

Happy to See Losses by NDP Says Defeated PC Candidate

Cecil Fielding, the Progressive Conservative candidate who ran well back in a field of three in Nickel Belt riding, said he was "happy to see Canadians return to the two-party line by turning their backs on the socialistic New Democratic party.

"I for one am very happy that socialism has been kicked right in the teeth," he said in a quiet private room in the Nickel Range Hotel, minutes after he left the committee rooms downstairs, well aware there was no chance of victory.

Fielding said he would continue to "fight, hope and pray" to keep socialism out of Canada. "The NDP came from Europe where it ruined England, Denmark and Sweden. The bunch of radicals now want to come into our country.

"I don't care whether the people go Conservative or Liberal just as long as we get rid of the socialistic element," said the two-time political loser within eight months.

LOST LAST FALL

Last October Fielding lost out in a provincial election attempt in Sudbury East.

There was nothing in the Conservative camp in Nickel Belt to cheer about last night.

Fifteen minutes after the polls closed defeat by a large margin seemed likely. The first tabulation posted in the committee room was at 8.15 p.m. with 10 votes for Fielding compared to Serre's 57 and Fawcett's 44.

The gap increased steadily as

telephones rang and new figures were posted, much to the growing disillusionment of the two dozen workers in the room.

Defeat seemed all too sudden.

An indication of supporters' confidence — prior to the returns coming in — was a sign hanging on a post which read: "Today is the DAY. We can and will win with an all out effort. Today we will pick up 1,000 votes with our solid work."

At 9 p.m., about five minutes before Fielding entered the almost quiet committee room, it was Fielding 2,904, Fawcett 6,315 and Serre, 7,992.

KEEPS CHEERFUL

Fielding patted backs of supporters, offered handshakes with a smile that brought a grin or smile to a few solemn faces. Minutes later he went up to his private room on the fourth floor of the hotel.

"I'm a little bit surprised at the mentality of the voters," he

said. He attributed the success of Prime Minister Trudeau to an image created by the news media.

Active in Progressive Conservative politics since 1942, Fielding said he is not going to give up. "I spent 10 years in the boxing ring and won two Northern Ontario championships. I've got up from the mat many times to win. I am still a fighter."

(In 1938 and 1939 he won the Northern Ontario light and featherweight boxing championships.)

During the day Fielding visited the 30 polling stations scattered throughout the riding, some as far away as 80 miles. He was at the committee room at 7 a.m., and soon after 9 a.m. voted with his wife Elvi at poll 42 in Waters township.

Supporters and campaign workers drew praise from the defeated Fielding, especially Jamie Wallace, campaign coordinator, and Joe Lapalme, campaign manager.