

PLAIN TALK by Bob Herbert

1 plus 1 equals 2

Most people have some knowledge of simple arithmetic, but it would seem that my friend Harvey Plaunt finds it convenient to forget all he ever learned. In his ad in the Speaker last week, he forgot arithmetic, common sense, or even common fairness. It was significant that he used the 'Plain Talk' heading. **Like most of the Liberal platform, it was stolen from the Conservatives.**

1. Harvey says I am afraid of being beaten by the CCF. I'm not afraid personally, but as I have some stake in the district, I don't want to see a CCF member at Queens Park. If Harvey would check the election returns for the past three elections, he would see that to win, he has to pick up some 2,000 Conservative or independent votes. Anything less than this will only ensure a CCF victory. **That's simple arithmetic, even if Harvey can't see it.**

2. I don't take full credit for building 30 schools. But as the member of Parliament, as a Progressive Conservative in a Progressive Conservative administration, I am entitled to be proud of this record. Mr. Plaunt says that the grants are automatic, and that all I had to do with them was attend the openings. **I suppose that under a Liberal administration Mr. Plaunt will personally supervise the laying of each brick.**

3. Mr. Plaunt says I had nothing to do with getting an extra grant of \$75,000 for the New Liskeard hospital. In fact I had many discussions with the Premier and the Minister of Health, pointing out the need for the grant, in support of the efforts made by the hospital board.

4. About roads. Apparently Mr. Plaunt can't read, and he certainly can't add. He says that all we have spent on roads is \$504,000. This figure represents development roads only. As I have stated in print, we have spent more than ten million dollars on main highways in Temiskaming since 1951. **I did make one mistake. The figure of ten million was an estimate. In fact, it is closer to fifteen million, and all in the district of Temiskaming.** And we have made grants for road work in municipalities and townships of one and a half million dollars.

5. Mr. Plaunt says that the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company has located in Michigan instead of Ontario. Personally I wonder if this was because of our financial policy, or because our department of Lands and Forests refuses to permit unrestricted cutting. When I look at some of the interests backing Mr. Plaunt, **I begin to suspect that our forests would be raped in the name of Northern development, if he had his way.**

6. As far as the Senior Citizens Home is concerned, surely as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party, I am entitled to be proud of the generous and farsighted policy of the government. I have never claimed to be more than a member of a team, and a pretty good team too. **And as a member of the team, I have had a part in our plays.**

7. Harvey is yakking about the Tri-Town bypass. He forgets that opposition to the route originally proposed was led by John Damiani, president of the Temiskaming Liberal Association, and at the time Mayor of Cobalt. **I suppose a Liberal administration would have ridden rough shod over everyone.** I am glad that we tried to reconcile the conflicting views.

8. Harvey makes a cheap crack about under-selling the district, and wants to know what I have done personally towards getting industry up here. I tried to get a brush factory located in the old public school at Cobalt. I got a group of promoters interested in a cement plant on the West road from Haileybury. A limestone plant for Earlton is still being considered. I made every effort possible to get John Mansville to locate at Latchford, and I am currently investigating a proposal for a new industry at Latchford. Not much success perhaps. **But a heck of a lot of hard work. And the only way we will get industry north is by this kind of hard work which will eventually pay off.**

I should also point out that at my insistence the government set up a land usage committee for Northern Ontario, consisting of the Premier, the Minister of Lands and Forests, myself and senior officials of interested departments.

I would remind Harvey that in 1958, **there was twice as much new agricultural ground cleared in Temiskaming** than in any other Northern riding, with grants of \$33,000 made by the government. More than \$25,000 has been spent on drainage work in Harley and Casey townships, with more planned for the future.

This is my last chance to run 'Plain Talk' in the weekly press. I hope that you will re-elect me, so that we can go on working for Temiskaming. I say 'We' because it's team work that counts. You, me, and all the rest of us who live in the North, And no hard feelings when it's all over either.

VOTE BOB HERBERT