

Inflation was the key issue at Meet the Candidate night

Thursday's Meet the Candidate meeting held at Rockwood Centennial school provided an opportunity for candidates to air their views of the present government. Much of the time provided as an opportunity for contenders to explain their own platforms was spent telling the audience what the present government is not doing or is doing wrong.

All candidates agreed that inflation is the key issue of the upcoming election although queries as to opinions on capital punishment, abortion and legalization of marijuana were also brought forth. Seven men attended as speakers at the meeting sponsored by the Rockwood and District Lions Club chaired by past-president Tom Gellatly and president Jimmie Milne.

Liberal
Speaking as the Liberal candidate, Dr. Frank Maine said the mid-summer federal election set for July 8 was irresponsibly caused by the opposition MP's defeating a sound budget of the Liberal government without telling what budgets they would offer. He said the present government is attempting to hold down inflation costs by taking positive steps which will soon show themselves. Dr. Maine said he would cut government spending by dealing with unemployment. He explained it as an area which should be investigated. "There are some cases where it is required but others where it is not," he said. "A person qualified with an education should work," he explained.

Speaking of the present government Dr. Maine said, "In Pierre Elliott Trudeau you have a strong, qualified, and experienced leader to lead Canada." He referred to the past local Wellington county leadership of Henry Hosking and Al Hales. "I would like to follow in their shoes," he said. "Asked if he believed in the legalization of marijuana Dr. Maine said, 'Not until I have further information available to the public.' As far as he is concerned, not enough evidence has been established to come to any positive conclusions. "What was provided in the budget for those who need it most?" said one senior citizen and Dr. Maine was noncommittal but said that the only answer is that the government recognizes the problems of those on fixed incomes and is working on it. "Regarding a question of capital punishment and how it should be handled Dr. Maine said that, as a representative of his constituency he would attempt to find out the feelings of the people in his riding and take them to parliament. "My own personal opinion is," he said, "that I am against all killing, euthanasia, war and capital punishment."

He was asked about the cost of oil and importing it from the middle east as opposed to shipping it across Canada with a pipeline running from Sarnia to Montreal. He pointed out that the 500 miles from the two places would take three years to implement. "We would have all kinds of extraordinary problems," he said and mentioned use of lots of steel as disrupting economy and creating rafts of problems. He said that charging export tax to U.S. from Venezuela was structurally economic.

Punnett
"There is one important issue in the upcoming election," said Gerald Punnett, the second speaker. The N.D.P. representative for Wellington went on, "How to

beat inflation." He said the cost of living is going up and will continue to go up. "The N.D.P. policy is to fight inflation and will recommend new laws to end generous tax hand-outs to corporations and penalize excessive profiteering," he said. He specified that government spending must be carried out efficiently and effectively for the betterment of all Canadians.

On oil and natural costs the N.D.P. man said, "It is ludicrous to pay high prices for what we produce ourselves." He said his party advocates a two price system one for Canadians and a higher one for the world. He said that large corporations are charging what the market will bear rather than basing prices on cost of production. He said the N.D.P. government will stand up to such corporations and set up a price review board.

Mr. Punnett feels that marijuana should be legalized. "Yes, it should be legalized, but with controls," he said. He also said he was against capital punishment.

Communist
In speaking for the Communist party of Canada, Gareth Blythe said that inflation is not a complex problem but the unprincipled gouging of monopoly consumers. He said that the Progressive Conservatives and Liberals are perpetrating a dangerous myth that wages are causing inflation.

He said that if Canadians were getting higher wages they would be able to buy more at the stores. He said those with political and economic powers were using those powers and listed items which have spiraled in costs since 1972. "Inflation is bringing a bonanza of profits to the monopolies, the multinational corporations, the speculators and big landlords," he said.

Mr. Blythe touched on U.S. monopoly capitalism, "which" he said, "with the connivance of sections of Canadian monopoly has exported unemployment, inflation and the currency into Canada." He advocated the fight for Canadian independence and for an independent, sovereign and united trade union movement. "The fight for genuine Canadian independence can only be led by the united working class of our two nations in alliance with all democratic forces."

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he said and pointed out that this is the way the Canadian people will be able to determine their own destiny. "The working people can only defend and advance their positions by curbing the power of monopoly," he said.

The Communist representative said that world buyers see Canada not as competition but as a supplier of raw material. "Economy dominated by relatively few monopolies," he said and stressed the importance of getting control of our own resources.

He was adamant that marijuana should not be legalized. He said he opposed capital punishment. In today's living standards there is a tremendous strain on family life and pressures are intolerable. "In most cases of homicide it is unpremeditated but individuals have become trapped," he said and explained that in many instances the word victim should be applied to the person who has committed the crime. "Not as much victims as they are the victims," he said.

Asked if the Communist believes in violent overthrow of a government Mr. Blythe said the position of the Communist party is that it opposes a government-controlled economy. He said that overthrowing a government does not have to be violent but was told by the questioner that most socialist revolutions can't be peaceful affairs as the ones heard about are violent and bloody.

Independent
A surprise speaker was an Independent who said his

platform was that of keeping Canada's resources within its own boundaries. Walter A. Tucker was the speaker who said, "Up until three weeks ago I was looking for someone to vote for but the only people I saw to vote for were people offering me higher prices." He said that everyone knows that our country today is a rip-off. "The car I drive was probably made with Canadian materials with Canadian hands in a factory backed with Canadian money," he said and pointed out, "This country belongs to those who live here." He said "When someone says to me it would take months and months to build a pipeline across our country I'd be suspicious." He pointed out areas where Canadians are paying high costs to pay for materials produced in Canada. "Canadians pay fantastic costs to pay for their own forest materials," he said.

Mr. Tucker feels that too many Canadian dollars are spent uselessly attempting to make investigations and apply penal discipline which finally ends in development of prison types as opposed to stopping criminal activity. He said that during prohibition the R.C.M.P. and O.P.P. couldn't stop consumption of liquor and that in the case of hashish and marijuana that will not be stopped either. "But I'll tell you what," he said, "the government will spend millions of dollars playing around with the stupid thing." He said he was against capital punishment and killing of all sorts. He felt that, in the matter of

abortion it should be allowed first time with no question and also the second time. He felt that to require abortion the third time it would have to be a mental problem.

"One of the things I would like to see happen in this country," said Mr. Tucker, "is that when people reach the age of 60 years they should be able to use that time to study and work towards retirement."

Marxist-Leninist
Terry Theriault was the next speaker, a Marxist-Leninist who says his party resolutely supports the workers' struggles on the economic front. He led off with telling his audience that, although monopoly capitalists are obscure, there is an economic crisis looming in Canada. He pointed out that, during 1973, the cost of living rose by over 9 per cent and food prices rose by 17 per cent while unemployment remained at nearly 6 per cent.

"While the actual purchasing power of the working people has decreased, the profits of the monopoly capitalists rose by well over 50 per cent and the same pattern is continuing in 1974," he said. He said that technological changes have been introduced into Canada which will lead to layoffs and lowering of job classifications and wages. "Hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers in major cities face the worst kind of economic exploitation and the burden of the economic crisis is shifted onto their shoulders to the maximum," he said. He explained that thousands of immigrant workers are viciously exploited as farm

laborers in the countryside with the workers fighting capitalists every inch of the way.

The Marxist-Leninist said, "I do advocate the violent overthrow of a democratic government. I'll put it this way," he said, "In the face of inflation workers should be organized to defeat inflation."

Mr. Theriault said he was in favor of capital punishment.

New liberation
"We think that costs have gone up due to high cost of government," said Brian Seymour, running for the New Liberation Party of Canada. Mr. Seymour said his party's platform is "To stop the government taking so much of our money."

"Your wages are being taken from you," he said. "Last year wages were up eight per cent with the cost of living up to 9.6 per cent," he explained, and compared the first quarter of this year with inflationary costs up to 3.4 per cent. He said wages will never be able to meet the rise in costs. "We think that Canada is slowly becoming a socialist country in a welfare state," he said.

Mr. Seymour said his party had never been able to come to an answer on the abortion question but that his personal opinion is "I don't know when life begins or ends or when it is able to exist on its own. Until I hear a satisfactory answer to that, I don't think there should be any restriction on abortion for the first 12 weeks."

"Yes," was Seymour's answer to legalizing the use of

marijuana in Canada.

Progressive Conservative
Bruce Payne, for the Progressive Conservative party, said there is a rate of inflation in Canada we've never had in 20 years and that the government, in refusing to acknowledge the existing problem obviously has no plans for solving it. He estimates that the value of Trudeau's promises to date is at three million dollars and said hypocrisy is there when the government continues to only talk about instituting income and price control if inflation gets out of control. "The only reasonable alternative to such hypocrisy is Mr. Stanfield and the Conservative party," he said.

Canadians should not allow themselves to psychologically accept the idea of inflation as a necessity. "Obviously there are certain inflationary practices which must be kept under control," he said, listing government spending and housing as two important ones. "We would have to fight inflation on a number of levels." Speaking about farms Mr. Payne said his party would not apply freezing controls but would hope to keep farm costs from going up. "The farmer's capital costs are on an all-time high," he said.

Attendance
During his talk Mr. Payne attacked unemployment, unemployment insurance, housing and government spending. One young lady in the audience asked a pertinent question. She wondered how Canadians can beat their problems if their representatives in government

Call tenders to expand station

Tenders are being called this week for the construction of extensive turkey and poultry research facilities at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Arkell Research Station, a few miles southeast of Guelph; the Hon. James Snow, Minister of Government Services announced.

The research program to be carried out for the Ministry by the University of Guelph involves undertaking controlled studies of genetics, physiology, nutrition, environment and management of turkey and poultry raising. The units will comprise six single-storey buildings with floor space totalling approximately 55,000 sq. ft. One will house adult turkeys and the remainder chickens, in

dates had said, was there anything which could benefit him and the things he would like to see happen? No substantial answer was given. After each allowance of ten minute speaking time, speakers were allowed to answer questions from the floor. Approximately 75 people attended the meeting and, at its conclusion, coffee was served.

structures which include an adult brooder, special study building, service building and experimental processing plant.

Building specifications call for masonry walls and foundations with wood trusses, the walls being insulated and covered with pre-finished steel siding. Roofing and ceilings are also pre-finished steel and interior finishes are concrete floors, painted block and plywood partitions. All buildings are heated by individual oil-fired hot water boilers.

Brais Frigon Hanley and Associates Limited, 100 Argyle St., Ottawa, are associate architects for the project, which is expected to be complete in the fall of 1975.

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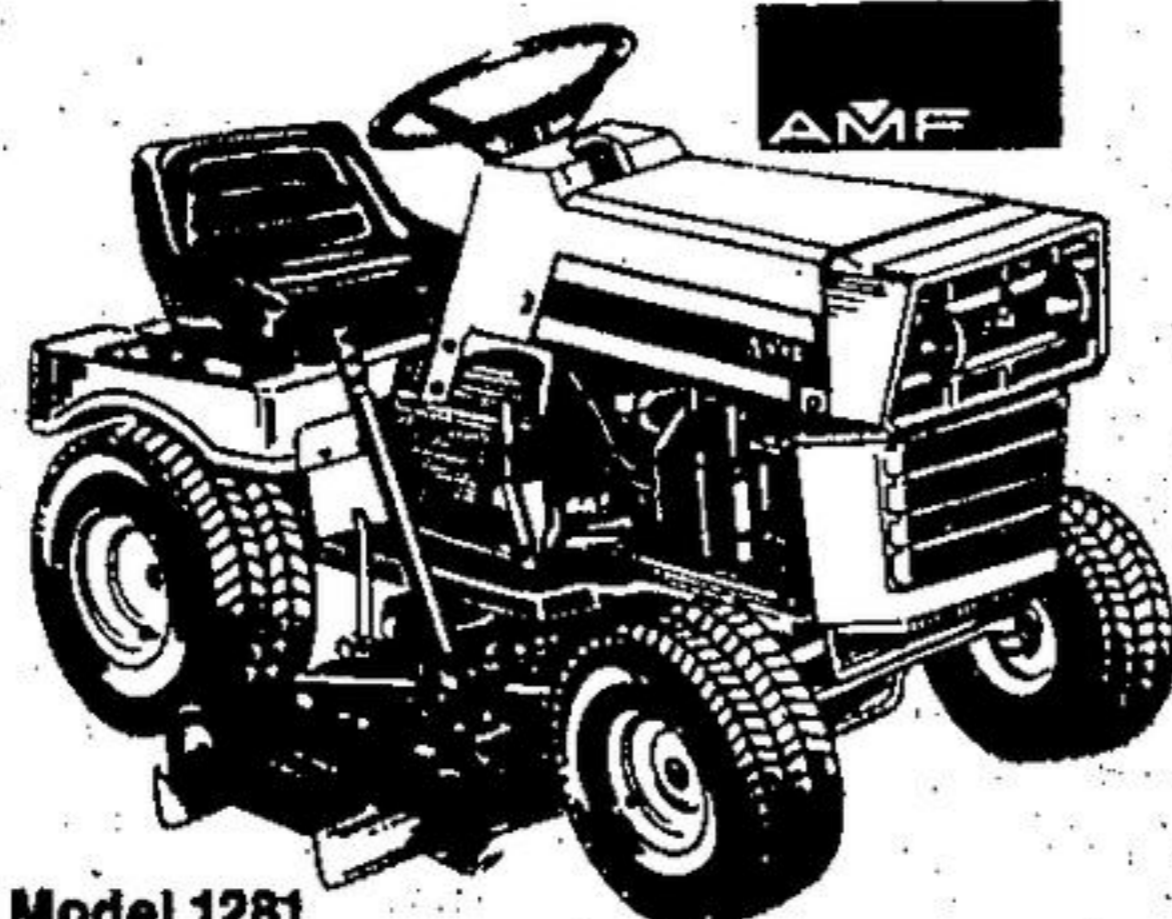
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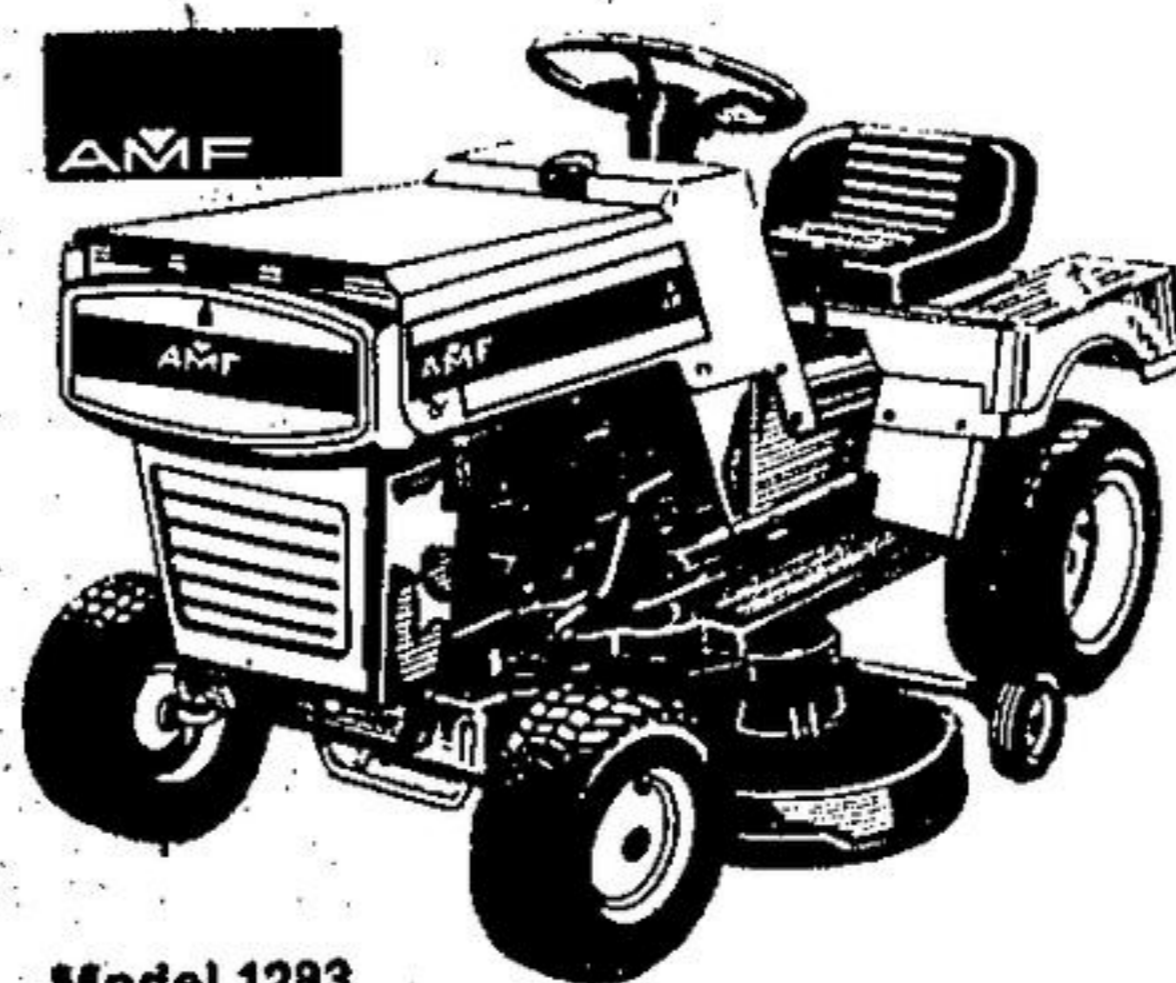
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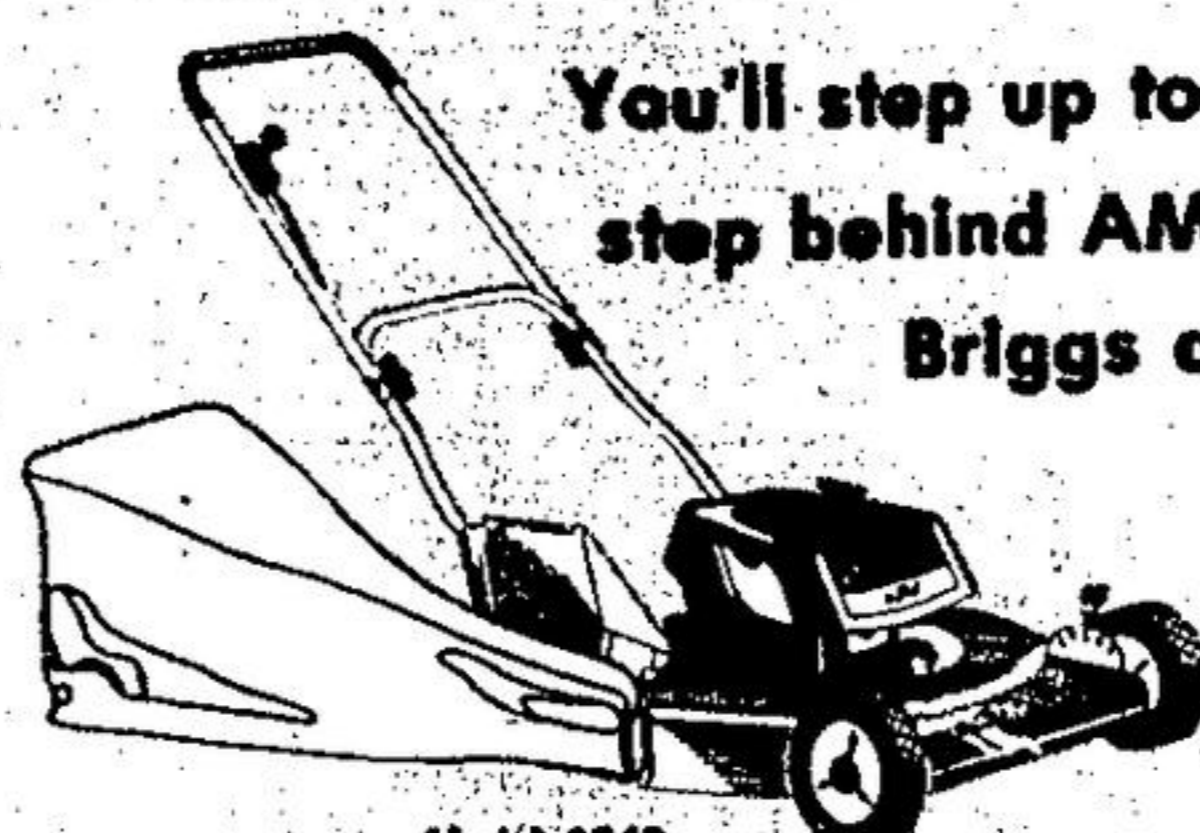
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Inflation and Government Spending

During the past few weeks of the election campaign the Liberal government has made promises which will lead to another \$664,000,000.00 being tacked onto Canada's budget. These promises are in addition to the reckless spending outlined in the May 8 budget... spending up to \$4 billion over last year and which by itself would have led to a deficit of \$500,000,000.00 this year.

The Progressive Conservative party is firmly pledged to reduce government spending... to go slow on new spending and to cut back on such ill-managed schemes as unemployment insurance. We believe that government must take the first steps to stop inflation in Canada. Reduced government spending, short-term wage and price controls and re-structuring of economic policy will bring inflation under control in Canada.

Vote for Terry O'Connor, and for the party that has the guts to do something about inflation.

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