

# Tories are elated over poll

Last Wednesday morning's federal Progressive Conservative caucus meeting saw the country's top Tories happy with poll results rating them equally as popular as the Liberals, but the mood, according to Otto Jelinek, soon became serious as the caucus resolved to continue exerting

pressure. Mr. Jelinek, recently nominated as Halton Tory candidate in the next general election, told members of the Acton and area Progressive Conservative Association Wednesday that he and his fellow caucus members are "happy but not over-exuberant" about the en-

couraging survey results. "We're not going to relax just because we're tied with the Grits in popularity," he said. "We're going to continue making that little extra effort so that we can form the next government." Mr. Jelinek commented that

the poll results have probably dashed the Tories' hopes for an early election. Prime Minister Mulroney is expected to disclose within the week whether the election will take place in the summer or fall, he noted, but Conservative leader Joe Clark is prepared to continue providing "a realistic opposition" and to continue updating party policies until September if necessary.

Mr. Jelinek, currently MP for High Park-Humber Valley riding in Toronto, told his Acton supporters that when the election campaign gets underway, each sector of Halton riding will operate its own mini campaign.

One area in which Mr. Jelinek hopes to increase his present abbreviated knowledge of public concerns and needs is in Halton's rural community. The candidate expressed a desire and readiness to include farmers among the constituents for whom he acts as a "mouthpiece" in Ottawa. But, he added, he cannot represent their interests and those of urban constituents unless there is public input.

Terrance Gwyer suggested that Mr. Jelinek may be making a mistake by making capital punishment an election issue. Aware that incumbent Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrook voted to abolish the death penalty, contrary to the wishes of a majority of his constituents, Mr. Jelinek last week asked Prime Minister Trudeau in the commons to reinstate the legislation.

The request, however, did not win the support of the

House and was not voted upon. Mr. Jelinek said the nation's economic woes are clearly the main issue at hand, but pointed out that many Canadians are concerned about "the deterioration of law and order" across the country. As a result, he said, all candidates in the next election must make capital punishment an issue.

Another member of the audience remarked that the issue of housing needs for rural citizens has yet to be recognized on a large scale by any party. Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has refused demands to attack the problem, he said.

Mr. Jelinek took the statement into consideration and apologized for being largely unaware of Halton's agricultural issues. He explained, though, that the Conservative party has a number of policies concerning housing in general and intends, once elected, to launch a series of incentive-oriented programs to tackle housing shortages.

Over the Tories form a government Mr. Jelinek said, the continued growth of the civil service will be immediately frozen and the party will begin studying ways of trimming its size and eliminating much of the red tape now deluging Ottawa.

The party would strive to overcome duplication of services, he said, and reverse the Liberal-endorsed trend that sees new programs piled on top of old ones. The civil service would no longer be permitted to "dictate how the country will be run."

In response to a comment that the Canadian government utilizes an unprecedented 37 per cent of the gross national product, Mr. Jelinek was sharply critical of Liberal spending priorities. While the government cites fiscal restraint as its reason for not subsidizing more urban transit, he said, Canada Council grants worth thousands of dollars are regularly allocated for projects as questionable as a

study of the harmonic's place in Canadian culture.

Asked to comment on the downfall of the Canadian dollar, Mr. Jelinek blamed its devaluation on an international loss of confidence in the country's economy. There are more Canadian businesses relocating elsewhere and more Canadian companies going bankrupt than ever before, he said, because the government has failed to stimulate produc-

tivity.

A Tory government would instead encourage secondary manufacturing and implement a "set aside" program by which all government contracts would be awarded to Canadian small businesses and incentive would be provided for the nation's corporate consumers to "Buy Canadian."

To solve problems posed by the unchecked immigration of

unskilled workers, Mr. Jelinek

said, the Conservatives would reduce the number of ministerial permits now being handed out by the "handcuffs of thousands" to anyone, including "radicals and criminals."

The Tories would then reintroduce a point system to control immigration and encourage those who are welcomed into the country to settle in areas where their particular expertise is most needed.

## New PC executive

Promising a great deal of hard work in support of Halton Progressive Conservative candidate Otto Jelinek, Brian Cargill Wednesday was elected president of the Acton and area PC Association.

At the association's annual meeting, Mr. Cargill, a nomination campaign worker for Mr. Jelinek, was elected by member's ballot over retiring president H.H. (Herb) Hinton, who was nominated for a second term as president.

Five vice-presidents were chosen by the members instead of the three selected last year, in the hopes that more workers will be available when the need arises. The association's new vice-presidents are Marie Shadbolt, Donna Aitken, Ross Ballentyne, Paul Butler and for the Esqueping area, Gail Malby.

New secretary Mrs. John Winchester will assume the duties handled last year by Mrs. Aitken, while John De Blauw will take over from Mrs. Shadbolt as treasurer.

Named as directors on a newly expanded committee are Lawrence Fuller, Pam Sheldon, Brian Hammond, Esther Taylor, Colin Muspratt, and Morris Slaye.

A motion by Mr. Hinton to have all past presidents of the association voting ex-officio members failed to carry.



BRIAN CARGILL



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McDonald's Restaurant manager Peter French presents a McDonald's watch to Leslie Wolfe, the winner of The Herald coloring contest for the month of April. With Leslie is his mother, Marjorie.



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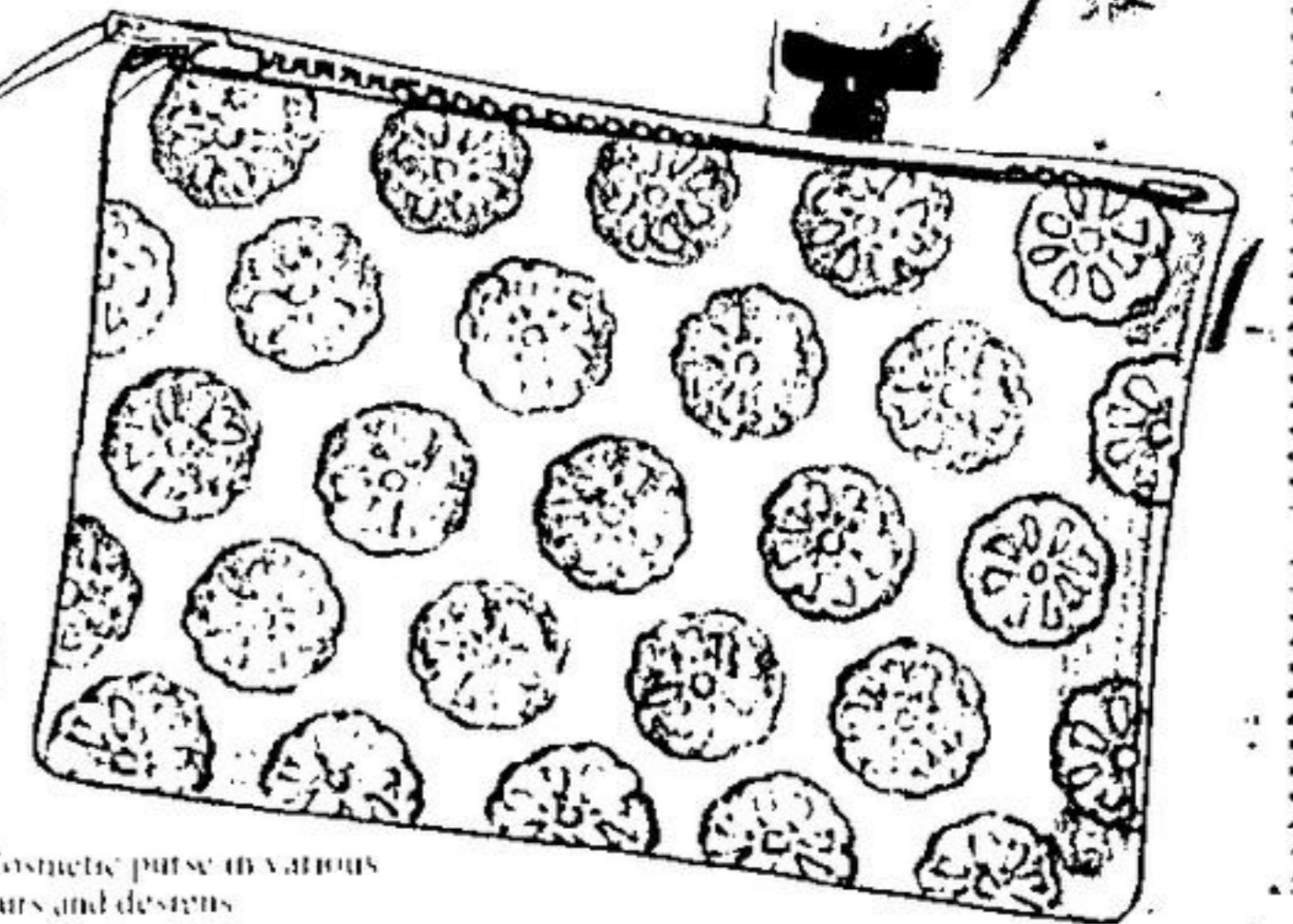
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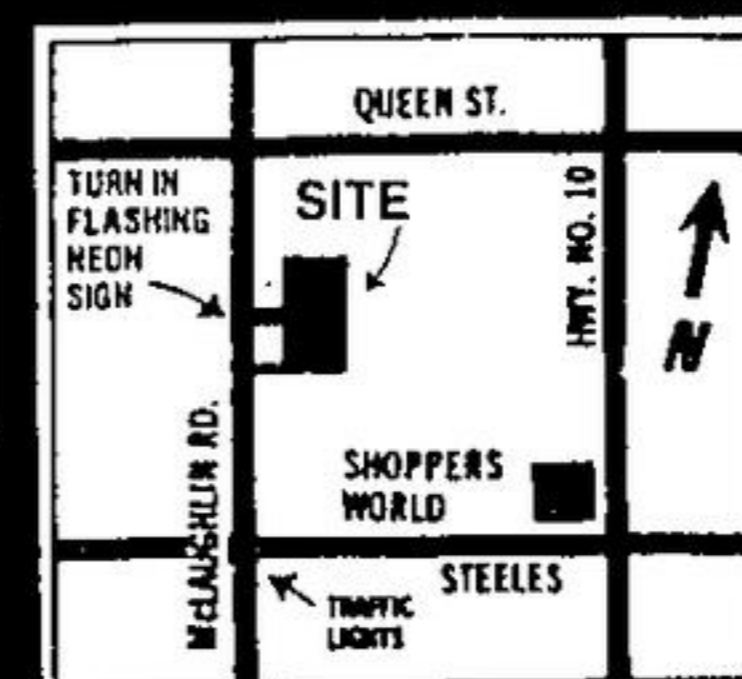
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