

Rockwood post office "chicken coop" Conservative M.P. Hales charges

The Trudeau government wasted money in the construction of Rockwood's new post office, a building described as "nothing more than a chicken coop" by the man who made the charge, Wellington M.P. Alf Hales.

Hales made the accusation during a 10 minute speech at a Meet the Candidates night sponsored by the Rockwood Ratepayers Association and held at Rockwood Centennial School last Wednesday night.

About 125 Rockwood and area residents turned out to fire questions at the Progressive Conservative incumbent, who is chairman of the prestigious public accounts committee in the House of Commons, and three of his four challengers in the October 30 election.

They are Liberal Jake Slinger, a pharmacist and a Guelph city councillor, NDP candidate Dr. Margaret McCreedy, a nutrition expert and former Dean of the University of Guelph's Macdonald Institute and Communist Party candidate Gareth Blythe, a University of Guelph sociology graduate, now employed at the Continental Can plant. The riding's fifth candidate, Marxist-Leninist Terry Theriault did not take part.

Waste spending
"They finally had to agree to brick it over, but still that building was put up without a permit or the federal government going before township council. I call that waste spending and arrogance," Hales charged.

Hales said the building was originally to have cost \$42,000, but he estimated the actual final cost will be over \$50,000.

"It's a serviceable building, but it cost twice what it's worth," he said.

Last year other alleged government spending atrocities, the public accounts chairman told of a \$258 bill to repair a medicine cabinet on the aircraft carrier Bonaventure and \$75,000 which was spent to buy imported tropical plants to decorate the offices of the Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Treasury Board.

Proposing solutions, Hales said the government could save \$10,000 by scrapping information



LIBERAL CANDIDATE Jake Slinger thinks hard on a question from the floor before giving an answer at last Wednesday night's Meet the Candidates night staged by the Rockwood Ratepayers Association. Waiting patiently l. to r. are,

Canada. He also said a Conservative government would not cramp the style of the auditor-general.

"We would allow free enterprise to function. 'Profit' is not a dirty word with us. People don't have the incentive to work otherwise," Hales said.

He said a Conservative government would remove the capital gains tax on the bona-fide transfer of property, that is family transactions and remove the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials.

Lower tax
In order to put more money into the pockets of workers, Hales said a Conservative government would lower the income tax by 4 per cent, rather than go ahead with the 3 per cent increase which the Trudeau government has planned for January.

"This would lead to greater spending and thus stimulate the economy," he claimed.

Communist candidate Gareth Blythe said his party would cut the work week to 32 hours with no cut in pay, establish a \$3 per hour minimum wage and an annual

Blasts concessions
NDP candidate Dr. Margaret McCreedy claimed that if all the grants and concessions which have been made to large corporations had been

M.P. Alf Hales, the Progressive Conservative candidate, NDP candidate Dr. Margaret McCreedy and Communist Party candidate Gareth Blythe. A fifth candidate Marxist-Leninist Terry Theriault failed to show up for the meeting.

distributed to all citizens of Canada, it would have meant an extra \$200 to \$250 spending money for each family.

"She said Canadians should be constantly on the alert to change the present pattern of 'an outside-owned Canada'. Construction projects such as the Mackenzie pipeline should be delayed until such a time as Canadians have enough money to finance it, she suggested.

In the social sphere, Dr. McCreedy said there is a special need for Senior Citizens housing and a renovated housing and mortgage company for Canada. Home day care under proper supervision is also needed, she added.

"We're getting very used to the idea of both parents having to work," she said.

Dr. McCreedy expressed the opinion the present government is not making use of people and their own ideas.

In his 10 minute address, Liberal Jake Slinger lashed back at Hales for his charges of government spending atrocities.

"Do you remember the Arrow and 'Dief the Chief' and how we

environment of any country," he said.

He claimed the Trudeau government has created more low income housing, sold more grain than any previous government, established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and the Vatican, ensured not less than a monthly income of \$100 for senior citizens and generally managed the economy through a period of uncertainty.

"Look around the world and tell me where else you'd want to be?" he asked the audience.

Slinger said Canada cannot afford the turbulence of the minority governments of the 60's.

U. of G. professor Wilson Woodside chaired the meeting for the question period which included two questions addressed to all candidates.

On the Opportunities for Youth program, Communist Blythe said establishment of a Youth Ministry is necessary to overcome the inadequacy of the program.

"We need to set up hostels and sports centres. Our party is calling for the setting up of a Sports Ministry funded with the \$250,000 taken out of the National Defence budget. This would help ensure we don't make such a poor showing at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal," he said.

Conservative Hales said he has no quarrel with the Opportunities for Youth program, but disliked the way it was handled.

"Do you know that only those projects which received more than \$15,000 will be audited? Under that will not be. I object to this," he said.

NDP'er Dr. McCreedy said she approves of the stimulation of ideas for youth, but added, "Surely these projects could be tied in more with local needs."

Liberal Slinger called the program "imaginative" but admitted it had its shortcomings.

"I'd insist that all projects be audited and would also recommend local councils to handle them," he said.

Asked what his party would do to improve the plight of pensioners, Blythe said once again the Communists plan a guaranteed annual income.

Dr. McCreedy said the NDP would provide an improved pension, better plans for senior citizens' housing and better locations for same.

Hales said a Conservative government would raise the



DEFENDING the Trudeau Government's treatment of the consumer, Wellington Liberal candidate Jake Slinger showed a Canadian Weekend Magazine article which ranked Canadian food prices favorably with those in other countries. (Photo by D. Gibbons)

Who said it? Prof quizzes

"Trudeau doesn't really know anything about women despite his recent marriage, if he does not know the impact of his proposed family allowance changes," — a charge you would expect to hear levelled from the Progressive Conservative or NDP camps.

Who made it and what party does the person represent? That's the question University of Guelph professor R. P. Forshaw posed to the four Wellington riding candidates who attended last Wednesday night's Meet the Candidates Night in Rockwood.

Quoting from a report he clipped from the Calgary Albertan during a visit to Western Canada, Forshaw said the person also suggested a Royal Commission be set up to investigate soaring food prices.

"There is a real relationship between nutrition and retardation and many Canadian

families do not have the money to provide their children sufficient high quality food," Forshaw quoted the person as saying.

Forshaw said the person also suggested a guaranteed annual income would help mothers, that the Liberal government has not responded to the needs of small businesses and that the government would have to step in if chartered banks do not carry out their responsibility.

Make guesses
"I'd guess the person would be NDP. I certainly agree with everything that was said," NDP candidate Dr. Margaret McCreedy replied.

Conservative candidate Alf Hales agreed the person must have been from the NDP, pointing out "our policy is incentive, not that."

Liberal Jake Slinger made no guess, but produced a recent copy of the Canadian Weekend Magazine which carried an article claiming food prices in Canada are relatively low compared with many other countries.

Communist candidate Gareth Blythe said he didn't know which party the person was with.

The mystery unravelled when Forshaw named Mary Guichen, Liberal candidate in the riding of Calgary Pailiser as the person who made the statements!

"I was rather surprised," he concluded.

pension enough to take care of the cost of living factor back as far as 1967. He estimated this would mean a monthly increase from the present \$80 - \$88 to \$92.

Slinger reminded the audience the Trudeau government has eliminated hospitalization premiums for senior citizens, increased their deduction from \$60 to \$1,000 and made sure no one over 65 gets less than \$150 per month.

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