

Inflation key issue, O'Connor tells Conservatives



TERRY O'CONNOR, incumbent MP for Halton, will represent the Tories in the July 8 federal election. It was decided Thursday. O'Connor was unchallenged at the Conservative nomination convention held at White Oaks Secondary School. Raising O'Connor's hand in victory is guest speaker at the convention, Michael Meighen, president of the Progressive Conservative party of Canada.

Inflation will be the key and foremost issue in the federal election campaign this summer, Halton Conservatives were told Thursday night at the party's nomination meeting.

Terry O'Connor will seek his second term in office. No one challenged his candidacy. The meeting held in White Oaks School on a stormy Thursday evening was attended by over 300 people but the mood was quiet compared to the more vociferous Liberal meeting just 24 hours earlier.

Michael Meighen, National President of the Progressive Conservative Association of Canada and a candidate in Quebec was the guest speaker.

Both he and O'Connor charged the government with mismanagement of the economy and failure to react to the problem of inflation.

Meighen debunked the anti-labor tag placed on the Tories. "Where that came from I simply do not know. But I do know that it has no basis in fact. I also know that during the last two decades there has been a tremendous tendency on the part of the Liberal party to use labor as its major scapegoat, to attack it as a source of inflation and to deny legitimate labor claims for the type of salaries and working conditions that

will only serve to bring many of the working men and women in this country up to standard with the cost of living."

Meighen tried to shed the party's reputation as a party for older people claiming the PC's have the largest political youth federation in the country. "I suppose the final and most important myth to respond to is the one that says that we as Progressive Conservatives, 'are the party of Bay Street' that we are the party of big interest and special interest."

"We have not been and are not the mouthpiece in this country for the multinational corporations. Traditionally that group has found itself more at home amongst those of the Liberal persuasion. The big international unions, who dole out both campaign funds and often campaign organizers have also never felt particularly at home with us. They feel more comfortable with the New Democrats."

Meighen said the party was regaining strength in Quebec and had some good candidates running in that province.

O'Connor called on party stalwarts to do their share of the work and help wherever possible. He told Tories in-

flation would be the key issue and would have to be debated openly.

The MP criticized the government for presenting a budget which contemplated a deficit of over \$500 million.



MICHAEL MEIGHEN was guest speaker at the Tory nomination convention last week.

"Despite this the minister urges restraint on other governments—municipal and provincial and on the private sectors of the economy."

"The matter of government spending and its phenomenal increase during the Trudeau years must be made a

significant issue of this campaign. It is not only a primary cause of inflation, but it also so perverts a situation that it warrants attention as a separate issue on its own. Every dollar the Government spends on our behalf obviously deprives us of the right to spend it. Our freedom or flexibility to manage our own lives is further eroded as governments make more and more of the decisions for us through expenditure of an increasing amount of our income.

"Let us look at some of the facts.

"In 1969, when there were 230,000 federal civil servants, Mr. Trudeau announced his much ballyhooed freeze on the number of public servants.

"This year the total is 333,000, an increase of 103,000.

"The budget of the Food Prices Review Board, Mrs. Plumpton's Posse - is up 99 percent - a fine example of restraint; the CIBC - up 25 percent or \$300 million; the Post Office - that bastion of computerized efficiency, those conquerors of wind, steel, snow and ice, but not their own union stewards - up 17 percent or nearly \$700 million; and the Treasury Board, whose function is to manage government expenditures doesn't even seem able to

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manage its own avocations appetite for spending. Their budget is up by \$320 million or a whopping 201 percent."

A P.C. government would postpone new programs and departmental expansion and cut out waste and inefficiency by means of a more powerful auditor general.

"The chief weapon in the inflation battle must include an economic stabilization plan involving a short freeze on prices, incomes, interest rates, dividends, rents etc., followed by a program of temporary and flexible controls.

"The short term freeze would be used as a period of consultation with provincial governments, business and unions to help determine the range and the limits and the

period for the controls. It would insure that those on particularly low incomes receive special considerations under the program.

"The program would not require a massive new bureaucracy, as most of the agencies already exist. The program would require however the co-operation of every Canadian."

O'Connor said it wasn't a panacea for all ills but a start. He claims price and wage controls would eliminate the situation where workers negotiated a settlement with a built-in clause for inflation.

O'Connor claimed many unions went to the bargaining table asking for 11 per cent for inflation and additional five per cent increment.

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Liberals choose Philbrook over Allen

Vowing to conquer "Terry and the Pirates" in the July 8 federal election Dr. Frank Philbrook Wednesday defeated Frank Allen to become the Liberal candidate for Halton. Close to 700 Liberals whooped it up in a barrage of red and white balloons, posters, red roses and shining red apples.

The evening had all the hoopla appropriate to campaigning as nine Oakville cheerleaders in red and white costumes screamed to be heard above the Philbrook brass band playing Canada over and over and over again. In sharp contrast to the pompous, Allen supporters were paraded into the room to the swirling bagpipes of the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band and a baton-twirling, high-stepping majorette.

Pearson Image Introduced as "a somebody who has looked after people,

not things," Philbrook seemed intent upon projecting a Lester Pearson image. He assured the crowd of his love for all people and his concern for their problems.

"I want a peaceful, just and decent world and a Canada of which we can all be proud," he said.

Quoting Lester Pearson that peace should be our main export, Philbrook spoke of a strong and independent Canada, united from sea to sea, being a good neighbor to other nations.

His political ambitions lie quite naturally in the fields of health and welfare, northern and external affairs. After graduating in medicine from the University of Toronto Philbrook supervised a mission hospital in Kashmir, India. He was medical officer on a World Bank project in West Pakistan in 1962.

Inflation A former director and board member of Ortho Pharmaceutical, he has been in private practice in Oakville one year. "I believe passionately in this country," he assured the voting delegates, "and I will give up practice to go all out in Halton."

Describing inflation as too many dollars chasing too few goods, Philbrook believes the proposed Liberal budget held many of the answers that would help those who are hurting most at the present time. He criticized the opposition parties for calling an election on the budget issue and feeling long term planning and deferring demand to be the answer to inflation.

"Fiscal expenditures should not be spent on consumption but on forms of investment," he said, "if we invest and expand it is anti-inflationary."

Philbrook was born in Toronto and grew up in and

around Halton. He and his wife Midge have three daughters, Marj 17; Cathy 15; and Jackie 10.

Frank Allen of Georgetown had as his campaign slogan The Clear Alternative. Although clearly not the elected choice of his party, he non-the-less came across as a forceful speaker, confident in his abilities and presenting an impressive stance as he towered in height over his opponent.

Allen was critical of the Conservative party, calling it an "irresponsible opposition." He was no kinder to the N.D.P. who he says have "lost all credibility and if no election were held soon, they were in danger of losing all their members." In a humorous tone he referred to their leader as "St. David the self-righteous and his son St. Stephen the younger."

"N.D.P. can only see what is right, not what is possible," he continued, "they have their strength in an unnatural alliance with the hard-nosed trade unionists and soft-headed intellectuals."

Tories Attacking the Conservative Party was easy for Allen, who claimed they are leader-less and policy-less. "The Tory slogan should be 'The Price is right, let's freeze the wages,'" he said claiming their only policy to be wage and price controls.

Anne Allen and sons Robert and Peter paraded behind the pipe band as it circled the room invoking votes. The family has lived in the Georgetown area for eight years and is currently



HAPPY LIBERAL, Marjorie Hall holds up a sign for her candidate at the nomination meeting Wednesday. Dr. Philbrook defeated Frank Allen.

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Mulkewich challenges Kemping

Walter V. Mulkewich, of Burlington, announced his candidacy for the NDP nomination in the Halton-Wentworth riding last week. Mr. Mulkewich, a former high school teacher now working for an educational publishing firm, said he didn't expect a strong Liberal campaign in the riding and wanted to offer an alternative to the PC incumbent Bill Kemping.

Mr. Mulkewich, 34, is a member of the Halton West NDP executive and the Provincial Council of the NDP. He ran as a candidate in the 1971 provincial election and worked as campaign manager in the 1972 federal election in the riding. He has worked with local civic groups and the Burlington Baptist Church. He lives at 459 Patricia Drive in Burlington with his wife Beverly and daughters Sharon, Jane and Miriam.

Bread and butter issues He expects his campaign will centre on "bread and butter issues such as inflation, cost of living, and housing". Although he will be meeting with party policy advisors before making any extensive statements, he said he supported all the requests of leader David Lewis on the defeated Liberal budget, including the 6 percent ceiling for housing. He is also in favor of price review and roll-back and the involvement of the federal government in land banks and mortgaging. He said all federal parties have been negligent in keeping up with current economic theory and developments.

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