

It's been just about a year and a half since Paul Theodore Hellyer, former housing minister in the Trudeau cabinet, re-

signed his portfolio, disgruntled with Trudeavian economic policies.

And it's been just about six months since Hellyer's personal vehicle of dissent, a somewhat different political organization that's something less than a party but something more than a pressure group, surfaced in central Canada.

Action Canada was founded, in Hellyer's words, "to bring ordinary people into the mainstream of government," and to oppose the economic policies of Prime Minister Pierre

Trudeau.

The accompanying review of Action Canada is part of

Action Canada literature and in a Brunswick article with Mike McCafferty, a student at St. Thomas and the group's New Brunswick chairman.

Originally billed as a "citizens' pressure group," Action Canada's membership has mushroomed since last May.

ever, a definite membership figure is conspicuously absent from most of the group's propaganda and its members have already voted to field candidates in the next federal election.

employment, housing, and pollution. These national issues are developed through discussion in local meetings, then presented before a national forum where a national vote is taken, either by mail or by electronic means.

Hellyer's major policy proposal to fight inflation and unemployment is: mandatory wage and price controls. He sees this as "necessary to the regulation of the non-competitive part of our economies." In further discussing his pro-

lower and middle income families can afford new housing. To fight pollution they suggest replacement of the automobile, recycling gases and oils used to heat huge city buildings, stringent pollution controls, and elimination of the dumping of raw industrial and human wastes in our lakes and rivers. In addition, they suggest the development of alternative insecticides to replace those that damage our environment.

accomplished by sending coded telephone numbers to party members, and then having them telephone their vote to the Regional Office. There it will be tabulated and sent on to the convention floor, where it will be fed into a computer which will record the total vote. In this way, individual members will vote directly for what they want.

An acquaintance of Paul Hellyer, Mike McCafferty was employed last spring to set

jected "improved system", Hellyer attempts to prove that it is possible to operate a free open society with full employment and zero inflation.

To reduce unemployment, Action Canada maintains that taxes must be reduced so as to achieve a more equitable tax burden. Tax cuts will also speed up the economy to get things going. Also, in addition to the price and wage guidelines, low cost loans must be made through the central bank to business and the individual

Politically, Action Canada seeks to offer Canada an alternative party, especially in regards to the Liberals. Emphasis is on the defeat of Trudeau's government. This is to be achieved by fielding candidates against Liberal M.P.'s or by supporting non-Liberal candidates who endorse Action Canada's programs and policies.

Although some of Hellyer's proposals smack of socialism (mandatory wage and price controls) the party is basically anti-socialist, suggesting a neo-classical capitalistic solution to current

to stimulate the economy. This, they state, will lead to increased productivity, which will lead to increased employment, which will increase the consumers' supply of money, which will increase demand and production, thereby completing the economic circle.

On housing, Action Canada suggests the same solution of stimulating the economy and introducing wage and price controls to stabilize prices and bring interest rates down. Secondly they propose reducing the tax burden so

economic problems (increased productivity). Whenever they can they hope to undermine the NDP as well as the Liberals.

Action Canada will hold its first biennial National Convention October 1-3 in Ottawa. The purpose of this convention is to elect a president and vice-president, and to determine party issues and policies. This convention will be the first time that all party members will vote instead of only the delegates. This is to be

up Action Councils for the party in the Maritimes. Currently, he is doing volunteer work for the party, attempting to bring it up to electoral status in the Fredericton area. He is a member of the N.B. Provincial Advisory Council, as well as local representative of the party. He has plans for increasing local enrolment, among them the bringing of a guest speaker to the campus. He is highly optimistic as to the party's future, and believes sincerely that Action Canada offers the best solutions

to our current economic and social problems.

For further information on Action Canada you may contact Mike McCafferty, Rm 205 Harrington Hall, STU, or write to: Action Canada, 969 Bronson Avenue, P.O. Box 4430 Ottawa, Ont.



# ... a political alternative

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