

PC leadership convention

Fran Baines tells why she supports Fraser

A special report
By Bob Hurtt

Fran Baines takes her politics seriously. For the past two years she has been clipping newspaper reports and reading speeches about and by Tories who have indicated a desire to be the next Federal Conservative Leader.

In an interview the Georgetown woman discussed the direction she feels the country should go and the man she feels best equipped to take it there.

"She is one of several Halton residents who will be among the 2,600 delegates sharing in the task of selecting a replacement for Robert Stanfield.

"Unlike many delegates who will flood in to the nation's capital, or as close as they can get to it, Fran has made a commitment to a 'serious event'.

"Fran looks to John Fraser, an experienced British Columbia MP to turn the tide for the Federal Tories. 'I've been watching since 1974, hoping I would have the opportunity to be involved. This is a serious event for our party and as a Tory, I hope it will be a serious event for the country.'

"I've been reading copies of speeches for some time and taking a hard look at making a first choice. I'll work for John Fraser.

"Our delegation has met candidates on a few occasions now. Some blunt questions are being asked but there aren't as many blunt answers.

"The size of the government and the amount of government spending are the questions that keep coming up. There is a lot of concern about law and order as well.

"Governments have an increasing control over people's lives. A government has



"HE'S WHAT the country needs."

to be tough and prepared to set controls that will be unpopular," she said.

"Don't take initiative. Fran recognizes the need for government to be involved in a lot of areas but pointed out the dangers.

"A government and society that won't help those who can't help themselves is not much of a society, but some of the controls and restriction take away the initiative for people to do things themselves.

"If people can sit back and know they'll be taken care of, it takes away the desire and initiative to take care of one's self."

Fran says idealistically that John Fraser can go all the way. "I believe he is what the country needs." "A first choice has to be made but I'm realistic enough to know I

could have to make a second choice."

She describes Fraser as a very determined and positive person. "His determination and directness appeal to me. You can count on a direct answer if you ask him a question, even if the answer is, 'I don't know.'"

One failing Fran says the inability to say "I don't know" is the failing of many politicians. She says she doesn't feel the average voter expects politicians to have an answer for every question. Those who talk around the question miss the point, she says.

"There just are not a lot of easy answers. It's not an easy time for governments to govern."

"Trudeau has no lack of intelligence but what he does lack is warmth. John has that. He appeals on a personal basis."

"I think we need someone who can appeal to more than the sophisticated people or the top 10 per cent of the population."

There again, she feels Fraser can fill the bill. "Life hasn't been a silver spoon for John. He comes from a middle class family. When he graduated from law school he had pack horses and ran a pack train until he paid off his debts."

8-10 are serious Fraser ran in the 1968 election and was defeated, ran again and won in 1972 and was re-elected with a fantastic majority in 1972. Fran said, noting that British Columbia is a province where the PCs haven't done well.

Of the 18 declared candidates for the leadership, Fran regards eight or 10 of them as serious candidates but few of them have the experience in the party that Fraser offers, she says.

"His experience in the party includes President of the BC youth organization and National YPC president. He has served as labor critic and environment critic. In all he has been in the party for 26 or 28 years and we don't have many people in the house with that kind of experience."

Keeping in mind the vast geographical area and the many regional differences in Canada, a leader from outside English speaking Ontario has certain advantages, Fran feels.

"You need someone from outside the industrialized area of Ontario to realize the real differences that exist. You find a lot of the same problems but there are many problems Ontario people don't know about and don't understand. The west feels just as



"I'VE MADE a first choice."

alienated from English speaking Ontario as Quebec does.

Regional feelings "People have to have the feeling that government is for all languages and all people. It's almost impossible, but there is a feeling in the country that almost always the special attention is here (Ontario).

"There is a lot of regional bitterness. Too often when a government does something for people in the north it is done from a lack of understanding from our point of view.

"People in Nova Scotia say you don't understand us. We could relate better if our leader was not from Ontario."

During a six week holiday trip across Canada last summer Fran met a lot of Canadians, gained a better insight into Canadian life and had many of her personal convictions confirmed.

"Today I'd say Canada is the number one country to be living in. But we aren't really utilizing our resources or our people to the fullest."

Broader spectrum "Charisma is not as important as it once was," Fran said, noting the new leader whoever he is will have to relate to a broad or spectrum of the population, not just to the sophisticated level at the top.

"I think there is a feeling that the strong right wing people would like to turn the clock back. You can't do that. But there is a common feeling that there must be a return to some of the old time values. There's a feeling that we've gone too far with permissiveness and it's time to come back. I think all of the parties feel this."



"OUR LEADER should be someone outside English-speaking Ontario."

Fran's commitment to Fraser has led her into an active role on a national level to persuade delegates that he is the man to be the next PC leader and the next Prime Minister.

When the convention rolls around in February, he will find herself working and working hard to keep track of delegates and persuading those hopefuls who drop out to give their support behind Fraser.

And one for Flora The convention slated for Feb. 19-22 will be held in Ottawa. For the Halton Burlington Tories, president of delegates and second federal leadership convention.

While he is busy promoting Fraser, another prominent Halton Tory is working around the clock and travelling across the country doing what he can do to promote Flora Mac Donald as the new leader. Former MP Terry A. Gomer has been working in that capacity for about 120 months now.

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