

NDP's program of co-operation

The New Democratic Party of Newfoundland, if elected to power, would institute an immediate public inquiry into ownership and exploitation of the natural resources of the province and nationalize all production and distribution of electricity, including that expected to be developed at Churchill Falls in Labrador.

These were two planks of the 18-point manifesto announced last night by the NDP for the Sept. 8 election campaign.

Described as "a program of co-operation, common sense and action," the various planks in the platform were outlined as follows:

A New Democratic government would work in close co-operation with the labor movement, fishermen's organizations and other democratic organizations to raise living standards and to improve working conditions in Newfoundland; the registration of the Trade Unions Act would be repealed and replaced by legislation acceptable to the Trade Union movement; public service employees, including employees of the provincial government would be given full collective bargaining and right to strike; the NDP would institute a floor price of five cents per pound for fresh fish and inaugurate a program of catch insurance to protect inshore fishermen against catch failures; everything practical would be done to encourage co-operative buying, selling and production (The NDP believes that the co-operative system would ensure the best return to primary producers such as fishermen); the party would institute a program of full employment. (It said economic development would be the responsibility of the provincial Legislature rather than being subject to the decisions of private companies beyond democratic control); the NDP would institute an immediate public inquiry into ownership and exploitation of the natural resources of the province so as to secure maximum possible benefit for the people of Newfoundland; conservation and reforestation would be carried out to prevent depletion of forest resources; production and distribution of electricity would be publicly

owned to ensure uniform and reasonable rates to consumers; immediate negotiations would be undertaken with the government of Canada and the province of Quebec for the maximum development of Churchill Falls as a national project, publicly owned for the benefit of Canadian industry; the blueberry and partridgeberry barrens belong to the people of Newfoundland, the NDP would ensure that they are not allowed to pass into private ownership or control; the trout and salmon streams belong to the people, they must not be allowed to pass into private ownership or control and must not be leased.

The NDP program continued. The NDP would take steps to restore breeding grounds of the Atlantic salmon and would require companies exploiting natural resources of the province to provide fishways and dispose of industrial wastes in ways that would not cause river pollution; a town and country planning department would be set up in order to preserve natural beauty of the countryside and seacoasts; town expansion would be carried out so that new housing would be integrated with the natural features of the land and with provision for adequate sewerage facilities, water supply, parks and playgrounds; good housing would be made available to all.

Low interest loans would be provided for the purchase of old and new homes and for repairs; everything would be done to facilitate the introduction of a national health plan; public automobile insurance, administered by an automobile insurance board, would be introduced to ensure universal coverage, reasonable rates and prompt settlement of claims; road development would be carried out under the direction of a professional roads' board, consisting of engineers and scientists (this board would be asked to conduct feasibility studies of the Strait of Belle Isle tunnel project and a Trans-Labrador highway).

The NDP would work in close co-operation with the Newfoundland Teachers' Association, the university and other interested groups regarding teachers' salaries, school bus system, school taxes, school fees, etc.; the NDP would provide the best possible facilities for the education and rehabilitation of all handicapped people; the NDP would re-establish the publication of Hansard, covering proceedings of the Legislature; the NDP would ensure that all civil service appointments, including senior appointments, would be advertised and appointments made on the basis of seniority and qualification, and finally, a NDP government would ensure that workmen's compensation would be applied to fishermen.

It was noted that the national New Democratic Party program calls for a Canadian coast guard system and everything possible to facilitate its introduction would be done by a provincial NDP government, if elected to power.

Calvin Normore, a prominent Corner Brook labor figure, makes his acceptance speech after being elected provincial leader of the New Democratic Party in Newfoundland Monday night. Sitting next to Mr. Normore is Professor F. R. S. Binding of Memorial University, who was elected president of the party. (Telegram Photo)

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Calvin Normore new NDP leader

Party now formally organized here

The New Democratic Party is now formally organized in the province for the first time.

Last night it adopted a constitution and elected a slate of officers.

Calvin Normore, a prominent Corner Brook labor figure, is the new party leader while Professor F. R. S. Binding of Memorial Univer-

sity is president of the party. The province has been divided into regions or councils.

Vice-presidents elected were: George Thomson, Baxter Fudge, Lowell Paulson and James J. Walsh, representing the Labrador council, western council, central council and eastern council respectively. Representative for the southern council was not elected.

Dr. Donald Barton, members of the faculty of Memorial University was elected secretary of the party and C. W. Strong, treasurer. Fraser March and Norman Whelan were elected as representatives of the NDP youth section. Esau Thoms and Charles Horwood were elected as local representatives on the national NDP council.

In his acceptance speech Mr. Normore, who will contest the district of Humber West against Premier Smallwood, called for "good, solid, democratic government."

"We have a leader who is no longer the servant of the people but the master of the people," he remarked.

Professor Binding, a former resident of Winnipeg, noted that the NDP founding convention in Newfoundland this week and the ultimate charter now represented formal NDP organization from coast to coast in Canada. The party, although it existed here with officers, was never formally constituted before in Newfoundland.

Professor Binding promised that the NDP would build "a strong political system" in Newfoundland. He suggested

that research and education departments be set up in Newfoundland to assist the party.

Last night's election of officers was one of the highlights of the convention, which started in St. John's last Saturday.

Another highlight will follow today with the arrival of National NDP Leader T. C. (Tommy) Douglas, who will mark the closing of the convention with a speech tonight.

Mr. Douglas is due to arrive at Torbay airport about 2:30 this afternoon and will be greeted by a motorcade. He will hold a press conference in the Newfoundland Hotel at 4:30. He will speak to an NDP rally in Pitts Memorial Hall tonight at 8 o'clock.