

If there is anything else I can do to help you with your campaign...

The Gateway

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...please feel free to drop by my office at any time.

Gord Stamp

NDP MPs bring job task force to U of A

NDP job road show hits U of A

by Bill Doskoch

The New Democrats brought their *Action Group on Jobs* to campus Tuesday to gather information about the unemployment problem and to hear some possible solutions.

Three high profile MPs were featured: Steven Langdon (Essex-Windsor), the NDP economic development and regional industrial expansion critic; Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville), the NDP employment critic; and NDP finance critic Nelson Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap).

Alberta NDP Leader Ray Martin (MLA—Edmonton Norwood) was also present.

Groups representing organized labor, business, farmers, older workers and others made presentations. There was no presentation made to deal specifically with the unemployment problems of those under 25.

As possible solutions to unemployment, Dave Werlin, president of the Alberta Federation of Labor, advocated a reduction in working hours with no reduction in purchasing power, greater consultation with workers on technological change, equity investment by governments in projects and counter-cyclical public works programs.

Frank Morgan of the Alberta Union of Public Employees advocated increased diversification. He felt we should be processing and not merely extracting resources.

Dan Harrigan of the Canadian Organization of Small Business said promoting "socially responsible individual enterprise" was the answer.

Harrigan said the capital-intensive nature of mega-projects meant that over \$1 million had to be invested to provide employment for one worker, whereas small business could do the same for \$7,500 per worker.

Harrigan felt money should be taken from the "society safety net" to create jobs, but added that such diversions would only be valuable if "the jobs and services created are of use."

Workers in co-ops were advocated by three individuals: Bill Driedger of "People for Employment"; Bob Brunette of Communities, Inc. and George Butler of the East Edmonton Businessmen's Association.

All three, especially Driedger and Brunette, said similar organizations in Switzerland, Spain and France were very successful and provided non-monetary advantages such as greater industrial democracy.

Driedger claimed a \$5 billion investment over five years would produce 500,000 new jobs. He said traditional job creation programs would only produce 250,000 jobs because of bureaucratic "leakage".

John Oberg of the National Farmers Union said high debt loads and other increasing costs compounded the problem of low prices for farmers.

Huntley Vroman of the Alberta and NWT Building Trades Council said anti-labor legislation by the Loughheed government was decimating the unionized construction work force.

Bruce McFadden a local architect, said a less centralist and more creative approach would solve society's ills.

Elmer Souch and Diane Bateman of the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired pointed out the special problems of the unemployed worker over the age of 45.

Pat Byers of the Red Deer Unemployment Action Centre and Sandy Scott gave sobering accounts of chronic unemployment's debilitating effects on people.

They stressed that this was not the time to be cutting back on social services.

Langdon said he hoped the finished report, expected in two or three weeks before Finance Minister Michael Wilson's budget, "would have some impact on the political agenda."

He added, "These hearings are not aimed at obtaining partisan advantage for ourselves (the NDP)." Nystrom said, "We Canadians need to find new ideas and have a new vision on how this country should be developed."

Riis jokingly concluded: "I'm going to say something no politician has ever said before. You (the audience) said it all!"



The NDP unemployment road show Nystrom, Langdon and Riis heard citizens' cures for an ailing economy at a Tuesday hearing on campus.

Photo Bill St. John

Stamp bans Building Policy committee

by Suzette C. Chan

A member of the Yes Building Policy Committee has accused VP Internal Gord Stamp of abusing his powers after Stamp banned the committee from the Students' Union Building.

The Yes Building Policy Committee favors retaining the SU Building Policy, which prohibits the sale or display of "sexist, racist or otherwise offensive" materials or events in SUB.

"I think it's a blatant misuse of power," says Todd Rutter, spokesperson for the committee. "It's one more example of the misuse of power he (Stamp) subjects people who don't agree with him to."

When Stamp took office over

the summer, he attempted to fire three councillors, including Rutter, on conflict of interest charges. Rutter was subsequently removed from his job at RATT because he is a council member. Rutter is an Arts rep.

Stamp also tried to fire Gilbert Bouchard, editor-in-chief of the Gateway and Barb Donaldson, chair-elect of the Canadian Federation of Students, a group Stamp vocally opposes.

Reacting to accusations of abusing his powers, for political reasons, Stamp said, "Some people may construe it as such. I've always said the Building Policy could be open for abuse."

Stamp prohibited the Yes Build-

ing Policy Committee from setting up a table and distributing handbills and posters although the committee has not even had any of their literature printed yet. "I just have a gut reaction it will be offensive."

Stamp denied he is working for the No Building Policy Committee, although he has brought motions to council to abolish the policy. "It's the same as last year. The anti-abortion people were prohibited (from distributing offensive literature) but the pro-choice people weren't."

In September, 1983, the SU confiscated pamphlets showing mutilated fetuses after a complaint from several student councillors.

Stamp also confirmed Rutter's suspicions that the banishment was intended as an example to the Yes Building Policy Committee. "They

believe in censorship and I feel that it's my duty to give it to them."

But Rutter questions whether enforcing the Building Policy is a duty solely up to the VP Internal.

He cites a policy motion passed in students' council in November calling for the establishment of a Building Policy Review Board which would determine what "materials, actions and activities...are of a sexist, racist or otherwise offensive nature."

In turn, Stamp refers to a policy motion two years ago which gives the VP Internal exclusive authority over the enforcement of the Building Policy.

Policy motions are not part of the SU constitution and are not legally binding.

The Yes Building Policy Committee plans to set up a table in SUB today.

Election confusion

by Suzette C. Chan

A web of communication problems has led the Arts Students Association to juggle its election schedule.

ASA VP Finance Rob Splane, a candidate for SU VP Finance in the upcoming general election, says the ASA originally set Arts Council elections for Mar. 15 but were requested by Chief Returning Officer Michael Brings to hold their elections concurrent with the general SU elections.

Brings was under the impression faculty reps had to be elected to students council before Feb. 15.

The ASA executive then took it upon itself to change the students' council Arts reps elections to February to stay within constitutional guidelines. Arts positions to General

Faculties Council and Arts Council remained in March.

Splane said one ASA member, Grant Draper, took exception to the executive decision and appealed to the Disciplinary, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board. "He (Draper) wanted to ensure those who ran for SU executive and lost could run for Arts rep on Students' Council."

"On the day of the DIE Board meeting, it was made public that the constitution had been revised on Jan. 8, 1985, (so the deadline) reads Mar. 30."

Subsequently, the ASA election will be held on Mar. 15 as originally decided. Deadlines for nominations is Mar. 7; the advance poll opens Mar. 14.

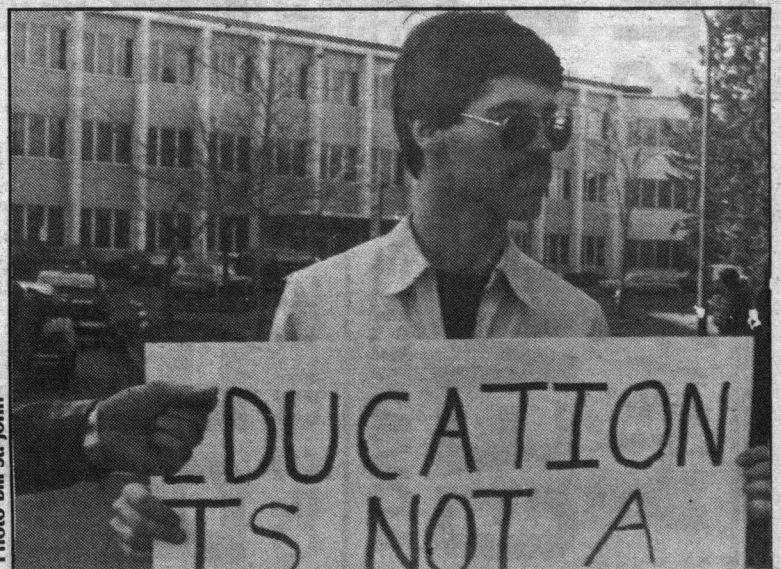


Photo Bill St. John

VP Internal Stamp declares opposition "offensive."