

# Election Supplement

**the Dalhousie  
Gazette**

# King's Watch The Picaro

The Picaro-Gazette-King's Watch election team interviewed the four candidates in the Halifax riding: Alexa McDonough of the NDP, George Cooper of the Progressive Conservative Party, Gerald Regan of the Liberal Party and Charles Spurr of the Marxist Leninist Party for the supplement. The election team included: Francis Moran of the Mount Saint Vincent University Picaro; Pam Berman, Paul Clark, Cathy MacDonald, and Margaret Little of the Dalhousie Gazette; and John MacLeod, Adrienne Malloy and Martin Cohn of the King's Watch.

What plans or approach do you have for implementing summer job creation programmes?

## COOPER

There are two approaches to the question of Summer Job Creation, and both of them have been adopted by the new government. I think that you have to adopt the direct approach, and I know on January 8, the summer youth employment program was announced by Ron Atkey, the Minister of Employment, at a higher level than last year. There's 110 million dollars this year and that will create 2000 more jobs than last year, so that is the direct approach. I think equally important is the plan in the budget to give tax credits to industry to hire not only students but others in new jobs. The credit works in this way. For every new job created, the employer will be able to receive a tax credit of eighty dollars a week off their income tax. That, quite frankly, is directed at sopping up the unemployment situation in Canada, particularly among the youth. I think both those plans are appropriate.

## MCDONOUGH

Exactly the opposite of what I understand is coming out of this new government, although the details of what is coming out of what the Tories are proposing for this summer are rather sparse. First of all, they are again very much influenced by restraint as the overriding consideration. And, second, they are talking about offering more jobs for less money and you have to start looking at how that is possible.

We need quality jobs at reasonable levels of remuneration so project officers who are working in government departments can try to develop meaningful summer jobs. The work that the students should do is real work that advances the development of programs or ser-



Kerry DeLorey

vices that are consistent with some kind of planning.

Administratively, I don't understand how 70,000 jobs are going to get generated, brought into full operation and come down in a short period of time without it being chaos and not really contributing very much to the kind of services and programs that are needed in this country.

Also, by reaffirming that those jobs would be held at minimum wage, as was the intent of Atkey's announcement, that ensures, once again, a prescription for maintaining inequalities. The level of minimum wage has not been raised for four years in Nova Scotia, so basically what it means is that people will be paid less this year in real money terms.

' Job creation isn't the career answer, and I think we have to develop long term job opportunities'

## REGAN

Well, I'm in favor of job creation programs and I'm also in favor of incentives for the private sector. Frankly, our rate of unemployment among young people in the country is disgraceful and unacceptable and what I'm in favor of is anything that works. I take a pragmatic approach and if somebody comes up with a new idea within the department that will better deal with the situation, then I'll go with that.

During the time that I was a leader of the provincial government, we brought about numbers of new programs in youth unemployment and job creation. Job creation isn't the

career answer, and I think we have to develop long term job opportunities. We have to develop policies that will provide more jobs in our region, but that doesn't mean that we can leave people unemployed in the meantime. I think that job creation programs play a very useful role in filling the gap and see to it that we don't have this level of unemployment in the meantime. I also think that the job creation programs must be productive—must provide something that is useful to society and that they should be closely scrutinized to see to it that there is not abuse of such programs.

## SPURR

One of the tasks which we are fighting to accomplish is to provide universal and free

All the schemes are based on tax money stolen from the people. All provide the lowest possible remuneration. All schemes serve the monopolies by performing services that the corporations would, otherwise, have to pay for, and they provide subsidized labour. Programmes run directly by the government such as Summer Youth Employment Programme (militia), cadet training programmes, and the National Youth Service Corps (an expanded form of the Liberals' "Katimavik") impose a fascist, militaristic discipline on the youth, and serve as part of the current escalation of war preparations.

What is your view of abortion on demand and the present abortion laws?

people are not appraised of before taking abortions. If any public funds are spent on the issue, for education, they should be spent on both sides.

## MCDONOUGH

I find it very difficult to discuss the issue of abortion in complete isolation, because I think it has to be seen very much in the context of family planning services. I truly believe that abortion ought not to be a principle means of birth control and that it can tend to become abused as such, but it will inevitably become a principal means of birth control if we continue to cut back on the support of existing family planning services, clinics and proper kinds of educational programs, for example, which has tended to be what has happened over the last five years. So I really would like the discussion to be in that context.

I don't seriously believe that anybody could be pro-abortion in any responsible sense, but I do believe that the existing laws concerning abortion have to be changed so that basically abortion becomes a matter between a woman and her doctor. This means the removal of abortion from the criminal code.

I feel fundamentally that there is no basis for thinking that if abortion were legalized and government assumed the responsibility for the costs of these medical procedures that great numbers of women would rush out and abuse it. No woman in her right mind would choose to have an abortion. Some women are forced to resort to that alternative because of their conditions of health or life circumstances, which in my

## COOPER

My position is that I agree with the law as presently stated in the Criminal Code. I accept Abortion for the purpose of saving the life or health of the mother—both physical and mental health. I do not agree with some of the administrative practises that have grown up in the administration of the law. I do not agree with abortion for reasons other than those given. Very often now the health and life requirements are ignored or stretched beyond their normal meaning.

Public funds should be spent to counsel people on abortions both ways—not just one way. There are negative consequences of abortion that

secular education which is closely integrated with socially productive work. But rather than dealing with this problem, the parties of the rich promote a variety of "job creation schemes" which actually serve monopoly capitalists and create no jobs. In doing this they like to equate "student" with "parasite", or say that university education is such a valuable commodity that students should be made to pay. There are corporate tax deduction schemes (such as advocated by the NDP), Job Experience Training (Jet) programmes where the worker's wages are subsidized by the government, and also there are programmes which are run directly from the government such as Task Force N.S.