

Broadbent: Houseboy of big labour?

Recently, Ed Broadbent, leader of the New Democratic Party, address a capacity audience in Curtis L. Immediately following the talk, he spoke with *Excalibur's* Jonathan Mann in a short, exclusive interview.



Many students feel that the Tory government was brought down prematurely. They interpret the vote of non-confidence as politically motivated, in the worst sense of the word. How would you respond to them?

Oh, I just think it's a very serious mistake, of course. Mr. Clark had promised a budget that would stimulate the economy, and he brought in one that would probably have the most depressing effect on the economy of any budget brought in since World War II.

Instead of bringing in the tax cuts that he had promised—through his excise tax increase plus the massive increase in the price of oil—the net effect next year was going to be a three and a half billion dollar tax increase on the Canadian economy.

This is not only bad in terms of its effect on individuals, but, according to the Minister of Finance, was going to drive up the cost of living to 11 per cent, over four years lead to a cost of living increase of 73 per cent, and increase unemployment to 8 per cent next year.

Under those circumstances, there was just no way that an opposition that had campaigned on our set of programmes could support such a budget.

Unemployment is a problem If you are elected Prime Minister,

particularly for young people. Is the NDP planning job creation programmes for them?

We have indeed. First and foremost, the best method is to have an economy geared to growth—an economy that is producing jobs, so that kids out for the summer have a choice of jobs. One of the principal effects of the stimulative budget that we have called for would be to generate growth and expansion in the economy next year, which would provide jobs for students as well as others.

The other point that we have made is that the "Young Canada works" programme (the new name for the old 'Opportunities for Youth' programme) should be expanded and integrated more fully with municipal programmes across the country. If there were federal funding going out to municipalities earmarked for a certain number of students in every community for the summer months, this would enable municipalities to run a year-round program in a whole variety of areas in the knowledge that coming in May or June, they would have an influx of students that would fit into that programme and carry it on for the summer months. They'd be able to continue it for the rest of the year.

That makes sense for two reasons. It would provide summer jobs for students on the one hand. But second, the jobs would be very meaningful jobs to the communities. They would be doing things that the communities themselves had decided are of high priority.

and the Parti Quebecois gets a mandate to negotiate Sovereignty-Association, will you negotiate with them on Sovereignty-Association?

No. Sovereignty-Association is a complete non-starter, and that has to be made clear to the people of the province of Quebec. It's their right, of course, to decide. But without exception, every provincial government representing every political party in Canada (other than the Parti Quebecois) has said Sovereignty-Association is not an acceptable option.

It's one thing to say yes, you will discuss reforms in federalism as we are prepared to do, but quite another to leave an impression with the people of the province of Quebec that the notion of Sovereignty-Association is acceptable. You negotiate something when you agree in



principle about it, but you want to negotiate details. When you disagree in principle with a notion, then it's best to make it very clear that you don't accept it.

You have been quoted in the

media recently as calling Joe Clark "the houseboy of the multinationals." How would you defend yourself against the charge that you're the houseboy of big labour?

Ha, ha. That's, I suppose, the danger of abusive terminology. I said that because it's very clear to me that Mr. Clark has given the oil companies virtually all that they've wanted. In terms of tax incentives and write-offs, he's continued what the Liberals introduced a number of years ago.

Now about whether one should indulge in that rather abusive terminology. Frankly, I don't think it's entirely appropriate on my part or any one else's. You get carried away sometimes in political speeches.

In reply to the substance though, would I not play the same role to the Canadian Labor Congress or the union? I think the evidence is very clear. There have been, since I've been a member of parliament, no fewer than four major pieces of back-to-work legislation that we've voted for.

One of them was a grain-handler's strike on the west coast. If it had continued, it would have put into jeopardy wheat sales in all our prairie provinces.

Now we've made a number of decisions like that, in the public interest. Not long ago, the government of Saskatchewan was involved in a serious strike with some of its employees. The government took a clear position that was opposed by the trade union movement.

So there are a number of times where the party and the trade union movement will be in open disagreement because the party has broader responsibilities to the community.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

For

The Council of the York Student Federation Inc.

Nominations open until	Friday, February 29, 1980	4:30 p.m.
Campaigning starts:	Friday, February 29, 1980	4:31 p.m.
closes:	Tuesday, March 11, 1980	4:30 p.m.
Election:	Thursday, March 13, 1980	10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Advance Polls	Monday, March 10, 1980	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
	Tuesday, March 11, 1980	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
	Wednesday, March 12, 1980	10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Position Open:

1. President
2. Director of External Affairs
3. Director of University Affairs
4. Director of Women's Commission
5. Board of Governors Representative

A description of all available positions, nomination forms, a constitution and a copy of the Resolutions Governing the Conduct of Elections can be picked up in the CYSF office, Room 105, Central Square during office hours.

The Board of Governors position is open to all York students while all other positions are open only to CYSF constituent members (Environmental Studies, Founders College, Graduate Students, McLaughlin College, Stong College, Vanier College and Winters College).

Robin Carter
Chief Returning Officer
Council of the York Student Federation Inc.
667-2515

LOOK! HE TOLD US TEQUILA SAUZA! AND WE BETTER GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME! AS HE LEFT HIS OFFICE HE PRACTICALLY YELLED: "TEQUILA SAUZA IS NUMERO UNO IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY! GET IT? NUMBER ONE - JUST IN CASE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!"



TEQUILA SAUZA!



NUMERO UNO IN MEXICO AND IN CANADA