

Transport minister says:

Ont. needs majority government

The greatest help the economy of Ontario could receive in the next provincial election is the return of a majority Progressive Conservative government. Minister of Transport and Communications Jim Snow told members of the Halton-Burlington PC at their annual meeting at the Hornby Towers Golf Club Friday.

This statement reversed previous statements that minority government in Ontario is working.

"It's this lack of confidence in our government which is causing the problems," he said. "That's why we have high unemployment and high inflation. Our neighbors to the south are backing out. They want a stable Ontario government."

At a time when a separatist government has taken power in Quebec and when other socialist parties are emerging in other provinces there is even a greater need for a majority PC government in Ontario, he added.

Bill Kempling, MP for Halton-Wentworth, agreed with Mr. Snow on this point. "Contrary to popular belief minority government is not good for the people," Mr. Kempling said. "It's difficult to administer in a minority position because the ministers have to always be in parliament."

Picking up on this later the provincial candidate for Halton-Burlington, George Gray added, "The problem is that the ministers have to spend all their time in the house working on staying in government."

"In a majority government Mr. Davis and his senior ministers could spend their time solving the economic problems and dealing with strategy to resolve the situation in Quebec," he explained.

Although the purpose of the annual meeting was to elect a new executive for the riding along with providing a starting point for Mr. Gray's campaign it was Mr. Snow who stole the show with his off-the-cuff speech which hinted at a possible June election.



LOOKS LIKE a pretty good likeness George. Members of the Halton-Burlington Progressive Conservative Association congratulate the candidate George Gray on his choice of posters as they prepare for a possible June election.

Mr. Snow warmed up the audience by telling them an election could be provoked Tuesday if the Liberals and New Democratic Party members ganged up against the governments proposed Rent Control Bill.

"The premier has not said whether it would show non confidence or not if the bill was defeated," Mr. Snow said. "But it is an important bill to be defeated on."

Mr. Snow explained that the bill would retain the rent controls until December at a maximum rate of eight per cent. He added, that tenants could request a rent review at any rate.

"The NDP and the Liberals, however, he said both want the maximum increase to be six per cent."

The NDP have already stated the eight per cent figure is totally unacceptable leaving the election issue in the hands of the Liberals said Mr. Snow.

Mr. Snow felt both the building owners and tenants could live with an eight per cent maximum while a six per cent maximum would create three to four times as many cases and clog up the rental reviews.

Although Mr. Snow could not predict a June election the campaign managers for Mr. Gray announced that they were proceeding under the assumption there would be one.

"If an election should not be called on our target date then we may look dumb but we'll be prepared," said campaign manager Frank Wilson. "However, if it is called and we're not ready we'll look dumb and unprepared."

In contrast to Mr. Snow's off the cuff speech Mr. Gray read from a prepared text and apologized beforehand for having to squint at his copy because of inadequate lighting in the room.

Sensing the time was right

Members of the executive are (l-r) second vice-president Bob Reed, past president Fran Baines, first vice-president John MacArthur, president Eric Gudgeon, George Gray, secretary Irene Saunders and treasurer Al Dunn.

for an early election Mr. Gray said, "I believe the time is fast approaching when, if the Ontario opposition parties do not cause the government to fall, that Mr. Davis, should, in the interests of Canada, go to the people of Ontario, and ask for a majority mandate in order to provide strong opposition to the Liberal government in Ottawa, and to provide a strong Conservative government to deal with the socialist leaning P.Q. government of Quebec."

It was both the P.Q. in Quebec and the lack of leadership by the federal Liberals that Mr. Gray lashed out at in his speech.

"Everyone agreed following the election (Quebec) that their strategy would be to institute good government and use their success as a

springboard, and reason for the people to effect separation," he said. "It appears now, however, that their strategy is to proceed post haste to create an environment in which to hold their referendum."

He criticized the federal government for reneging on their campaign promise to provide funds for rapid transit development in Ontario while at the same time dropping \$1 billion in C.I.D.A. last year for projects such as dispatching a load of bulk grain to a port in Ghana which had no bulk grain unloading facilities and had to be returned to Canada.

Mr. Gray felt confident that with hard work from his supporters he could unseat the Liberal incumbent Julian Reed in the next election.

"The riding was only lost by 400 votes," he said. "At that time the Gallup polls did not show the 44 per cent party popularity in Ontario that we now enjoy. Mr. Davis did not have the 59 per cent popularity which he now has, compared incidentally, to Mr. Smith's incredibly low 13 per cent."

In outlining a campaign platform Mr. Gray said he would pursue the location of new industries in Halton, the construction of new senior citizen homes in Georgetown and Acton, endorse the Halton Hills resolution which called for construction of licensed nursing homes and support the development of multiple landfill sites as opposed to the land fill site at Site "P".

The final part of the meeting dealt with the election of new officers. Elected by acclamation were president Eric Gudgeon, first vice-president John MacArthur, second vice-president Bob Reed, secretary Irene Saunders, and treasurer Al Dunn.

The new area directors previously elected at other meetings were announced at the meeting. Representing Acton is Bert Hinton, Burlington-Jane Hallway, Georgetown-Peter Ramsay, and Milton Mel Phelps.

Vet wreaths concern member

On Tuesday, April 12, Jack Johnson, M.P.P., Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, raised the matter of memorial wreaths purchased every year by the Ministry of Government Services, which employs disabled veterans.

Mr. Johnson had earlier been told by friends and members of the Royal Canadian Legion in Wellington-Dufferin-Peel that the government was considering letting the contract for memorial wreaths out to tender. Mr. Johnson noted that "in most cases this is the only fair way to let contracts. However, where people who have fought for our country are concerned the government is duty bound to ensure that they continue to supply memorial wreaths."

The question raised in the house by Mr. Johnson was to the Minister of Government Services, the Honorable John Smith. Mr. Johnson specifically asked as to whether or not the minister intended to let the contract out for tender.

The minister replied that he had "no intention of asking for other tenders or other suppliers."

Supplementary question, Jack asked the minister if he "would...consider informing the Ontario command of the Royal Canadian Legion that the Ontario Government will continue to purchase wreaths directly without tender from Vetcraft Industries?" The minister

replied that he would do so and also inform the Legion how much the government appreciated what the wreaths and the Legion stood for.

Mr. Johnson commented outside the house that he had been surprised that "anyone would ever consider depriving Vetcraft Industries of the contract. I was sure that it was just a rumor but had to be certain. It would be totally unacceptable to me to have the contract tendered out and have these good men lose their jobs. Also, the wreaths would lose their meaning on Remembrance Day if they were made elsewhere."

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\$80,000 work awaits Kelso

Close to \$80,000 worth of improvements and development work will be undertaken at Kelso Conservation Area by the Halton Region Conservation Area, Natural Resources Minister Frank S. Miller has announced.

These general improvements will include fencing, gates, landscaping, beach and turf development and reservoir bank erosion control.

Habitat improvements will include fish stocking. Buildings and utilities improvements will include the installation of sanitary facilities, completion of area workshop and improvements to the Archie Service Building.

Planned construction projects include picnic tables, signs, playground facilities, roads and parking lot.

Critical of gravel report

George Jewett, chairman of the Ontario Mineral Aggregate Working Party, and David Wright, Liberal Candidate for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, were guest speakers at a recent meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists at York University in Toronto.

Mr. Jewett explained the gravel policy that is recommended for Ontario by the Working Party. This policy is to replace the existing Pits and Quarries Act of 1971.

Mr. Wright, representing the 20,000 member Foundation for Aggregate Studies, saw no reason to scrap the existing Act. He did however suggest a number of ways of improving it.

Critical

Mr. Wright was most critical of 'The Working Party's report in the following areas: 8c levy per ton of gravel extracted is not sufficient for rehabilitation purposes—25c would be more to the point. Abandoned pits should be rehabilitated within 10 years, not 90 years. Truck haulage should not be encouraged but discouraged or rail and/or barge. The Act should be under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Environment. The Department of Mines should be back up support to the gravel industry—their original reason for being in existence. Mr. Wright concluded it was totally unacceptable to take the decision making process out of the

hands of the local governments. If a city, village or township wants or does not want gravel pits, that's their business. This is particularly so since the Working Party themselves dispelled the myth that there is a scarcity of gravel. Even the City of Guelph would be told to extract their share, 1688 acres.

After Mr. Jewett's and Mr. Wright's statements, questions were taken from the floor. Mr. Hoag of the Working Party challenged Mr. Wright's suggestion that the Working Party report was an aggregate study, where as the F.A.S. report was a social study. Mr. Hoag suggested that Leo Symmes kept the Working Party honest. Mr. Wright suggested one or two socially conscious members out of fourteen were not too good odds. However, he conceded Mr. Symmes' presence did show through here and there. Mr. Wright went on to say that it was the public that forced the government to bring forward the original Act. Wright read a statement from the Minister of Natural Resources, Leo Bernier confirming this, and in Wright's opinion it was the public that forced a second look. However, it's the gravel industry that will benefit if this proposal goes through, according to Mr. Wright. After a fairly heated hour of discussion the meeting came to a close, with the guests being thanked by the Federation.

Horner welcome Philbrook says

Jack Horner, the 19-year veteran Tory MPP will be welcome among Liberal MPs as long as he can feel comfortable in the Liberal party and with the views it represents, Halton MP Frank Philbrook said recently.

Mr. Philbrook was questioned on the matter after Mr. Horner crossed the floor and joined the Liberal

Dr. Philbrook said there was no doubt concerning Horner's ability and his 19 years as an MP makes him a valuable man.

Horner told the House of Commons he felt he could represent the west and specifically Alberta in the cabinet and make a strong contribution to national unity.

"Time will tell whether the deal is acceptable on that basis. The big question is whether he can truly feel at home. The higher ups have looked pretty carefully at that and seem satisfied," Philbrook said.

Horner was a candidate for the PC leadership last year. He has a reputation as being to the right of the political spectrum and because of that, his defection to the Liberal party came as a surprise to a lot of people.

Spring dance attracts 100

The Nassagaweya Progressive Conservative Association held a spring dance at Brookville Hall that attracted more than 100.

Music was supplied by Harry Arbie's Discotheque of Acton running from rock to square dances with Max Storey doing the calling.

Among those present were M.P. and Mrs. Bill Kempling, Bob Jones, president of the new Federal Riding Association, Councillor Brad and Mrs. Clements, Councillor Huss and Mrs. Powadiuk and Mr. and Mrs. George Gray. Mr. Gray is contesting the next provincial election. Dr. Ben Young, one of the senior Progressive Conservatives in Nassagaweya was also present.

Association president Ken Murray assisted by his wife Doll and their daughter, Mrs. Marilyn Ottawa, second vice-president welcomed the crowd with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wood, first vice president.

"It was good to see a truly grass roots association attract so many newcomers and display so much vigor and enjoyment," Mrs. Maurice Newton, one of the members, reported.

Pleased with map, directory

The Acton Chamber of Commerce were very pleased with the success of the first publication of their local map and directory, according to secretary Betty Eastwood.

Mrs. Eastwood said the chamber is hoping for a second publication in the near future.

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DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS MAY 14, 1977

Mail Your Entries To:
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Box 415, Acton, Ontario L7J 2M7

— NOTICE —

RE: REGIONAL GOVERNMENT BILL 151, TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

The Council of the Town of Halton Hills will receive written submissions from the public or any individual group, regarding Regional Government as it affects the Town of Halton Hills. A special committee of council will review these submissions for possible revisions to Bill 151.

IMPORTANT: The date for receiving written submissions has been extended from April 27 to May 16, 1977.

Address to:
Re Bill 151

Mr. G.D. Pritchard
Clerk-Administrator
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36 Main Street South
Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4X1