

# Model Parliament Platform Review

## Centralized Government— The CPC

In the springs of last year, after watching the annual debacle known as Model Parliament, a large group of responsible students met to consider how it might have been improved.

In spite of the concerted opposition of the 4 old-line parties, a new party, under the name "The Constitutionalist Party of Canada," came into being, and began to formulate policy.

The central belief of its philosophy—aimed at the success and survival of democracy (and practically applicable to the solution of Canada's socio-political and economic problems)—is that re-interpretation of the BNA Act subsequent to 1867 has been mis-interpretation in that it has taken power from the federal government.

The Constitutionalist party wants a strong, effective, and an efficient central government in Canada.

This policy has been synthesized into a coherent and comprehensive platform — THE ONLY PLATFORM PRESENTED IN THIS ELECTION WHICH IS TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF STUDENT OPINION!

1. The Constitutionalist party would move immediately to give Canadians full control of amendment to the BNA Act.

2. This party would lower the legal age—for suffrage and ALL other privileges of adulthood—to 18 years, throughout all of Canada.

3. We would oppose, at the present time, complete autonomy for UAC. We are of the opinion that competition for the limited resources now available to higher education in Alberta would be detrimental to the whole educational process.

4. The proposed rates for the new residences are ludicrous and hypocritical. This party, believing that all persons with the ability and the inclination to attend university should do so, would move to subsidize the new residences.

5. This party would act to standardize education—both in curriculum and in teacher education requirements—across Canada.

6. Old-Age pensions would be upped immediately to a maximum of \$120 per month, with a means test to provide a sliding scale of payment according to need.

7. The Senate would be reformed, to include 4 members per province, and compulsory retirement at 70 years of age. Appointment would be to an 8-year-term of office, and the Senate would be made more functional.

8. We would move to implement the recommendations of the Glasco Royal Commission on the Civil Service.

9. A commission of medical doctors would be established to make recommendations on a National Health Scheme.

10. A \$6 million grant would be made to the U of A medical faculty for cancer research; and it would be matched by a \$6 million fund established to finance an intensive anti-smoking campaign—aimed at young people in the schools.

11. The party would institute a semester system at the U of A.

12. Government censorship of literature and movies would be halted. A legal process would be

established whereby any individual or group could press charges of obscenity—"after" rather than "before the fact."

13. Abortion would be legalized, by a Constitutionalist government. Stringent control of the privilege would include a board of doctors, social workers and lawyers, as well as the stipulation that a woman be allowed only one abortion. It is apparently the feeling of most students on campus that since abortion is a voluntary thing, those with religious scruples in the matter need not be affected at all by the legislation. Anyone believing in religious toleration would surely have to allow individuals of each faith to determine for themselves the appropriateness of abortion.

14. A Constitutionalist government would recognize Communist China immediately, and end our presently hypocritical stand.

15. We would accept a nuclear role in NATO and NORAD, with the possibility of renegotiation of the latter commitment at a later time.

16. We advocate the gradual reduction and ultimate removal of agricultural price supports. We would sell wheat anywhere to help starving humans abroad, and to stabilize prices.

## A Check On Socialism— Social Credit

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

We believe that Canada is drifting toward socialism, even though the majority of Canadians are opposed to both collectivism and the welfare state.

We believe that the traditional political parties are unable and/or unwilling to check and reverse this trend.

We believe that Canadian citizens (from all parties) who believe in the maintenance of individual independence and opportunity for free enterprise must band together.

We believe that such citizens will find in the principles and policies of Social Credit the alternative they are seeking.

### SOCIAL CREDIT PLATFORM Health and Welfare:

Social Credit proposes the progressive withdrawal of the federal government from these provincial fields. Health and welfare services will be provided to Canadians on a new, decentralized basis.

The role of the federal government will be to compute the amount of money per capita which must be spent in order to provide an adequate level of social services for each citizen. After negotiation with the provinces, this figure will be established as a national minimum standard.

Existing personal and corporation income taxes and federal sales taxes will be abolished. They will be replaced by joint federal-provincial taxes in these fields, under appropriate federal and provincial legislation.

Revenues resulting from these joint taxes will be distributed to the provinces on the basis of the agreed national standard.

Implementation of this plan will ensure a basic standard of social services for each citizen, regardless of where he lives in Canada. At the same time it will eliminate the centralization of policy and control and will provide maximum flexibility of administration.

### Finance:

A Social Credit government will make available through the Bank of Canada low-cost Social Capital loans for essential public projects.

### Defense:

A Social Credit government will limit nuclear weapons on Canadian soil to those which are of strictly defensive use. Canadian forces abroad (under NATO) will be equipped with such nuclear and conventional arms as are necessary for the effective discharge of their responsibilities.

A Social Credit government will strive unceasingly for total nuclear disarmament under effective international inspection.

### Education:

Social Credit proposes that the role of the federal government in this field should be: to finance more basic scientific research at Canadian universities; to extend increased financial assistance to graduate students; to provide Social Capital for establishing educational facilities.

Social Credit advocates a sensible, reasoned approach to rising educational costs at the university level. Every effort should be made to ensure to both students and taxpayers maximum value for every dollar spent on higher education. The unavoidable costs involved must be realistically faced and equitably shared.

### Canadian Unity:

Social Credit calls upon Canadian citizens to exercise tolerance and patience in their relationships with one another. All Canadians must realize that Canada is one nation. Ethnic and regional ambitions must be made secondary to the national interest.

## New Conditions New Ideas— The Liberals

Why have a Model Parliament? This is a question which occasionally comes to students' minds. As members of a community and a society in which politics determine our future lives and gives them enjoyment or anguish, we cannot be ignorant of political issues.

The Liberal Party on this campus is proud to be able to place before the students a program of action based on principle, ideals, and reality. We can move onto greater heights only if we recognize what is possible but at the same time strive to achieve an ideal.

In essence Liberalism which recognizes the rapid pace of change and strives to meet the new conditions with new ideas.

The Liberal Party of this campus is not willing to see nuclear arms on Canadian soil. We have fulfilled our international commitments and we wish to accept no more. We wish to renegotiate our present commitments and relieve ourselves of the burden of nuclear arms.

The Liberal Party will attempt, if it is elected, to further the development of secondary Canadian industry. We must begin to grow up industrially and our growth must be determined by Canadians.

The Liberal Party wishes to increase medical research funds so that better use may be made of our medical facilities and staff.

We wish to recognize that every man has a right to work regard-

less of race or religion. With this in mind a Liberal government would introduce legislation to provide for a Fair Employment Practices Act.

We would seek to exempt students from paying Unemployment Insurance premiums. We would investigate the efficiency of the National Employment Commission in placing students for permanent and summer employment.

Being a party on the campus we will give prime consideration to the students' welfare. We propose to set up an Academic Relations Committee to evaluate courses and professors for the benefit of students.

We want to create an Ombudsman to hear grievances from students. The Ombudsmen would act at the Federal, Provincial and University levels.

The policy of the Liberal Party is a plan for aiding Canada, the province, and the student at this University. To implement it, we need your support. May we hope it is forthcoming.

## Policy Based On Principle— The PC

The Conservative Club on this campus has striven to redefine the concept of Conservatism and Canadian national interest. Any attempt to achieve the above requires courage, caution, and national introspection of the highest order. In redefining concepts there arose a tension between the idealists and the practical politician, a tension that was encouraged in the formulation of policy.

The end result is the below policy, a policy which reflects the interest and ideas of a diverse student body, a policy that we consider to be highly mature for it contains both originality and level headedness.

Simple cliches and platitudes solve nothing, the complex problems facing this nation require study in magnitude and depth. "Reform for the sake of reform," compulsory dogmatic collectivism, or divine right rule are not the answers. The Conservative club considers that the solutions it proposes to these national ills are based on a mature and profound understanding of not only the ills but also the conservative remedies.

### IDEOLOGICALLY SOUND

The policy we present to you this election is ideologically sound and wholly tempered to the realities of practical politics; they are politically feasible and based on sound conservative principles. What are these principles?

1. we believe that people do not exist to serve governments, that we will never support a political system that places man below the state or a political institution.
2. The Conservative Club reaffirms the traditional conservative belief in individual initiative.
3. a belief that each political and social freedom and right the individual possesses has a corresponding responsibility not to be abused.
4. a belief that ten autonomous states (provinces) do not constitute a nation state. We therefore believe in a rational nationalism embracing all ethnic, cultural and linguistic peoples.

## Alternative To Stagnation— The NDP

Model Parliament, besides giving us a chance to see how our democracy works, also provides a forum for student opinion on the issues which face us in society. The New Democratic Party is placing before the students a dynamic alternative to the stagnation which our country faces after years of indecision and lack of direction on the part of the traditional parties.

Briefly, some of our major platform points are as follows:

1. The most important issue at the local level is the reduction of costs for those who are striving for an education. This means a reduction to at least \$65 a month of residence fees. Education should not be given a price tag.

2. Canada has a potential of tremendous economic advancement, yet has lagged behind other countries in the last few years. We maintain that the only reasonable solution to our present economic stagnation is a policy of democratic economic planning.

This will ensure an adequate rate of investment, sufficient direction of resources into socially needed projects, and full employment of human and material resources. The experience of other democratic countries indicates that planning not only pays off economically but is quite compatible with the democratic system.

3. We believe that Canada can lead in the fight for disarmament and world security. Because Canada cannot stockpile nuclear weapons at the same time that she advocates disarmament without being hypocritical; and because nuclear weapons are of no defensive use anyway, we reject the present government's two-faced stand. We will not accept nuclear weapons on our soil, or for our forces abroad.

We further advocate a significant increase in our foreign aid contributions. Peace and democracy cannot be secured while two-thirds of the world's population lives in hunger.

4. One last point. Our Metis and Indian population has been called by a sociology professor "the most under-privileged group on the North American continent." This is intolerable yet our governments do nothing to correct it.

We advocate first a socio-economic study to find how the Indian and Metis population can be helped to help themselves. Second we advocate that all levels of government spare no expense to effect the findings of this report.

In an age in which the last barriers of segregation are being broken down all over the world, we would consider this one of our prime duties.

This then is our program. I hope you will consider it and agree that it presents a real alternative to the drab "me-tooism" of the old parties and the red herring of local splinter groups.

I hope that when you vote you will cast your ballot for the New Democratic Party—a party which is not content with sitting on the fence doing nothing concrete for the good of Canada.

# Remember! Model Parliament Elections Feb. 16