

NDP leader speaks at Osgoode

Lewis accuses Reed Co of threatening native people

By IAN KELLOGG

Stephen Lewis, leader of the official opposition party Ontario New Democratic Party, told a packed meeting of York students at Moot Court on October 27 that the provincial government's recent move, ceding 16 million acres of public land to Reed paper company, "should be scrapped." (A memorandum of understanding was signed last week between the Conservative government and Reed which will give the corporation the cutting rights to the vast tract of Northwestern Ontario, an area approximately the size of Nova Scotia. It contains the only remaining virgin forest in Ontario.)

Lewis' strong criticism of the deal is based on the secrecy of the negotiations leading up to it, Reed's poor record of corporate behaviour in the past, an allegedly inadequate setup for environmental hearings concerning Reed's plans, and the potential threat to native people's culture present in the deal. There are 23 Indian reserves in or adjacent to the land affected.

Since the spring of 1974 when Reed first approached the government with its desire to acquire and develop this land, the NDP and various native groups "have agitated for information futilely", Lewis said. "The public interest is never served by such secrecy".

However, in spite of the government's apparent clamp down on the free flow of information about their and Reed's plans, some information has become available. Lewis cited a recently leaked government document written by a civil servant who has supervised Reed's activities in the past.

"DISASTROUS POLICY"

"The document is such a shocking indictment of Reed's practices," he said, "that it is inconceivable they should be given more land." Lewis said that Reed's mercury pollution of the Wabigoon water system in north-west Ontario has destroyed the livelihood of thousands of Indians and threatened their health.

Lewis said another leaked report

claims that the province's timber resources will be exhausted by the year 2000. Lewis added that the "Reed deal is only part of a disastrous Tory resources policy", and compared the forestry situation with the loss to development of southern Ontario agricultural land. "The Reed environmental hearings have been placed under a 'puny' legislative set-up that is inadequate to uncover all the implications of the deal while more suitable far-ranging legislative mechanisms have been by passed," he said.

To close, Lewis said he felt "compulsive" about pursuing the matter, for the Conservative government's secret negotiations with private companies about public matters, "speaks to their single greatest weakness." The speech received sustained applause.

In the following question period Lewis expressed his objection to the impending university tuition fee increase unless inextricably linked with easier and more generous



Peter-Paul Duvernet

student grants. Since the recent trend has been towards restricting grants he noted this will almost certainly mean his and the NDP's opposition to the increase.

However, he criticized his own party's position calling for the abolition of tuition fees. Lewis justified this criticism by saying

that accessibility to university for people from low income backgrounds is the first priority.

In answering a question about the possibility of a spring election Lewis said such an election would be an excellent opportunity for university students to intervene in provincial politics.

Letters To The Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 Central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 4 p.m.

Excilbur is to blame, not Edson, says CYSF member

In regards to the letter to the editor by Christina Bogucki, it appears she is attacking Barry Edson for not doing something which is not really his responsibility. She begins by saying that the students of York are poorly informed. This is undoubtedly an understatement. If liaison between student governments and fellow students were increased I'm sure the apathy that is present on this campus would indeed be reduced. One of the ways of improving this communication would be to have the university newspaper perform a function which it is now doing poorly; and that is to notify the students of what is happening and to present all the facts. When Excilbur asked Edson what the stand of council was on the rent increase issue, he informed them. It is not his responsibility to tell them what the other side is. I would assume that the reporters would discover this on their own initiative. Secondly, they should go one step further by printing what this stand is. If other students have the same beef as Christina they should be blaming the reporting of the paper and not of Barry Edson.

In continuing, Christina states that if it had not been for the fact that her student government informed the students of the position, she would never have known this. I would hope that as college councils, they would realize that one of their responsibilities is to inform the students of their college. This is one of the reasons they were established. To bring closer ties with students and in particular those in residence.

I am also glad that Christina thinks rationally. Her feeling that both sides of the case should be presented would also be accepted by Edson. This is why he wants a poll rather than secret decisions behind closed doors.

It is unfortunate that she feels that this bargaining committee will only serve to improve Edson's political future, because I don't know where she sees him gaining anything. Right now he is being attacked by both sides for taking a stand which he felt would improve future life on campus for students.

Finally let me say that if Christina or any other student has a problem in finding out what the

facts are on any issue they are quite welcome to come to the CYSF office and speak to any of us, we are quite accessible.

Andrew Madden,
VP of Academic Affairs,
CYSF

In defense of squash

It seems rather unfair to lump together, indiscriminately, all the stores in Central Square when you complain of what looks like ungrateful extortion, (Excilbur, October 21, 1976). Whereas you are right in some important instances, you are quite wrong in the three that I deal with — the travel agency, the men's hairdresser, and the sports store. It would have been fairer to make a check — say, 25 articles — and to compare the prices with those charged elsewhere. Or course, some sophistication is required since to the inexperienced eye, all squash racquets look alike and differences in tennis racquets are merely aesthetic!

With this, no doubt, the girl at Eatons (if you can find one) will probably agree. But talk to Nabil Labib and you will hear of differences in grades of stringing, weights of racquets, widths of grips. You will get advice because he uses much of what he sells and prefers not to stock junk. Choose some items carefully — sweaters, dance slippers, track suits, racquets — then check the prices for identical or equally good items elsewhere. That will stifle blanket accusations.

J.C. Stephens

\$ value

Your editorial of last week suggested that the Central Square stores do not serve the York community because their prices are too high. However, you only give two examples of prices (a bar of soap and a woman's pant suit) and do not give the prices of the

same articles at other stores. I suggest that before you slander the Central Square merchants that you make a more extensive comparison of their prices and services with that of other stores.

When you use this comparison, I hope you will shop in a store of comparable size and not compare the prices in Central Square with large food markets and department stores. Note also that the merchants in Central Square have only limited opportunities for evening and Saturday sales, not to speak of the fact that most students are only here for about seven months of the year. When you take all these factors into account I am sure you will find that we are getting good value for money.

Finally, if you criticize the group of Central Square stores, I suggest that you have evidence about all the stores, and not include stores in your general censure about which you have no evidence whatsoever. Consider that most of the stores are run by conscientious young business men and women who should not be unfairly slandered.

Paul Hertzberg
Psychology Dept.

To err is human

Last issue an angry writer blasted the Excilbur staff for a grammatical error in her article regarding abortion. Instead of the article reading 'life begins at conception', it read 'life begins at contraception'. The hot air expelled by the angry journalist could have better been put to use warming the dressing rooms at the Ice Palace. He should have realized that the Excilbur staff is only human, and humans can make mistakes more than once. As it stood more people probably enjoyed the article in its blemished state, than they would had it been grammatically pure, since the article was ill researched and devastatingly dull. If the chirographer of the article on abortion does believe life begins at conception, I wonder what kind of an experience he endures when she

accidentally wounds herself. Obviously he will be upset, but why? Is it because of the pain he receives from the wound or that he has killed over a thousand living cells.

If Excilbur is unintelligent as the author of 'Conception or Contraception' indicates, it seems peculiar that he should read or go to extremes and submit an article to such an uncomprehensive staff. Remember now, cells live too.

Ed Luberdink

ULC speaks

Many interesting occurrences have taken place at CYSF meetings this year, and most of us in the United Left Coalition (ULC) have learned not to be shocked or surprised at some of the manoeuvrings which have been used by the Edson team.

We have gotten used to votes being called before discussion has been completed, and decisions reached at one meeting being reversed at the next. But no one was really prepared for what took place at last Thursday's council meeting.

There have been six resignations of council members since the spring election. As was expected, Edson proposed a motion to hold by-elections on November 24, the standard procedure to fill vacancies. To the amazement of at least the ULC members, this motion was defeated! Arguments against elections included expense and disruption of academic life. This is ludicrous! First of all, elections had to be held anyway to fill the vacancy in the Board of Governors. But, more importantly, though elections may be disruptive to some people, to others they are interesting change of pace and, however one feels about them, they are still the fundamental basis of democracy. It is a way of reviewing what has been done about the issues which came up in the spring election. If the Edson team had any confidence in their performance, they would not hesitate to go back to the electorate and reaffirm their mandate.

A proposal which came up in discussion of the motion was to

appoint people recommended by college councils, because it was more practical. But, as Michail Vitopoulos, ULC graduate representative put it, fascism is practical too. Needless to say, many Edson team members have a base in the college councils.

Fortunately for all CYSF constituents, new members came into the meeting, and others left. After the shuffle a modified version of the motion was reintroduced and this time it passed.

Strangely enough, several people who voted against it the first time, supported it the second time. We're still trying to figure that one out.

Mary Marrone, ULC
Calumet College

Book beef

I have been frustrated by the shortage of the required text for the IS 102 course. I understand 200 text books were ordered for a class of over 400. Our professor explained that he had underestimated the enrolment figures and a few of us may have to wait a week or two for our text books as the other students could obtain them from last year's students. However, he either did not know or neglected to take into account the fact that last year's text was not used this year. A better text had to be found to replace the other one.

I feel that the Science Department should take more care in avoiding stupid mistakes like expecting last year's students to sell their texts to this year's students (even though they changed the text) to cover some of the demand. It would avoid many students having to run around town trying to purchase the text in vain.

The bookstore is also to blame as I do not feel that they tried their best to obtain the books from the publishers. For the price we are paying for these textbooks I am sure it would not cost much more if they asked their supplier to have the books sent via Air Freight or Special Delivery.

Danny Lam