

Quebec will not separate, economy puts PQ in heat

"Quebec will not separate. The economic situation will catch up with Levesque. The Party Quebecois... will be defeated at the Polls... after the next election." These predictions were made by Everett Biggs in a speech to the Brampton South Rotary Club on Monday.

Quebec's worsening economic picture has sparked criticism of Levesque's leadership," Biggs quoted from a story in last month's Ottawa Journal.

"He promised justice and a strengthened economy for his province," but "he continues to pound the drums of language and separatism hoping the issues will continue to attract the headlines and distract the people," Biggs said.

A Gallop Poll published in July would indicate that his strategy is not being totally successful, Biggs pointed out. The economy and inflation were prime concern to 41 per cent of the nation, and to 48 per cent of the Quebecers surveyed.

Unemployment ran second with the national average showing 23 per cent and 28 per cent in Quebec.

National unity and separatism were well down in third place interesting only 16 per cent of the population nationally and 17 per cent of Quebec's population.

Biggs condemned the way politicians both inside and outside Quebec have tried to use national unity and the language question to distract the public for the real issues of the economy and unemployment.

"The seeds of discontent were in Quebec from the beginning," he said. The traditional education system in the province did not prepare young Quebecers for the industrial needs of the 1960s.

This is why the English were able to dominate senior management positions. Although individuals admitted this privately and the Parent Commission on Educa-

tion recognized it publicly, the activists could not make much propaganda with it. Instead they turned on Les Anglois and the Canadian Confederation as the scapegoat.

While the English couldn't be held responsible for the archaic educational system in the province many of them were guilty of an "extremely visible arrogance toward the Quebecer," he said. "There was lack of understanding and communication on both sides."

A Gallop Poll done last month indicated that only 22 per cent of the Quebecers surveyed favored special status for the province. Five per cent were undecided and 72 per cent were opposed, Biggs said.

He feels that the referendum will be held but strict rules will apply to the way it is conducted. He points out that the government will have to give equal financial help and equal opportunity for presentation, not because of their extreme sense of fair play, but because this is the only way they can control massive intervention financial and otherwise, from the federal government, business and individual non-supporters of separatism.

Mr. Biggs retired from his position with the Ontario ministry of the environment April 1. Prior to that he was a deputy minister of agriculture.

He is seeking the Progressive Conservative nomination for the newly formed federal riding of Brampton-Georgetown.

Region legal opinion sought on Glen wells

Halton region has delayed action on a request for water by Glen Williams residents pending a legal opinion.

The 37 residents of Karen Drive, Alexander, Confederation, Beaver and Erin Streets, have been on temporary water supplies since water wells in the area dropped to low levels

or became polluted.

Ruby Doell, of Karen Drive told the committee the lack of water in the area wells occurred following the start of construction of water and sewer services in a subdivision nearby.

Mayor Tom Hill stressed that the installation of services for the nine-home subdivision is a preservicing requirement stipulated by the region.

He also cautioned that the cost of installing water to the homes affected by low wells would have to be paid for and should not be levied against Georgetown residents who are required to pay for water works projects on a charge-back basis.

1918 Herald found

Often, an editorial staff of a newspaper wonder what happens to their product once it is distributed to the public. When this staff learned George Brandford, of Kay's Grocery on Guelph Street, had a 1918 edition of the Herald we marvelled that Mr. Brandford had saved a copy.

However, Mr. Brandford explained he hadn't kept such a copy. His son-in-law found a copy of the paper when he was helping renovate the outside of his home by tearing off the side porch.

Mr. Bernard said his "granddad" had placed an ad with the Herald that edition about wood for sale. "My granddad had a woodlot in those days," he said.

The paper was used for insulation in the side of the porch. All papers that he found, including editions of the Toronto Star and Toronto Sunday Morning, are coming apart after having being folded for so many years.

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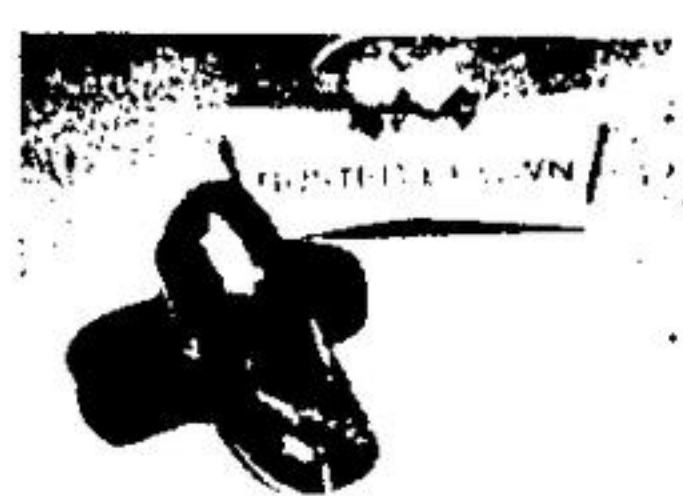
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