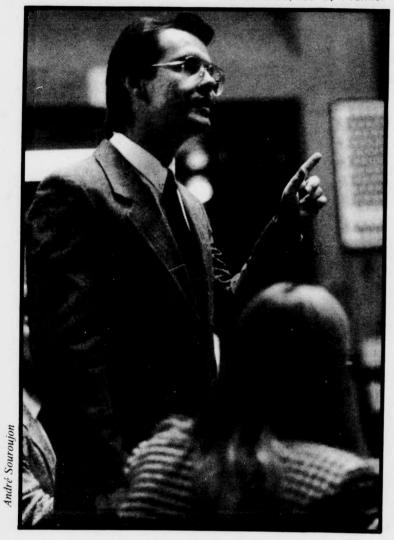
York parties duke it out in Model Parliament

By Ken Turriff

t was a political junkies' delight this past weekend as the York University Liberals, Progressive Conservatives, and

New Democrats met for the Second Annual Model Parliament in the McLaughlin Junior Common Room.

The Liberals, led by Premier



PC leader Steve Reid makes a point

Roman Lojko, formed a minority government. They managed to remain in power throughout the weekend with some "back room" dirty dealing and power brokering with the New Democrats.

Steven Reid led the Progressive Conservatives in the role of a misbehaved, rowdy, and extremely boisterous official opposition. His party members spent most of the weekend shouting insults at the government and demanding the resignation of key Liberal ministers in the Mock Cabinet.

The New Democrats were surprisingly without stars Jean Ghomeshi and Kathleen Hall.

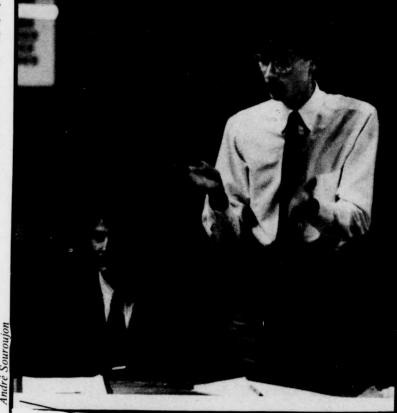
The not-so-serious and often hilarious Parliamentary session, presided over by Speaker of the House, Marc Potivin, spanned a three day period from last Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.

Friday evening was largely dedicated to the reading of and response to the Government Throne Speech.

Saturday and Sunday were given to the introduction and debate of government and private member bills.

One bill, a "Sewage Treatment Act", required the installation of "toilet tank dams" in all toilets in the province, for improved water conservation. Failure for households to comply with the new regions would result in a heavy fine. Enforcement of this law would be carried out by "Toilet Police." The bill was passed.

A private member's bill proposed to ban Yolanda Ballard from Ontario, turn Maple Leaf



Oh those crazy Liberals!

Gardens into a new provincial Crown corporation, and have it headed by Alan Eagleson. This bill was defeated.

The rest of the weekend saw many antics. Conservative opposition member, David Gilinsky, a stock broker by trade, was accused by the Liberals of conflict of interest for inside trading practices. Gilinsky later crossed the floor to the Liberals to accept a Cabinet post as Provincial Treasurer.

The Liberal minority later formed a coalition government with the NDP to retain the confidence of the house, enabling them to pass all proposed government legislation with the exception of a transportation safety bill.

The weekend wrapped up with the Conservatives walking out of the house in protest and disgust. The bells have been ringing ever since.

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