

Election '79

Jelinek may get Cabinet post after landslide Halton victory

By LOUI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

Halton's new MP, Otto Jelinek, called his win in yesterday's federal election "a landslide victory."

Mr. Jelinek defeated Liberal incumbent Dr. Frank Philbrook by almost 10,000 votes, and NDP candidate Doug Black by over 19,000 votes.

Mr. Jelinek, who has indicated an interest in a cabinet post as minister of small business, said he would be flying to Ottawa in a few days, where the Conservative caucus would be meeting to plan strategy.

Mr. Jelinek said that from the outset, he has felt "very comfortable" in Halton riding. "I was brought up here, educated here, and my work is here," he said. "I know the area, and the people know me, but at the beginning of the campaign, I had some doubts that that would turn in to political votes."

INCUMBENT MP

Mr. Jelinek was the incumbent MP in the Toronto riding Humber Valley-High Park, but the riding vanished under redistribution, and Mr. Jelinek chose to run in Halton, which encompasses his home town of Oakville.

Mr. Jelinek expressed his appreciation to his organizers, and attributed much of the party's success in the riding to their efforts.

"Our organization has been so well-prepared by Wilf Rudd (Mr. Jelinek's campaign manager) in the year since I was nominated that we were able to move cleanly and strongly through the campaign," he said. "We had a plan from the beginning of the campaign, and because of our good organization, we were able to stick to that plan right through the campaign."

"The plan had two parts: to enunciate clearly and positively the Conservative policies and programs, and to remind people of the failures of the Trudeau government in the

last eleven years," he continued.

"Because of the way the campaign was organized, we were able to go with no personality conflicts, no problems, just policies and programs," Mr. Jelinek said.

"The people are happy to see someone running here who was brought up here, who knows the riding," he said. "Also, they can look at my record in the House of Commons, and they aren't taking a risk with someone they don't know. I have a record of standing up for myself and my constituents, and speaking out for the people of Canada."

Mr. Jelinek spoke to members of the press shortly before leaving his campaign headquarters for his victory party

at Wyldewood Golf and Country Club, and at that time, the Conservative victory had not been established. Mr. Jelinek spoke generally about his plans for the future, and said he wouldn't be getting down to specific decisions until the election was decided one way or the other.

He did say, however, that his first move would be to start organizing his constituency offices.

FIRST PRIORITY
"That is my first priority," he said. "I hope to open a part-time office in the northern area of Halton, because I feel they have not been well represented in the past."

It was at 9:09 p.m. that the Decision '79 program on the election declared Mr. Jelinek the winner, to the sound of cheers and applause from supporters and workers in the campaign headquarters. Provincial transportation minister James Snow was on hand to congratulate Mr. Jelinek on his win, as was his sister, Maria, with whom he won a number of figure-skating titles for Canada.

The trend towards a victory by Mr. Jelinek was established early in the evening, as the first polls to come in from the town of Oakville showed him to have a lead over Dr. Philbrook of almost two votes to one. Polls from Acton and Milton were slow coming in, and one poll in Nassagaweya had still not reported its results by 1 a.m.



PHILBROOK DEFEATED IN HALTON

Former Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrook and his wife, told the press philosophically that "the people have spoken" when he was defeated along with many other Liberal members of parliament in Tuesday's election. Redistribution cost him the north-east corner of his

constituency but the Conservatives swept the new riding of Brampton-Georgetown as well as Halton. Otto Jelinek, former MP for High Park ran in Halton when his riding disappeared through redistribution.

(Herald photo by Maggie Hannah)

Milne discusses defeat

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have helped accentuate his resounding victory over the incumbent Liberal MP. He conceded, though, that there "might have been an anti-Trudeau factor."

What really solidified the victory, Mr. McDermid said, was the fact that he and his campaign workers "got out and met the people."

"I think those who got to know me during the campaign felt that I could do a good job as their local constituency member," he speculated, "and that's the way our campaign was designed. For those who couldn't come out and meet me, there was the super advertising campaign; our brochures were excellent."

BRANCH OFFICE

Mr. McDermid explained that his immediate priorities involve the establishment of a local constituency office "in all likelihood in Brampton", and hopefully a "branch" office in Georgetown. His chief concern, he said, is to keep channels of communication open between his Ottawa office and his constituency and to "treat all constituents as equals" regardless of their background, place of residence or other factors.

Campaign manager John Webber recalled that the McDermid campaign began when Mr. McDermid visited his Brampton home and watched Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on television. The disdain which both men, who are long-time friends, shared over the Trudeau administration culminated in their close partnership in returning the Brampton and Georgetown areas to Conservative hands.

PC'S BEATTY RETURNED IN WELLINGTON RIDING

Conservative incumbent MP Perrin Beatty was successful in regaining his seat in the riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe.

Mr. Beatty defeated Liberal challenger Harry Greene 25,861 votes to 11,322. NDP candidate Jeff Koechlin received 4,551 votes.

With a voter turn-out of 78 per cent, Mr. Beatty had 61 per cent of the popular vote, with Mr. Greene trailing at 27 per cent, and the New Democrats coming third with 12 per cent.

Mr. Beatty took the battle right to the man and defeated Mr. Greene at all 38 polls in his home town of Orangeville. He won 241 of the 244 polls, with Greene taking two polls and the two men tied in one poll.



NDP WATCHES RESULTS

There were mixed feelings at the Brampton campaign headquarters of NDP candidate David Moulton last night as the results of voting, both local and national, were listed on polling charts. Mr. Moulton (right) and his campaign manager, Gerry Murray, shared the excitement of other NDP supporters as

the voting results signalled increasing public confidence in the party, but had to concede that the results could still have been better. Mr. Moulton outpolled incumbent Liberal MP Ross Milne at several local stations.

(Herald photo)

'Liberalism alive and well', Philbrook tells supporters

Halton Liberal candidate incumbent Dr. Frank Philbrook accepted his defeat gracefully about 1 1/2 hours after the polls closed last night.

Speaking to reporters and party workers at his headquarters in the Milton Mall election night Dr. Philbrook philosophically said that "the people have spoken" and he felt that basically the results showed a difference in opinion as to how various issues like national unity and the economy should be handled rather than any great personal animosity towards him.

Dr. Philbrook said that he

had expected the vote to be much closer than it was according to their campaign but there was a larger percentage of undecided voters all along and obviously they had not voted for him.

He said it had been a great privilege to be an MP and no matter how Tuesday's vote appeared he felt "Liberalism is alive and well in Canada."

Dr. Philbrook said that even though he was defeated he was satisfied with the campaign he ran.

"We stuck to Liberal principles," he said, "and ran a

good strong Liberal campaign."

FUTURE DECISIONS

He declined to say what will happen now for him but indicated that he has commitments to the United Nations concerning his involvement in World Health matters which he must complete before he makes any decisions on his future.

"I've done many things and I can still do many other things," he said. "It all boils down to serving people. I have to finish up my obligations to the United Nations and see what they decide and what

they want. They know I have a strong interest in international health work. There is a conference in Sri Lanka in August that I have to attend."

He also declined to comment on whether he will seek the Liberal nomination in the next federal election saying that there are many issues to consider before such a decision could be made.

Mrs. Philbrook also handled her disappointment well and commented that she was glad it was all over. While her husband may have lost the election her family regained a husband and father, she joked.



Michael Hollett

Herald editor

Three hours end seemingly endless campaign '79

Tuesday, 12:20 pm—I take a break out of the hectic Herald production schedule and head over to Park School to cast my ballot. As I scratch my X beside the name of the candidate of my choice I'm overcome with a strong sense of relief. It's been a long campaign and at times it's felt like it would never end. My role as a voter is now completed.

2:20 pm—NDP candidate David Moulton drops by the Herald office as part of his election day tour of Georgetown. We have a coffee and Moulton says he feels good about the campaign and satisfied with the work his party has done. I notice that while we compare guesses about the election's outcome his fingers are crossed.

6:38 pm—The Herald crew and I finish off most of the paper but unlike most Tuesday night we don't head home to relax but instead only to bide our time. Instead of wrapping up our week's work, we've probably got one of the biggest stories in recent years yet to cover.

COLLECT NEWS

8:07 pm—I meet with Herald staffer Paul Dorsey and head off to collect the news.

8:39 pm—We drop by incumbent Liberal MP Ross Milne's Georgetown office in the Guelphview Square and, the mood can only be described as tense. It's still extremely early but Conservative challenger John McDermid is leading in the early polls. Dorsey describes the local Liberal crew to me as "a pretty grim bunch" as they hear the local results and watch the national story on TV.

A Liberal worker looks at the Georgetown polls and then tells me defensively "we expected McDermid to be strong here. It's always been a Conservative town."

8:50 pm—Dorsey and I roll into Brampton, centre of the Brampton-Georgetown campaign. Here three major candidates have their headquarters here. Our first stop is the campaign headquarters of NDP'er David Moulton. His campaign manager Gerry Murray greets us at the door and declares "we're gonna finish third". He's not smiling when

he gives me the news, I know the NDP campaign had expected the race to be tighter.

He's already been described by this paper as "ever smiling" and true to form, David Moulton strides into his campaign headquarters and asks innocently how the vote is going. When told the Liberal incumbent Ross Milne has already conceded, Moulton continues his optimistic smile. Campaign manager Murray tells his candidate that he'll probably poll around 20 per cent of the local votes.

BACK TO EARTH

Moulton tells me "Well I guess it's time to come back to earth now. For one thing, our vote in Bramalea just didn't hold up."

But we've improved our vote, that's the important thing."

9:10 pm—We breeze into Milne's offices at Centennial Mall in Brampton and find the only thing bright here is the lights. There are a lot of long faces as the Liberal supporters already have a good idea of the fate that awaits their candidate. Milne is off with Moulton congratulating PC winner McDermid.

POLITICAL BACKROOMS

10:04 pm—Arrive at the Brampton golf club. The "champ" has yet to arrive, he's off being interviewed on the Brampton cable T.V. station. I'm a little startled by the presence of the campaign party digs. It's obviously a long way from the political backrooms to the broadloomed comfort of the PC victory party. The smell of expensive perfume gently mingles with the sweet smell of victory here.

It's a well-dressed crowd that anxiously awaits the arrival of their candidate.

10:14 pm—McDermid rolls with a big smile and a wave of his hand. Before going on, I must point out that occasionally during this campaign I have criticized the Conservative candidate in this column for what I've felt was a lack of policy in his campaign. Despite that, I'm a little surprised by McDermid's first comments to his campaign workers as he enters the room and I stand poised with my camera waiting for my flash to charge so I can snap a shot.

McDermid's first words to the hushed crowd are, "There's the Georgetown Herald, they've crapped on us throughout the campaign and now they can't get their camera to work."

EDITOR'S COLUMN

I guess not everybody likes an editor who uses his column to speak his mind. Still, McDermid has always said he had a bit of a temper and perhaps, flushed with victory, it got the best of him. During the rest of the evening he turns out to be cooperative, even friendly, with Herald staff, including myself.

10:22 pm—McDermid heads into the throng of supporters, with his wife at his side, and thanks those who've helped elect him.

10:48 pm—McDermid happily addresses the crowd and thanks them all for helping send him to Ottawa.

Georgetown PC'er Fran Baines gives me a gentle tease for my earlier prediction of a "photo finish" to this campaign. It was anything but. However she smiles and admits she thought things would be a little closer herself.

11:02 pm—Do ya think he's sexy? A young female supporter rushes up to McDermid and insists on snapping a few shots of him with her Instamatic camera. Seems she's got to use up her roll of color film, it's already got shots of Rod Stewart at his recent Toronto concert.

11:18 pm—Arrive back at the Milne campaign headquarters and am greeted by loud disco music. Despite the loss, Milne has a good supply of dancing, partying campaign workers on hand to console him in defeat. Despite the party, Milne is huddled in front of a TV watching the national results.

Milne is extremely gracious in defeat, as he was in power. I speak with his wife who tells me "I'm very proud of Ross tonight."

She says he gave the best speech of his life to the Liberal supporters here. Certainly supporters and opponents of Milne's alike have to agree that the man provided his riding with dedicated representation during his tenure.

Based on election night comments from he and his wife, I wouldn't be surprised to see Milne back after the local seat during the next campaign.

GOOD SPIRITS

11:58 pm—Dropping by the NDP's victory party at the UAW hall in Brampton, defeated candidate Moulton still seems to be in good spirits. Despite the late hour and the results at the poll, his crowd is still sizeable. Moulton says that although he had hoped to do a little better he's extremely pleased with his party's gains locally. Moulton confidentially declares that when the next election rolls around, he'll again seek to represent the NDP in Brampton-Georgetown.

Wednesday, 2:23 am—Finally arrive back at the Herald offices in Georgetown. It looks like a Conservative minority government, John McDermid's fans will be even happier than they are already. Clearly the ball is in McDermid and his party's court, it's their government for the immediate future at least.

Rather than try and sum up my thoughts on the campaign superficially, I'll hold off and say simply, congratulations to both the winner and the losers—you gave us a damn interesting campaign to cover.