

# Tory hoop-la



AT LAST WEEK'S National Tory Ontario kick-off campaign rally in Oakville two Acton people were introduced to Federal Progressive Conservative leader Robert Stanfield and Ontario Premier Bill Davis. Secretary Mrs. Gail Maltby of the Acton PCs and President Brian Cargill are pictured with the two leaders. The event was held in the Oakville Arena on Rebecca St. (Photo by D. O'Reilly)

TORIES BY THE THOUSANDS gathered at the Oakville Arena on Rebecca St. for the PC's Ontario kick-off campaign last week. On the Left, Top-Halton East MPP and Minister of Colleges and Universities George Kerr wrestles with one of the many balloons let down on the speakers' platform at the end of the night. Centre, the new and old faces of the Tories. Bottom-Mr. and Mrs. Rick Day and Mr. and Mrs. Bert Day display their political

leanings. In the middle are Mimi Stanfield, political cheerleaders and a young girl showing her political enthusiasm. On the Right, Top-Halton PC candidate Terry O'Connor addresses the crowd while Ontario Premier Bill Davis and Federal leader Robert Stanfield look on pensively. Bottom-The Tory crowd roars its approval after a speech by Stanfield. (Photos by D. O'Reilly)

## 5,000 PCs attend campaign kick-off

The largest and probably most exciting Conservative rally held in Canada in the current federal campaign attracted close to 5,000 Tories from as far east as Kingston, as far north as Burkes Falls and as far west as London to Oakville Arena Thursday for a gigantic rally.

The Tory calvalcade of stars included party leader Bob Stanfield, Ontario Premier Bill Davis, Paul Hellyer and Allan Lawrence, plus about 40 candidates from various Ontario ridings. Provincial cabinet ministers Jim Snow and George Kerr were also platform guests. With the exception of Davis who introduced Stanfield, none of the other platform guests spoke.

**Lively affair**  
Bus load after bus load promenaded into the arena behind their area candidates. The Tory band "Jalopy" kept a lively pace with rock and roll and specially designed songs for the occasion prior to and during the actual program.

The estimated 5,000 Tories at Thursday's rally for Stanfield was a far cry from the handful that met the PC chief at an Oakville plaza during a visit there in 1968 during his first campaign as leader.

Political writers who followed the 1968 campaign and are travelling with Stanfield this year claim a rally of that magnitude couldn't have been held in 1968. They use the event as a measuring stick for a brighter future for the Stanfield crew.

The fact Premier Davis has committed himself and his cabinet colleagues to help the Stanfield cause is expected to be of some assistance to the federal Tories. It is help Stanfield went without during his first term.

**Liberal ministers**  
Bill Walker, host of a TV game called Party Game, convened the rally. He said his TV show was based on the game of charades. "We don't say much, but wave our hands around a lot. We're like Liberal cabinet ministers in that respect."

Stanfield's speech offered very little in the way of new promises or anything he hadn't revealed before, but was composed of a

blistering attack on the Trudeau administration and an appeal to voters to consider the alternative. Stanfield said he suspected Canadian people are dreaming of a new government, that will get off the backs of the Canadian taxpayers; a government that will get Canadians back to work, a government that will stop "whitewashing" over national problems and bring decisive action and firm policy to the relief of a sick economy and troubled, anxious people.

**National scandal**  
Stanfield charged that when the Trudeau government's record and the cost of the unemployment insurance legislation is made known it will cause a national scandal.

He challenged Trudeau to open the books and reveal the cost of the program. "No-one in government admits to knowing the cost but Mr. Mackasey says he won't be concerned if the deficit runs to \$700,000,000," the PC leader said.

"I have reason to believe, as a result of the policy of treating the symptoms of a troubled economy rather than dealing with the causes, that there is a serious crisis in the finances of the unemployment insurance program and that the facts of it, and the dimensions of it are being concealed from the Canadian people," he charged.

Stanfield indicated his party could take present unsatisfactory conditions and turn them around by turning around the economic policy of the government. He said the country could not and should not have to afford half a million unemployed or the increased taxes promised by the Liberals Jan. 1.

**Four methods**  
Outlining four ways to cut inflation, Stanfield urged tax cuts, more prudent control over government programs and bureaucracy; by getting more Canadians back to productive work and reducing the staggering social cost and dollar cost of the high level of unemployment.

Removal of the 11 per cent tax on building materials is part of Stanfield's proposed change. He called for greater co-operation and consultation between the federal and provincial governments.

Premier Davis had introduced

Stanfield as a man who brings integrity, confidence and a commitment and a man who will make a great Prime Minister. In one of a number of attacks, Stanfield narrowed his sights on Finance Minister John Turner. He charged Turner was mauling out election speeches and paying with it from the public purse. "He never even told us he was opening up information. Turner. Who does he think he is—Edgar Benson?"

Noisy crowd  
Loud shouts of "go get him

Bob" boomed above the noise and clapping at frequent intervals in the party leader's address.

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Local candidate Terry O'Connor offered official thanks to Stanfield for his unwavering sense of duty and his tireless effort and pledged absolute support in the election battle on behalf of himself and the estimated 40 other candidates who attended.

The rally was covered by national television.

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