

Free Press who does it

Ex-Cabinet Minister faults budget

The budget of Finance Minister John Crosbie came under sharp attack last week as two prominent Liberals visited Halton.

Thursday afternoon, former Solicitor-General Jean-Jacques Blais spoke to a group of party supporters in Oakville, and Friday evening, former Vancouver mayor Art Phillips spoke to about 150 people in Milton Mall.

Combining humorous anecdotes of his experiences in municipal politics with a lesson in economics, Mr. Phillips said the Crosbie budget would not do the things it promised.

"The Minister (Mr. Crosbie) says the budget would 'really control spending' and limit it to a growth rate of ten per cent per year," said Mr. Phillips.

"Well, the last two years of the Liberal government, spending increases were 8.5 per cent and 9.1 per cent. "Another thing is the budget will supposedly

reduce our debt charges, but if you look at it closely, you'll find the debt charges this year will be \$8.6 billion. By 1984, it'll be \$14 billion.

"This so-called 'tough' budget is really not so tough, after all," he said.

"It'll be tough only on those people who cannot stand that kind of toughness," he said.

The same theme was echoed the previous day by Mr. Blais, who said the oil tax increase, amounting to an extra 18 cents per gallon of gaso-

line, would not decrease the deficit because "the money raised will be used to pay for the mortgage tax credit scheme."

Mr. Blais described Progressive Conservative denials of that charge as "baloney."

He defended the Trudeau Government abolition of capital punishment.

"The rate of violent crime has declined since the abolition of capital punishment."

"There is no relationship between the number of police murders before or after the abolition of capital punishment," he said.

Mr. Blais and Mr. Phillips were the first two prominent Liberals to visit Halton riding in support of local candidate Bill Perras.

Liberal sources said this week more such visits will follow before the February 18 election.



Former Solicitor-General Jean-Jacques Blais (right) visited Oakville Thursday afternoon to speak with newsmen and supporters of Halton Liberal candidate Bill Perras (second from right). In the background are Carol Perras, the candidate's wife, and Bonnie Brown, an Oakville regional councillor.

Regional business promoter opposes capital contributions

Regional Business Development Director Bill Marshall has asked the waiving of development levies in order to attract more industry and commerce to Halton.

Mr. Marshall told the Regional Administration and Finance Committee he disagreed with a consultant's report which urged payment of capital contributions to develop lands for industrial-commercial use.

He said the report "fails to deal effectively" with capital contributions noting the trend in other areas to drop them in order to attract more job-creating development.

"I am concerned that Hamilton-Wentworth, which has been greatly expanding its economic development program does not have any levies."

"The City of London is now removing its levies on commercial-industrial development and the Region of Waterloo's levies apply only to commercial users," he said.

Mr. Marshall said the region has lots of good land ready for buyers especially in the Milton area.

"The imposition of capital contributions on new projects may place an unwanted brake on the opening of these needed lands," he said.

Regional council will have to decide now whether to use the capital contribution approach to pay for servicing, or go with Mr. Marshall's request.

School beat

Robert Little

by Ann Gardner and Lesley Sawden

January was a busy month at Robert Little School, Mrs. Morrow's and Mrs. Paquette's classes went to Mounts Burg. They saw a Great Horned Owl, they played a simulation game and went on a sleigh ride. All the grade one student's went to the Oakville center to see a play called The Magic Tinder Box. Mrs. Black's and Mrs. McIntyre's Kindergarten classes are studying the Postman and went on a trip to the post office yesterday. Robert Little is participating in the Can Save Fund for Valentines Day. Each classroom has a tree. When a child brings in a donation, a heart with their name on it goes onto the tree. We all hope that we can raise more money than last year.

Speyside

by Heather Johnston and Martha Armstrong

This is the time of year when the Grade Five and Six children at Speyside school start working on speeches. Each class has had a contest to pick the best speeches. Those children will compete against each other in the Library on February 7. Mrs. Fisher, our trustee, Mr. Chatten, our principal and Mrs. Murphy, our secretary, will be the judges. There will be six children from Mrs. Armstrong and Mr. Ciglen's classes competing against three children from Mr. Coe's class.



Former Vancouver mayor Art Phillips came to Milton Friday evening and addressed a crowd of about 150 in Milton Mall. Mr. Phillips attacked the budget brought down by Finance Minister John Crosbie, and quoted from the copy in his right hand. Behind Mr. Phillips is Halton Liberal candidate Bill Perras.

Make car builders follow auto pact

A new Democratic federal government would make fundamental changes to turn around the increasing number of layoffs in the auto industry, according to Halton NDP candidate Doug Black.

Mr. Black, flanked by three Halton auto union presidents, said the spectre of increasing numbers of employees being laid off indefinitely would be reversed by cutting interest rates by two percentage points and forcing the auto-makers to live up to the auto trade pact agreements.

He said the "economic wellbeing of Halton" is especially in jeopardy noting Ford layoffs of 650 workers, 100 at Long Manufacturing, and an expected 125 to be laid off at Rockwell International in Milton.

"A further 3,500 workers are presently on temporary layoff at Ford and may soon be joined by another 1,800," he said. The extra 1,800 to be laid off is a projection of current trends at Ford of Canada, he said.

Mr. Black said it was "especially frustrating" to note the way the two other major parties had neglected "such a vital industry."

"Motor vehicle sales account for better than one dollar in five of all retail sales in Canada; for three dollars in every five earned from exports; for one job in every six in Ontario."

He said Canada may represent 10 per cent of the total North American population but the country gets less than eight per cent of the auto industry jobs. He also said Canada gets less than half of the auto industry capital investment.

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Acton Figure Skaters competed in an inter-club competition in Milton Sunday, winning three gold medals. Those competing were: Colleen Peity, Karen McEachern, Barb Wilson, Sharon Campbell, Lori De Bruyn, Michael Creighton, Tracey Oakley, Leslie Sauder, Simone Christensen and John and Ann Gardener.