

NDP Brown Canada's history-women didn't exist

By KATHLEEN WESTMAN

In 1975 Rosemary Brown ran for the National leadership of the New Democratic Party. She is a well educated and impressive woman. Imogene Beatrice James, Ms. Brown's grandmother spent most of her life working for the People's National Party in Jamaica. Ms. Brown's early rearing was heavily over-shadowed by a political atmosphere.

Presently Ms. Brown is giving a course in "Women and Power" at the Maritime School of Social Work. Ms. Brown was in Fredericton this past weekend as one of the NDP's Participation of Women's provincial representatives.

She stated that she had been interested in and active in the NDP party for a number of years before she ran as a candidate in 1972 for the Vancouver provincial riding. She was successful in her bid. She stated that her decision to run came out of her involvement in Social Work and in the women's groups.

Ms. Brown stated that there are role models for women in Canada but that they have been largely ignored. She said, "Canada's

history was written as though women weren't a part of it. But now that we are digging up our HerStory we are finding that they were always there."

Ms. Brown stated that the NDP has a history of active women. "They (women) have been active in the CCF since its conception and the CCF in Saskatchewan had a woman — Gladys Strum as its leader," said Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown gave a brief description of how POW was conceptualized at the Federal Convention in 1968. At this convention there was a resolution put forward for positive action — recognizing that there had always been women actively involved in the Party in the stamp licking, canvassing areas but that they were lacking at the decision making levels and also as candidates.

Ms. Brown feels that POW has helped in the acceptance of women in the party and has also been good for the education of the party men.

Rosemary Brown feels that there is definitely a connection between Socialism and Feminism. She said "Socialism is committed to the ideal of equality for all and

this can't be achieved as long as women are oppressed, therefore the two can not be separated."

POW advocated the setting up of a ministry of women as opposed to an advisory council on the Status of Women. Ms. Brown commented that there is a basic difference between being an advisor and being a minister with access to money. She said,

"Ministers who have authority and a budget can implement policies."

Ms. Brown pointed out that the fact that the NDP have lost their positions in two provincial elections is part of the fact that historically countries go Conservative when in a state of economic depression. She said, "If there was any doubt before that Canada was in a state of depression — I think

the way Canadians are voting is a pretty clear indication that we are in a state of depression."

She also expressed the hope that the party would grow in N.B.. She felt that the POW had the potential for organizing women in N.B. and that possibly one day when least expected there would be an NDP government in this province.

Smallwood s peaks at STU

Former Newfoundland Premier, Hon. Joseph R. Smallwood, P.C., will lead off this year's Noon Hour Lecture Series at St. Thomas

University with a talk entitled, "Confederation - a Newfoundland Perspective". The lecture is scheduled for November 8 at 12:30 p.m. in the Edmund Casey Hall Auditorium. The public is invited to attend free of charge. The only living Father of Confederation, Smallwood was

born at Gambo, Newfoundland in 1900. He began his career in public life as a journalist and worked as a reporter for newspapers in St. John's, Halifax, Boston, New York, and London.

Smallwood was a key figure in the movement which brought Newfoundland into Confederation and served as a member of the first delegation sent to Ottawa to discuss the terms of the union. Founder of the Newfoundland

Liberal Party, he was elected first Premier of that Province in 1949, a position he held some twenty three years. He was named Privy Councillor in 1967.

A man of varied interests, Smallwood at one time operated the largest hog farm in Newfoundland. He has worked as a Union Organizer and is also the author of several books including *Coaker of Newfoundland* (1962), *The New Newfoundlander* (1932), and *I Chose Canada* (1973).

NDP takes stand on womens rights

By KATHLEEN WESTMAN

"The NDP should take a strong stand on women's rights, as an alternative to the other parties," said Gail Walsh, newly elected Provincial President of the NDP.

At the NDP annual convention in Fredericton this past weekend there was a meeting of the Participation of Women. POW developed out of the 1968 NDP National Convention. The organization has representatives from all ten provinces. Manitoba representative and chairperson is Muriel Smith, other representatives are: Bobbie Gillespie, Nfld; Muriel Duckworth, N.S.; Gail Walsh, N.B.; Marianne Holder, Ontario; Elnor Thompson, Saskatchewan; Betty Mardiros; Alberta; Rosemary Brown, B.C.

Gail Walsh presented a number of resolutions receiving support from POW as part of the main convention. The resolutions covered 1) women and the family - Matrimonial Law Reform; 2) Women and Work - equal pay for equal work; 3) Women and Children - lack of daycare facilities etc.; 4) Women and Education - sex stereotyping at all levels; 5) Women and support services - family planning, abortion committees (presently only 8).

The POW representative meet for the entire day following the acceptance of the resolutions.

The representatives painted the picture of female political involvement in the various provinces. The Maritimes fairs the worst. The Western provinces where there have been provincial NDP governments being the most active.

Chairperson Muriel Smith said "We can't assume that by a few successes we have achieved equality and recognition. We must know our own province and trust

our own women."

Working in co-ordination with POW is a full-time staffer — Women's Organizer, Judy Wasylcia-Leis. She is well educated and is responsible for 1) making personal contact with all provincial women's groups; 2) sending out a newsletter; 3) act as a catalyst for female candidates; 4) provide information on the party policy, etc. 5) act as a watchdog on legislation for its effect on women. Ms. Wasylcia-Leis is hampered in her position by lack of funds.

Ms. Wasylcia-Leis recently compiled and analyzed information from a survey concerning voting habits. She found that the NDP party just isn't getting the female vote.

Ms. Wasylcia-Leis is planning on visiting the Maritimes this year to set up an interested group of women.

POW is a group that really supports their slogan, "A woman's place is in the House of Commons."

Never say die

Twenty-five years ago, Dwight Guilfoil was told he couldn't hold down a normal job because he's a paraplegic. But that didn't stop Dwight. He went out and started his own company.

And now, Paraplegics Manufacturing Company is a successful subcontractor to such giant firms as Western Electric and Chemetron Corporation, and it employs mostly disabled persons.

The manufacturing plant is specially built so that workers confined to wheelchairs can move about easily. And special equipment has been installed so that deaf-mutes and amputees hold down jobs too.

Patronizing the handicapped, Guilfoil says, is a disservice. He even thinks schools should push disabled children as hard as normal kids. (Newscrip)

CORRECTION

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