

200 meet candidates



George Gray

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Minority government is working fairly well - better than the government we had for the seven years before.

In the last 20 minutes we have been able to amend and improve legislation. We have had a hiatus on government decree and orders-in-council. He told some of the advantages of being in opposition.

Farm land This is the target riding and the "mana has begun to fall from heaven and I say let it come!" When the pork barrel is rolled in, it will be tipped here! I believe in Canada... the breakup of this country is not negotiable.

Most applause Reed got the most applause on the issue of regional government. Acton is a community whose identity has been taken away. I want to go on record... I am prepared to dismantle regional government to the extent the citizens of Acton wish. Regional government is the lack of recognition that the body politic begins in the community. Once we abandon the concept of community we have lost our base.

George Gray During his opening remarks, Progressive Conservative candidate George Gray voiced his respect and admiration for his party's leader, Premier William Davis.

Mr. Gray told the audience that he has been watching the minority government... and watching Mr. Davis for the past 22 months, and he gave the Premier a lot of credit. The candidate said the premier was by far the best leader he had ever met, and stood head and shoulders above the other provincial leaders.

Mr. Gray defied anyone to "pin down anything wrong with the province" after he spoke to high school students who said they were pleased with Ontario, and pleased with their schools. He also spoke to senior citizens who also said they were happy with facilities. Mr. Gray quoted one woman as saying the facilities were "just like living on millionaires row."

Industry The candidate explained that he has been working hard to bring industry into Halton Hills which would provide jobs, and conserve energy because less people would have to commute.

Mr. Gray said that by 1981, the province would be running without a deficit. He explained there was the debt because the government has been building hospitals, schools, community colleges, etc., on a rising gross national product.

The cost of OHIP, according to Mr. Gray, has taken such a sharp increase, because the federal government has promised so much money towards the cause, and then refused to give it to the province.

Mr. Gray ended his remarks by making an appeal to the people to think about who they want to see lead the province in the years ahead.

Regional government All candidates were questioned about their stands on regional government. Gray said there are already

reviews underway, and Halton is reviewing its own government. There are 12 regional government in Ontario and 65 per cent of the people live in the areas. They are designed not for our benefit but for our children's. There are 225,000 people in Halton now and there will be 400,000 by the year 2000.

A regional can borrow for less; planning can be orderly. The tax base is spread across a whole area.

Good side Look on the good side of it, he urged. "If you look honestly you might think differently." He agreed Acton has lost its identity and said it is the same in Georgetown. Now garbage from here and Nassagawega goes to Georgetown, he hasn't heard anyone there complain.

Review Johnson said the NDP would favor a review of regional government. After general opposition the idea was dropped... it came back as county reconstruction.

Reed mentioned Gray's spirited defense of regional government. If it was so wonderful, why did it not go further? People wouldn't tolerate being manhandled.

Mistake Darcy McKeough realized he made a mistake. It costs more for the kinds of service we used to get. I'm in favor of inter-municipal co-operation on such things as garbage and planning.

He referred to the group in Acton studying the system now. He'd favor a fast review and then quick action. When the people here accept the thrust they want to go in. I'm prepared to support that thrust! (Much applause.)

Farm land What about the preservation of farm land?

Reed said Ontario needs a land strategy, and when land is frozen the government must compensate.

Gray spoke of the government's green paper on agriculture which calls for the preservation of land; the decision on land use should be vested in the municipalities. Control should rest with the municipality.

Johnson said the NDP is dedicated to the preservation of farm land. I have led the fight to stop garbage being dumped on farm land.

Cut costs Questioned about the Liberal policy of keeping costs within the AIB limits, Reed gave some background and agreed the Liberals advocate a hard financial line in the face of past deficit financing.

He said Ontario hydro is capitalized 100 per cent above its output of electricity and hydro is using "scare tactics" to support its continued growth. With Liberal recommendation and controls expansion would not be necessary; reasonable rate increases could be held. The rate structure should be reversed; those who use the most should pay the most for power. (Applause.)

Leadership The system of voting is two-fold - for your member, and for party leader, a questioner pointed out.

Reed declared when you deal with government you deal with your member. I'm proud of Stuart Smith as my leader.

The great debate Owner of the Acton Rest Home, Katherine Kelly asked Mr. Gray why he had omitted the nursing home issue throughout the evening. She asked Mr. Gray where the seven Acton doctors are going to send their patients.

Mr. Gray firstly made a public apology to Mrs. Kelly



Bill Johnson

for a story which appeared in a Toronto newspaper in which he was misquoted. He explained because of this error, he and Mrs. Kelly had gotten off to a bad start.

The P.C. candidate explained that in 1975, a freeze was put on nursing home beds. Mr. Gray said he agreed with it because the provincial government was concerned the matter could become a "political thing." He said now, however, he is trying to get beds north of Highway 401, and pointed out there were 265 beds in Milton, but with a waiting time of one to three months.

Mr. Gray said he is trying to spearhead a drive to get the government to lift the freeze. He commented the Georgetown hospital has the land around it to accommodate an expansion and they have the hospital equipment on hand. He has been working on this project for two years now, he said.

"We are urgent need of nursing beds. No one will dispute this," he said.

Send them here Mrs. Kelly was not satisfied with Mr. Gray's answer and again asked where the Acton doctors are to send their patients. Mr. Gray told Mrs. Kelly and the rest of the audience the patients are now being sent to Guelph, but they could be sent to Georgetown.

"Why not let Georgetown doctors send them to Acton for a change," Mrs. Kelly volunteered. She explained she applied for a license for 60 beds, she has the land and is next on the list with Queen's Park to build as soon as the freeze is off.

Mr. Gray explained again that the hospital facilities were already in Georgetown, and 100 beds could be put to use.

Regionalism A question from the floor was directed towards Mr. Johnson, asking if he would support an action that would divide Halton into separate school boards so the north would not be outnumbered.

Mr. Johnson said he would support such a separation. He explained there is a lot of inequality with the region. He pointed out that major chunk of the tax dollar goes to the school board.

GO versus hydro Mr. Gray was asked why people should vote for a party who says they have no money for rapid transit (GO) service, but can build highways and hydro corridors.

Mr. Gray explained that the federal government reneged on a promise to the Ontario government, folding the whole plan. Mr. Gray told the crowd that the Trudeau government before the last election, pledged \$80 million towards public transit cause. The province purchased double decker train cars for the Lakeshore route, and the old cars would be brought up to the north of Halton. However, the money did not come through as promised. Now, the single deckers are sitting idle all summer and all winter while the province gets enough money to do the job themselves. Mr. Gray also mentioned the Liberal member of parliament Frank Phibbrook worked hard to get the money, but in a lost cause.

Minimum wage An upset local merchant asked Mr. Johnson if he agreed to putting the small businessman out of business with the \$4 minimum wage.

Mr. Johnson said he did not think the increase would do that. He went on to say that the small businessman has nothing to fear from an NDP government. He explained that in this province, the taxpayers are paying taxes towards the large businesses, which buy machines to put people out of business. Mr. Johnson said the money from the large business will be put in the hands of the small businesses, who the NDP want to see expand.

"If a big business digs for oil, and doesn't find it, we all have to pay," Mr. Johnson said. "However, if they do find it, they keep it!"

Employment All the candidates were asked what they would do to stimulate employment in Acton.

Gray said an industrial committee has been formed consisting of himself, Louis Charlebois, Paul Nielsen and John Goy from Acton, two members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and two members of Halton Hills council. Mr. Gray said the committee has an industry which is interested in locating in Acton, and a meeting was held that same day to discuss the possibility.

Johnson told the crowd that he had to be honest. If he is elected to Queen's Park, he will be working for all his constituents, including Burlington. He said he would work to aid the small businessman, whether financially or morally.

Reed praised the Progressive Conservative candidate for his hard work in forming the committee as his work as president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. "It is my intention to keep him in that position," he said jokingly.

Serious Reed said that unemployment is a very serious problem. He pointed out that there is a 7.4 per cent rate of unemployment across the province and Darcy McKeough has conceded there will always be a five per cent rate



Julian Reed

across Ontario.

The Liberal incumbent said that in the past, the governments have tended to support the thought that "bigger is better." Mr. Reed said Mr. McKeough supports this thought. "However, bigger business has one Achilles' heel," he said. "When the balloon breaks, it throws a lot of people out of jobs very quickly."

Mr. Reed said his party plans to stimulate 100,000 jobs for three years, through small business.

In his closing remarks, Reed said the last 20 months have been the most stimulating and exciting in his life. He has served 1,000 individuals directly and contacted others... that's what your M.P. is for... I feel comfortable as a Liberal... I'm proud to represent my party.

In closing, Gray declared Davis is the finest statesman in our country today. He asked his listeners to compare the leaders. He told of Smith's flippopping and Lewis, backtracking (to some heckling).

Disaster In his closing remarks, Johnson told the audience that in his 22 years of living in this area, he has watched the land become an environmental disaster. He also agreed that a minority government was working because they had a very strong opposition, the New Democratic Party.

Johnson mentioned nursing homes and felt there are a lot of people in hospitals who do not need to be there. He said some of them could be looked after at home, but the Progressive Conservatives will not negotiate with striking public health nurses, who can go into the home to help them.

The NDP candidate said the situation in Quebec is a tragedy and warned the audience Canada could have another Northern Ireland on their hands. Because of this, the country should have someone compassionate leading the Ontario government.

Sex Ed stories alarm trustees

Halton Board of Education trustees are worried parents may think the "horror" stories about sex education in Ontario, recounted in the May 21 issue of The Canadian Magazine, could be taking place in Halton schools.

Thursday, Trustee Bill Priestner said the Halton Board of Education needs a report on what is going on in sex ed classes in Halton and some assurances the incidents related in the magazine article "are the exceptions."

The piece in The Canadian, a Saturday supplement to 13 large Canadian metropolitan daily newspapers, stated various examples of incidents happening in sex education classes in Canada. A teacher who asked her grade 12 female students if they had taken the birth control pill each morning, a 13-year-old boy having to give a talk on sodomy, probing and embarrassing questions of a grade eight class about their parents' use of birth control, undressing of a 10-year-old boy and girl in front of a class, and slides to show to classes demonstrating 17 positions for intercourse are just some of the incidents described in the article, which trustees termed "horror" stories.

Superintendent of Program Bruce Mather said he would be "appalled" if he ever found out incidents like the ones described in the magazine story were happening in Halton.

He blasted the piece as being "poor journalism" since the writer, Kathleen Gow, hadn't documented the incidents.

Priestner said the administration should check and be

sure the same things aren't happening in Halton. Milton and Halton Hills separate school supporter's Trustee John Bradley said if "exceptions" like the ones related in the magazine keep cropping up, serious thought should be given to banning sex education in schools. He said the exceptions are cropping up repeatedly. Bradley said he thought the board should consider a thorough investigation of sex education in schools. "I couldn't sleep Saturday night after reading that story," he told the board. Director of Education Em Lavender said the adminis-

tration will be investigating stories" aren't happening in Halton. to make sure similar "horror

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