

ROBERTA

BASIL DEANE + FILE

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had been determined to depend on the public opinion in a democracy to rectify the injustice <sup>as the involvement that could</sup> to the Indians were being subjected to ~~subjected to~~ subjected to.

But ~~public opinion~~ <sup>actual</sup> & I was being proven right ~~in my~~ I had the great good fortune to have the support of a fine sincere individual Basil Deane <sup>the public</sup> & young <sup>reporter</sup> Art Snell. However the floodgates of public opinion when opened became at once terrifying as well as reassuring.

My <sup>some</sup> phone was constantly ringing, there was the odd person who <sup>egotistic</sup> ~~hated~~ <sup>seemed to regard so despise</sup> believed so sincerely in the supremacy of his own race as a self protection that he would phone to belittle me on the other hand

~~that~~ Basil Deane phoned to say they had never seen anything quite like it. <sup>unsolicited</sup> Money was being sent into the Herald to help the Indians fight.

That part was very clear to me so I insisted. ~~insisted~~ I guess to his relief it be sent back with thanks

The women I had known ~~in~~ for years in local Council of women were prepared with great practicalness to duplicate + mail out the letters necessary to be sent to Parliament clamping the facts that the act was being used for to perpetrate a breach of treaty

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the board of directors but has the sole authority and furthermore may appoint other persons of his choosing to speak for him.

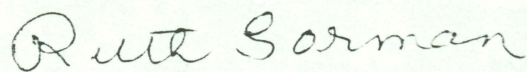
3. The third alteration I also regard as extremely dangerous is the addition of three words "any one supplier" to the clause that limits head offices expenditures without board consent - to \$2,000.00 - which is in section 8 of general regulations sub-section (i), page 13. This now allows unlimited funds being spent by \$2,000.00 going out to any number of suppliers without the boards being able to stop it and could bankrupt a party which is desperately in need of funds. It was unnecessary and very dangerous.

You are now in a position of electing zone directors (who will outnumber the recently elected board) and a new leader.

Possibly these dangerous sections were merely inserted in ignorance. Until the constitution is altered you can minimize the danger by first obtaining a pledged undertaking before election from the zone director or the party leader or the person in charge of head office that they will not use them.

You have striven hard to achieve a new and fine "grassroots" party where political power lies with the constituencies, it would be sad if legal loopholes in any way minimize it in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Ruth Gorman

I had <sup>some</sup> volunteers who were alcoholics <sup>or even addicted</sup> who felt <sup>sympathetic</sup> with the <sup>idea</sup> of <sup>some</sup> <sup>so-called</sup> <sup>schizophrenic</sup> <sup>mentals</sup> I had ~~confused~~ ministers who felt it was a matter that prayer alone should solve. My life became one of constant confusion. My Indians bless their heads at least had ~~first~~ <sup>some</sup> soul of some full in me + were content to let me carry on. Open at night I would have nightmares about all those people 122 of them, not counting ~~the~~ those being <sup>conceived or</sup> born out of wedlock + what would happen to them when thrust homeless into the cities slum areas

I was really neither cut out for nor trained for what I was doing + even as a lawyer I was deeply aware of the years of lack of practice that had predeceased ~~me~~ this. I decided that at least when I went to trial I must rely on experts that although I understood the strange machination of the Indian law that had been created by the department through the years I ~~little understood~~ <sup>never</sup> ~~the~~ had had practically no experience at all in a court of law <sup>only</sup> Fine magazine which was then an American Magazine with a section

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This would of course have caused further dissention. Beleiving you were accepting the old constitution which I felt was not too dangerous, and could anyway be replaced in the future I did not appear at the convention to speak to it.

Instead, the old boards constitutional committee introduced a constitution with amendments and this amended constitution managed to get approval.

President Schultz has written to inform me that our Advisory Group would be dissolved.

Since we were never an official committee of Western Canada Concept dismissal was irrelevant so the Advisory Group will continue to be independent as always and when requested our services will be available as needed.

I feel I must warn the members of our party that in our present constitution several "new" sections that were added by the old boards committee, some of who are now running as zone directors, can prove dangerous for the party's future.

Several sections are also rendered legally inoperative by their present wording but three dangerous sections that are new law governing the party are:

1. The power of the zone directors has been changed materially as they will become a very powerful group placed in a dictatorial position. They will outnumber and can outvote the president and the directors you elected without ever having to consult you, the constituencies. Among the sections I regard as both dangerous and undemocratic, is section 3(H), Page 7 of the constitution you received at the convention.

"Elected provincial directors must consult the zone director concerned before organizing or participating in any activities in that zone"

There is no means by which your elected director can act on your behalf nor is there any remedy or restriction on the zone director by his constituents. He has neither to consult with anyone nor inform you of anything.

2. There is another section that concerns me, section 7(F), page 12. By it the party leader is the sole public spokesman of the party on the matter of policy. He can consult with

...to Canada though the  
story vital enough to send a crew  
for special coverage. There ~~was~~ idea was  
to photograph me at the stove hopefully  
stirring an empty pot with the theme  
The Housewife who fights for the  
Indians but I bluntly put a stop to  
that & insisted they visit the <sup>advised</sup> Holena  
reserve & find what desolate the  
people were in there & get how this  
life to them was necessary & preferable  
to being cast jobless <sup>to lonely</sup> into city streets  
& under Bob Ogie <sup>then</sup> a ~~fine~~ <sup>new</sup> Canadian  
representatives they <sup>then</sup> did a good job  
& ~~under~~ emphatic job of what a ~~loss~~ <sup>at the same time</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>outraged</sup>  
of the case <sup>public of the department</sup> ~~meant~~ <sup>caused</sup> also of ~~they~~  
need for reforms ~~on~~ <sup>in</sup> care on the reservation  
rather than threats & persecution from  
the department.

I also knew that the ~~depa~~ sections to  
evict Indians from their reserve were now  
the law. <sup>signature</sup> In court I would always be  
backed up against that harsh <sup>wall of</sup> reality.  
All I could hope for <sup>of the future</sup> really was that  
public sympathy would ~~somehow~~ <sup>of the common</sup>  
reach through & sway the judge to  
find a technical loophole that might  
save those <sup>innocent</sup> 125<sup>th</sup> person from eviction  
or stop the department continuing the

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August 11, 1982

Dear Members of Western Canada Concept,

To correct a misapprehension that seems to exist among some members - I would like at this time to make it absolutely clear I had nothing to do with the amendments to this political party's constitution that were hurriedly pushed through at your last convention, nor do I condone these amendments. In fact I feel these amendments may create dissention and troubles unless their force is modified or nullified at your party leadership meeting and at your zone elections.

I feel all this party requires for success is unity. Your past constitution created conflicts as neither policy or power stemmed directly from the grass roots members. It also placed the party in a dangerous financial position.

I wished to design one that would prevent either elected directors, zone directors, president or leader from asserting their own personal opinions and ignoring the way chosen by the general membership.

In order to assure these reforms I asked several members, experienced experts, to join me in what we loosely called an "Advisory Group" and after many long volunteer hours produced an outline of policy and a new constitution for the party.

I was prepared to present this for your approval at the convention. However, a few days before the convention I was asked to meet with the constitutional committee, formed by the old board. I was told by them there would be no time at the Red Deer convention to discuss a new constitution, that their constituents members did not approve of the party constitution we had prepared and wanted their old one. These board members informed me that if I attempted to present a new constitution they would oppose it on the floor of the convention.