

Tessa Hebb

EW DEMOCRAT

Hebb fights for NDP Maritime foothold

By S. BRENNAN AND E. DONOVAN

Women's place in Canadian society, youth unemployment and jobs for all are the most pressing concerns of ordinary Canadians, says Tessa Hebb, the NDP candidate for Halifax. Charging that both the Liberals and the Conservatives are closely tied to big business, she asserts her party best represents the interests of the ordinary Canadian.

"In Nova Scotia one out of every two families is hurt by unemployment," says Hebb. "These are not just figures, they're people's lives."

Women are especially burdened

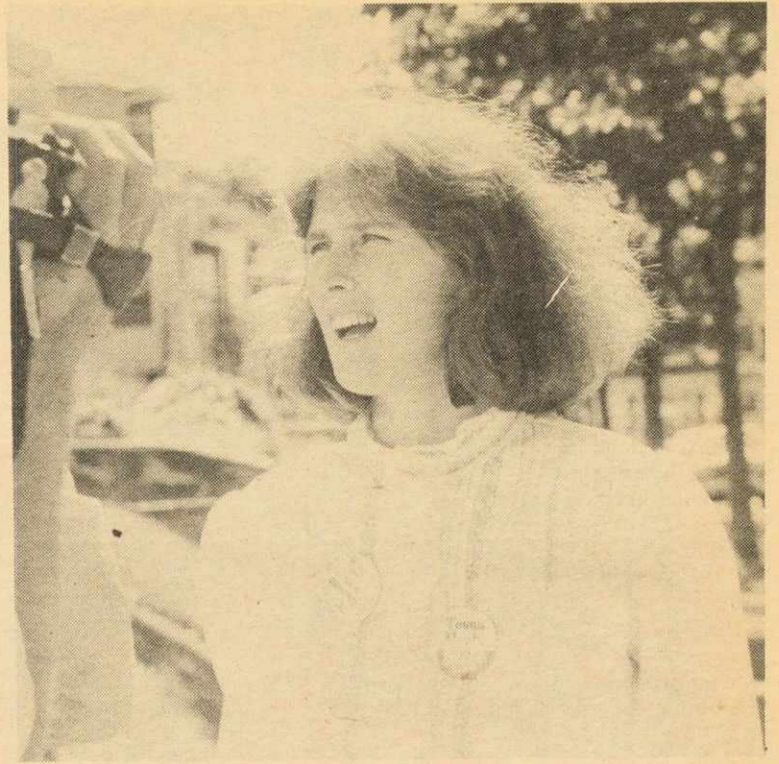
as they face both unemployment and lower wages in the workplace, says Hebb.

She says that the government must gear all of its energy towards a full employment policy and that the present solutions provided by the Liberals and the Conservatives are inadequate.

John Turner's proposed youth apprentice scheme "First Chance" ignores the reality of the problems unemployed youth face, says Hebb.

"I know people who already have a trade or who have been to trade school, or on an apprenticeship programme and cannot find a job," says Hebb.

Hebb is critical of the present



Tessa Hebb speaks before the media on the campaign trail. Photo: Peter Katsihtis, Dal Photo.

system of tax breaks for large corporations and favours a system where tax credits would be an incentive for job creation.

"These corporations should have to earn their tax credits," says Hebb. "Raise the corporate taxes and for so many thousand jobs they created they would be entitled to a number of tax credits."

Hebb is eager to point to the success of the NDP in Manitoba where they formed the provincial government. Manitoba shows that a full employment policy works, she said.

"Nova Scotia could share this success if government spending was put into our own resources and communities instead of given to corporations."

The NDP's stand on taxation reform has greatly influenced both the Liberal and Tory election agenda. According to Hebb the NDP is the moving force behind proposals for a minimum tax rate which would ensure high income earners pay their share of taxes.

"Pensioners, women over 65 of whom two thirds are living below

the poverty level, all have their income tax taken off," says Hebb. "Yet 8,000 (people) who made more than \$60,000 paid no income taxes."

Our present taxation system shows a need for a party to fight for ordinary people, says Hebb.

"They (Turner and Mulroney) don't represent ordinary people. As a result there are a lot of people who think the best option coming out of this election would be a minority government. By letting the NDP hold the balance of power we can temper any kind of drastic move."

Hebb attributes a great deal of the positive reaction she has received in her door to door campaign to provincial NDP leader Alexa McDonough.

"When I was campaigning in all four provincial ridings in Halifax people complained that they never saw politicians until election time except for Alexa's riding in Chebucto," said Hebb. "In Chebucto it was common to hear that people had seen Alexa just the week before."

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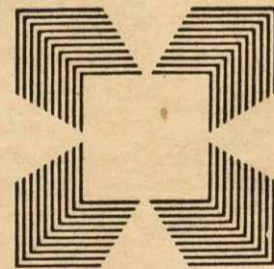
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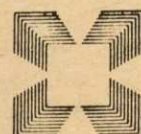
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