

# Model Parliament Elections

Model Parliament is being held earlier this year. Instead of waiting for February, the campus political parties will sit Nov. 23-25. The election is Oct. 27. Here are the platforms of the three parties involved.

Since the NDY withdrawal from Model Parliament a few voices on campus have seen fit to take up the cause and attack Model Parliament. To these individuals I offer a few facts upon which they might make a more accurate evaluation of the institution.

Before attempting an accurate

criticism of any institution it is essential to consider the scope of that institution—the purposes for which it was created. Some have called ours a "Mock" Parliament because it is a powerless body—powerless because it cannot legislate change; because it cannot control the student body; because there are no positive values resulting from the sessions. It is submitted, however, that there are many positive values inherent in any educative process. And that—education—is the main purpose of Model Parliament.

The educational process makes itself felt at three levels: the individual, the campus party, and the general student body. No one

would seriously attack public debate as non-educational. Yet Model Parliament which combines the finest British parliamentary debating techniques with topical Canadian political issues is attacked. The individual participating benefits from this opportunity to campaign, to give some individual thought to policy formulation, and to defend what he believes in debate.

Parties are afforded an opportunity to compete (the essence of politics). They organize a campaign; they create a unified policy statement which reflects their party tenets; and finally, they present that policy to an intelligent student forum.

Even students who don't participate at all—except to listen, think, and question—even they benefit from this chance to compare party platforms and decide what they think Canada needs.

There is an inherent value in increased knowledge. Model Parliament has incorporated some exciting changes this term to increase student participation. All we ask of you is that you listen—and think. Participation is the logical sequence. That is the only justification Model Parliament needs.

Thomas E. Hirst  
Chairman  
Inter-Party Committee

## Liberal Party

Politics are where it's at! Through politics you can make the concrete, gut changes in the life of your country that you believe are necessary. For this reason the Liberal Party urges you to participate in Model Parliament elections.

Granted, Model Parliament does not make changes on its own, but it does provide an opportunity for the informed discussion of issues by U of A students. This discussion is then transmitted to the national political parties and the federal government, where it becomes a part of public policy.

Your campus politicians are not sandboxers with no voice outside the campus—they are active members of national youth movements, movements listened to in Ottawa. Join them!

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The issue in this campaign is "the state of confederation". That

means **national unity**. It is national unity that the Liberal Party stands for. We believe that the unity of Canada will be achieved in the following ways.

- All Canadians must accept the ethnic and linguistic variety of Canada.
- Canada's Constitution must be brought home to Canada.
- The importance of the French language and culture must be recognized by all Canadians.
- A Declaration of Rights must be embodied in the Constitution.
- The use of any language for school instruction must be guaranteed where demand warrants it.
- Bilingualism in the federal civil service must be extended.
- Provincial priorities must be recognized in government planning.

To achieve these goals we support the convening of a federal-provincial conference on human rights to determine the fundamental freedoms that must be embodied in the constitution and to establish in law the language rights necessary in a multi-cultural nation.

We urge that an amending formula for the constitution be found so that Canadians may amend their own constitution.

We support the use of any language for school instruction provided that there exist a sufficient demand for it and that English or French minorities be entitled to instruction in their own language.

We urge that French-Canadians outside Quebec be given the same right of language accorded English Canadians in that province.

We support increased training programs in English and French to

guarantee a truly bilingual civil service.

We urge that federal-provincial consultation precede the establishment of major policy, in order to ensure the placing of sufficient emphasis on local priorities.

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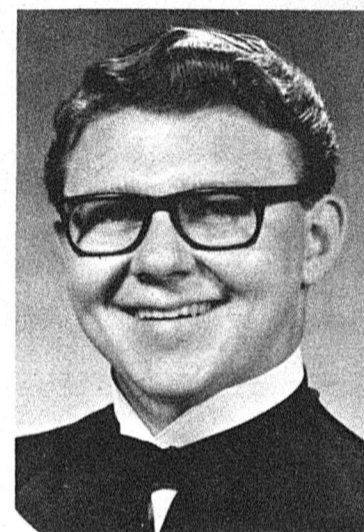
A united Canada in which all Canadians will feel at home is our aim.

These policies, outlined in detail in the pamphlets available around campus, will help to build a united Canada.

We warn you against that who would destroy Canada by making her two nations, who would divide her as two peoples.

We hope you will agree that for national unity—The Liberals are where it's at!

Gerald L. Ohlsen  
Leader, U of A Liberals



GERALD OHLSEN  
... Liberal leader

## Progressive Conservative Party



MURRAY SIGLER  
... Conservative leader

It is impossible in the limited space available to give a detailed description of our policies. We therefore will attempt to give a general description of principle from which all our policy evolves.

### I. NATIONAL

(a) Confederation  
WE BELIEVE Canada is one country composed of two founding peoples, joined by others from many lands. Thus Canada enjoys a unique status among the countries of the world. It is, and must remain, one completely unified entity. Unfortunately there are serious problems in maintaining and expanding this unity. In this respect, examples of steps which must be taken include:

- (i) The British North America Act must be "repatriated". Surely after one hundred years of nationhood Canada is able to completely direct its own affairs.

- (ii) The entire area of fiscal policy control should be studied. The fact is that the constitution accords to the central government considerable fiscal power; but for some years it has been the provinces who have had to assume the heavy expenditures in such areas as health, welfare and education.

WE BELIEVE that although the French-speaking Canadians occupy a unique cultural position in Canada today, this does not justify a special political status for the province of Quebec vis a vis the other provinces within the framework of Confederation.

### (b) Education

WE BELIEVE that in our modern technologically-oriented society emphases must be on the quality of education and its availability to all. There must be a standardization of educational requirements across Can-

ada, with Quebec's unique position being guarded. The easiest method of standardization would be the use of common entrance exams at both the university and technical school levels.

WE BELIEVE the provinces should retain jurisdiction over education.

### II. CAMPUS

WE BELIEVE that the student is a responsible member of the academic community and should have an active voice in the decisions that affect him. To this end we propose:

- (i) Student involvement in the processes of university government, e.g., General Faculty Council, Board of Governors, Senate.
- (ii) The establishment of a student course evaluation booklet.
- (iii) The establishment of a student Academic Grievance Committee.

WE BELIEVE that equal opportunity for university education is the right of all, but that free tuition is not the best way of removing inequalities. We advocate:

- (i) Subsidies for out-of-town students, since room and board costs present a great financial barrier to many.
- (ii) Scholarship, grant and loan schedules should be revised in the light of increased costs.

WE BELIEVE that student government and the university must show more concern for the needs of the students in other than educational areas. Immediate steps must be taken to:

- (i) Provide adequate parking facilities.
- (ii) Push for more student housing on and around campus.

WE BELIEVE that the Hot Cafeteria should be re-opened in view of the lack of cafeteria space on campus.

## Social Credit Party

The majority of people in Alberta are pleased with the progress we have made since 1935. Most of them understand that it is free enterprise which has fostered our unusual achievements. Our future appears promising and it is expected that great improvements will be made.

It is fundamental to our belief that if Canada is to experience the same kind of progress, it will be because of free enterprise. At this point I must clear up a few misunderstandings regarding our system. There is a notion, fostered by certain left-wing elements, that only those who support socialism are interested in the good and welfare of the people of Canada. This is absurd. Most of those who oppose socialism are genuinely concerned about those who happen to be less fortunate than themselves. It might

even be that we are more concerned than the socialists for we would supply security—but security with freedom.

There is another notion which is prevalent today. It is the idea that socialism is the only method of coping with welfare problems in our fast-moving, complex world. This supposition is an inaccurate as the first. It is only through the incentive provided by free enterprise that man will ever be able to produce enough material goods to supply the necessities of life. A system of taxation has been devised which provides a method of redistribution of wealth. I might add that the system has flaws but it succeeds to a great extent.

Until man attains a standard of living which allows all men to be free from material needs, the attainment of the other basic freedoms will not be possible. Even



EARL SCOVILLE  
... Social Credit leader

Plato admits that the material things are necessary to a full life.

Canada now faces the greatest crisis of its short history. Unless the channels of communication between Quebec and the rest of Canada are cleared, there is little doubt that a schism will develop. It is for this reason primarily that we support a program of complete bilingualism for Canada. The problem of implementing this program would be attacked in the same manner as problems of illiteracy are attacked in underdeveloped countries.

We also support a resolution providing that the people of Quebec be allowed to determine their status with regard to confederation. We believe that a referendum would show that the people of Quebec do wish to remain a part of Canada. The separatists would no longer be able to claim the support of the people.

Our party is also concerned with the problem of transferring credit from schools in one province to schools in another. With the increasing mobility of the population this problem is becoming more apparent. It is our feeling that certain standards should be established and that each province should adopt these standards with local variations.

Leisure time is also becoming more prevalent in our society. We feel that the provinces should cooperate in setting up a program of instruction for interested people where they could learn something about worthwhile activities and hobbies with which to occupy their spare time.

We are convinced that the state of confederation would be greatly enhanced by the implementation of this program. ON OCTOBER 27 VOTE SOCIAL CREDIT.