

New Democratic Party re-elects Mr. Broadbent

The New Democratic Party of Canada (NDP) recently ended a four-day policy convention in Toronto dominated by discussions on energy, public ownership and Quebec.

More than 1,400 delegates attended the convention including a 150-strong left-wing caucus of the party which initiated heated debates on nuclear energy, party commitment to government ownership of major corporations, and backing negotiations with Quebec on sovereignty-association.

Ed Broadbent was acclaimed as party leader for another two-year term.

"You have given us a program that again makes it clear that there is a difference in Canada in the political parties — the Liberal-Tory party on the one side and us on the other," said Mr. Broadbent.

He said the NDP was the only party with clear policies calling for justice in interest rates, justice for women, fairness in tax policies and "complete control of the economy of Canada by Canadians".

Mr. Broadbent said he was pleased by

the support given his proposed national industrial strategy, designed to give Canadians more control of the economy through a mixture of tax changes, planning agreements with major companies, selective state intervention and an enlarged role for Petro-Canada in oil development.

Among key resolutions passed by the convention was that a committee headed by Mr. Broadbent would develop proposals for constitutional changes that he can use in getting involved in the Quebec referendum debate, attempting to convince Quebecers to stay in Confederation.

Mr. Broadbent said he had decided to get involved in the referendum battle although he had not decided to what degree.

The motion also said "the people of Quebec have the right to make their choice without coercion" although the party "strongly urges" the province to opt for a renewed federation "dedicated to cultural and economic equality and Canadian political and economic independence".

Contribution to international relief effort in Cambodia

Canada will make an initial contribution of \$5 million to the international relief effort to help the victims of famine in Kampuchea (Cambodia), Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald and the Minister of State responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Martial Asselin, have announced.

The Ministers noted that after the horrors inflicted on the Cambodian people by the Pol Pot regime, an armed invasion by Vietnam had inflicted destruction and chaos. The population faces famine because of the total disruption of rice-planting by the on-going war. According to reports by representatives of the Red Cross and UNICEF, who have recently undertaken a mission to Kampuchea, malnutrition has reached crisis proportions and threatens the lives of an estimated 2.5 million people.

Through starvation, exposure, military casualties and refugee outflows, the population of Kampuchea has already declined from over eight million in 1975 to an estimated five million in 1979. The Red Cross has reported that almost no children

under five years of age have survived and those aged from five to ten are now seriously threatened.

The Red Cross and UNICEF are responsible for organizing the international relief efforts and have already supervised the delivery of small amounts of supplies in Kampuchea. The two agencies are completing arrangements with local authorities to ensure that assistance will indeed reach the afflicted. When this is done, an international appeal for more than \$100 million is expected. The ministers pointed out that the Thai Government had also taken action to assist those refugees from Kampuchea who can reach its borders and had issued a \$30.8-million appeal for aid. The Canadian contribution will be used for these two programs.

To restore the independence of Kampuchea, hostilities will have to be brought to an end and the foreign forces now occupying much of the country will have to be withdrawn, said the ministers. Canada would support any effort to start the process of political settlement through negotiations among the interested parties, they said.

Education agency refutes TV report

The Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) has responded to a CTV Television Network report on foreign students, which it calls "a deliberate distortion of facts".

According to the CBIE, the principal thesis of the report, broadcast on *W5*, the network's public affairs program, September 30, was that "foreign students are taking university places away from deserving Canadian students". The Bureau is the principal source of information and analysis on foreign students in Canada and was the only national organization quoted in the report entitled, *Campus Giveaway*.

In a letter to CTV's vice-president of news and information programming Donald Cameron, CBIE's executive director James McBride said the report "was based on both misunderstandings and a deliberate distortion of the facts". He countered, what the CBIE considered factual errors in the *W5* presentation, saying:

— There are 55,000 foreign students in Canada, at all levels of education, including some 20,000 in full-time university studies, rather than the 100,000 reported by *W5* and, correspondingly, the proportion of foreign students in Canadian universities is smaller than that stated in the program. Across the entire university system in Canada, foreign students make up about 5 per cent of the total student population.

— There are 85 foreign students in all the medical schools in Canada as opposed to the "more than 400" quoted by *W5*.

— The program, incorrectly states that landed immigrant status is easily obtained by foreign students. While this was true prior to 1973, it is impossible now unless, for example, a revolution overturns the government at home and the student becomes a refugee.

— The program specifically identified the faculty of pharmacy at the University of Toronto of excluding Canadian students in favour of foreign students; in fact there is not one single foreign student in that faculty.

False premise

Mr. McBride said that most of the errors in the program "both of fact and of interpretation, are traceable to one false premise: that 'foreign students' and 'landed