

Do Nothing Government Lives Up To Reputation

by Margaret Griffiths

It's been a year now since Nova Scotia elected a Progressive Conservative government. Before his election last September, Premier John Buchanan made a lot of promises when outlining his election platform, and so far, Nova Scotians have yet to see any concrete results.

The three main issues of last year's election campaign were the economy, power costs, and unemployment. Criticizing the Liberal government's failures in these areas, Mr. Buchanan advocated the need for a change, stating that Nova Scotia needed "a government of responsibility, credibility, and one which has a sincere concern for the problems relating to unemployment, the cost of electricity, and social injustice."

Unfortunately for the beguiled voters of Nova Scotia, the answer to our problems does not seem to lie in a Tory government. Gaining a reputation after its first year as a do-nothing government, the Buchanan regime does not

appear to be making a favourable impression. After all, not much can be said for the responsibility or credibility of a government that promises definite action on specific issues and then blatantly avoids such action.

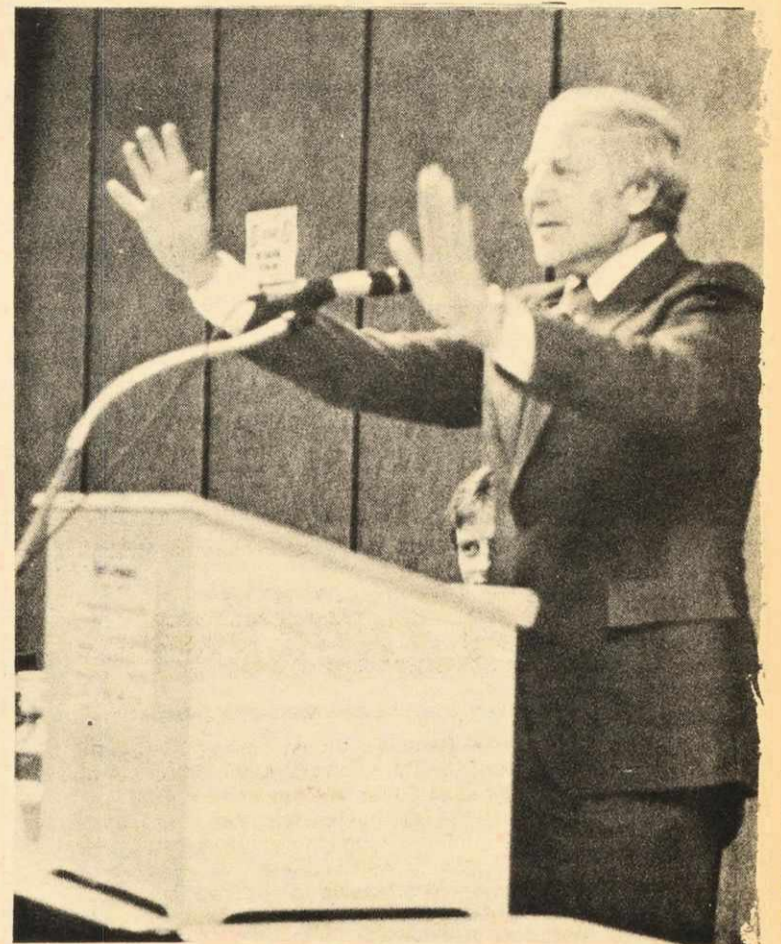
One of the main areas of concern in the province is education. Escalating economic costs are taking their toll everywhere, but the province's hallowed halls of learning seem to be taking more than their share of the punches. Last year, Buchanan promised to take over the balance of the cost of education, enabling municipalities to stabilize taxes which have increased steadily over the past four years. According to Liberal leader Gerald Regan, The Buchanan boys have made no move to take over these costs at all. The municipalities had their largest tax increase this year than in the other years, and any government assistance was inadequate. A spokesman for the NDP party of Nova Scotia stated that education should not be financed through the

municipalities, but rather through a provincial education fund. With the present system, schools in poorer municipalities suffer, while those in larger areas, such as Halifax fare much better. When questioned concerning educational costs, Mr. Buchanan's office had no answers on the matter.

Perhaps closer to home, and nearer indeed to the old money belt, is the problem of university tuition increases. Fees at Dalhousie increased by \$75 for the present year. Last March Buchanan told over 3,000 students who gathered at Province House that he would do nothing to stop the inevitable increases as promised earlier by Terry Donahue. He said, however, that increases would be counteracted by gearing up the student aid program and initiating a summer employment program.

Provincial bursaries were given an additional one hundred dollars which was added on to the maximum allowance grant, but as proven earlier the much talked about

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Accusations Questioned

To the Editor,

In response to Keith Wellband's letter of October 1, 1979, I would like to suggest to Wellband "that the greatest homage to truth is to use it."

The accounts and reports used in my article of September 27 are all true, and factual. I find Wellband's letter a personal affront to both my journalistic ethics and my own integrity.

The accusation by Wellband that he did not state "for damage that did occur, on behalf of the engineers, I apologize" is a topic worthy of some discussion. I would therefore assert the idea that perhaps we should take the question to a body with some authority. If you feel that I have libeled you by printing a quote that you allege you did not make, then I CHALLENGE YOU to take court action. Perhaps Mr. Wellband, you will not be quite so anxious to perjure yourself in a court of law as you are in a letter to the editor.

I Remain
Darrell E. Dexter
Journalist

Shinerama Success

To the Editor:

This year Shinerama was held on Friday, September 14, and the amount raised was \$1920.56, nearly six hundred dollars more than last year.

Although we raised more, we had less shiners than last year, and I hope it is not the beginning of a decreasing trend. As in previous years,

the residences provided the majority of the shiners, and I thank all those who came out to shine. I am disappointed that the day students remain so uninvolved. With the help of the day students Shinerama could be a great success.

Shinerama was fortunate to have the assistance of Labatts/Olands this year. They provided us with the use of a van for two days, and also generously donated \$100. to help pay for our breakfast. I would like to thank Derek Piers and Steve McNeil for all their assistance.

I would also like to thank

the shiners from Alpha Gamma, who brought with them an enthusiasm that was hard to match. Jane Grantmyre and Susan Drysdale raised \$359.00. A Fraternity Challenge was unsuccessfully organized this year due to the lack of concern from the fraternities contacted. Finally, I would like to thank Joan Conrad and Carly Hatcher for all their help, and from keeping me from going completely insane.

Marjory Masson
Director—Shinerama

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