

Liberals no different from Tories, says leader



New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent said Tuesday the Conservative party is "busily burying itself again" with its economic policies.

By DERWIN GOWAN

News Editor
Attitudes towards liberty, equality, and democracy mark the major philosophical differences between the New Democratic Party and other Canadian parties said NDP leader Ed Broadbent.

said NDP leader Ed Broadbent. Broadbent spoke to a University of New Brunswick audience last Tuesday morning, sponsored by the student union and the Political Science Students' Association.

Broadbent said there was no philosophical difference between Liberals and Progressive Conservatives in Canada. According to him, they both defend traditional liberalism.

Broadbent said with respect to liberty, "For Liberals and Conservatives...a man or woman is free if we have very few constraints.' That is, they each would allow human beings the right to individually pursue their own ends, Broadbent said.

Broadbent said liberal freedom was an important aspect of democratic socialism and that this freedom was lacking in eastern European communist countries. Liberalism was a progressive force in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, he said, but from the nineteenth century on, liberals progressed to the idea of the positive state. To the democratic socialist, said Broadbent, the state must foster human potential to develop, besides merely providing the opportunity for develop-

Democratic socialists and Canadian parties other than the NDP differ on the idea of equality as

Liberals and Conservatives mean equality to say equal opportunity to "get richer than others."

"someone else." Broadbent said it was "entirely right" from the Liberal or Conservative point of view for one person to try to get ahead of another. Broadbent said this was a "barbarism."

An egalitarian society must

provide equality of opportunity to develop one's capacities, he said.

Broadbent said both Liberals and Conservatives accept the liberal notion of democracy, that is, that all members of society are free to vote, organize, criticize and change leaders. He added that communists do not accept liberal

However, Broadbent said, "That is essential but you've got to go beyond that." Economic power is

beyond that." Economic power is

a two-price oil system, Syncrude, and increased family allowances. However, said Broadbent, "When the break came, the Liberals presented a budget we could not accept."

buyer countries from building bombs. Further, he said there should be a public enquiry into the leaks reported at the Port Hope nuclear plant.

Broadbent said the NDP were

"The Conservative party is busily burying themselves once again," said Broadbent, on the issue of economic policy by trying to move back to a seventeenth and eighteenth century type free market society.

According to Broadbent, Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau should be "delighted" with this as it will make him appear progressive in comparison. They are doing this by "taking a position just to the right of Gengis Khan", said Broadbent.

aiding the United States." He said both the Vietnam and Angolan conflicts were civil wars and should have been handled internally with no external intervention. He denied that the NDP was less vocal on the Angolan issue because of the ideological differences in the two conflicts.

Tory leadership candidates are much more conservative than former leader Robert Stanfield, said Broadbent. Stanfield, he said, was "basically progressive" on economic matters.

Canada should develop energy resources as a public enterprise, said Braeburn. He accused the Liberals of scrapping Syncrude, the crown corporation for the development of oil resources, or at least relegating it to a minor role.

Broadbent is a native of Oshawa, Ontario. He holds a bachelor of arts in philosophy and a master of arts in the philosophy of law from the University of Toronto. He took his doctor of philosophy in political science at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

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A black and white illustration of a man from the waist up. He has short hair and is looking slightly to his left. He is wearing a light-colored turtleneck sweater under a plaid jacket with a visible pocket on the left chest. The background is plain.

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