

Tories lacked chance to fulfill their promises



Progressive Conservative incumbent for Halton, Otto Jelinek, posed with his wife, Leuta, and the only heckler present at the opening of his Acton office Monday evening, Patti Puit, a basket bound attending the opening with his mistress, Laura Dietrich, howling in accompaniment to several of Mr. Jelinek's comments on government policy causing appreciative chuckles and generally lightening the atmosphere of an otherwise serious discussion. (Herald photo)

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Staff Writer

If re-elected, Halton Progressive Conservative MP Otto Jelinek has pledged to introduce a private member's bill making it mandatory for an elected government to hold power for at least two years before an election can be called.

Speaking to voters and party workers at the opening of his Acton campaign office Monday evening, Mr. Jelinek complained that the Conservatives were defeated on the budget before they had a chance to prove whether their policies would work.

The only promise the Conservatives broke involved moving the Canadian embassy out of Tel Aviv. Joe Clark made a mistake when he made that promise, Mr. Jelinek said, and admitted it when he broke the promise. Mr. Jelinek said he respected the PM for admitting his error and personally supported his change.

Other promises which the Liberals claim the Conservatives have broken have actually not been broken, he said. They have either been implemented already, were started in the budget or were being incorporated in proposed legislative changes which would have been undertaken in coming months. The Conservatives needed a year to eighteen months to implement all the changes they promised, he said.

Mr. Jelinek termed the defeat of the budget by opposition parties "irresponsible" and said that it was this action which prompted him to consider the bill proposing a mandatory minimum term of office. He blamed the opposition for landing Canadian citizens with a \$60 million bill for an election he said is unnecessary in times of restraint.

Mr. Jelinek said finance minister John Crosbie's budget was the first one to take a realistic look at Canada's financial situation in 30 years. Liberal spending has raised the national debt to the point where every Canadian pays just over \$350 a year in interest alone. If that debt isn't tackled realistically soon, it will swamp our children and grandchildren, he said. The only way to reduce inflation is to cut government spending, he added, and the Conservatives had already cut \$1 billion in six months. Had they been given their full term the Conservatives would have cut the national deficit from \$9.4 billion to \$4.4 billion in 1983.

The 18-cent per gallon hike in the price of gasoline will see the heavy user paying the bulk of the share to subsidize the cost of imported oil. He felt this was fairer than the present system since energy rebates would offset the increased costs for low and middle income families.

Mr. Jelinek will be visiting Acton for the all candidates meeting Jan. 28 in the Acton Legion.

He also announced that John Crosbie will be visiting Halton February 5, although he couldn't promise whether he will get to Acton during the visit.



Milton Coun. Bill Johnson, NDP candidate Doug Black, Trustee Ivan Armstrong and Allan Foster discussed strategy at the opening of the NDP committee office in Mr. Foster's Acton home. (Herald photo by Richard Petrashek)

Acton NDP benefitting now from last year's campaign work

Doug Black and his NDP supporters say they have a definite head start on the Liberals and Conservatives in the Acton area of Halton riding.

At the opening of his Acton committee office last week, Mr. Black pointed out that his party workers were the first to place signs on private property in the Acton area.

Mary Black, his wife, indicated that the ground work from the last election was now paying off.

"We had a great number of volunteers lined up, even before the election had been called", she said.

"The numbers and enthusiasm generated so far indicate that it's going to be an exciting election for the NDP in Halton, particularly in Acton", Mr. Black added.

One of the keys to NDP strength in Acton, according to Mr. Black, is the location of the committee office in the 201 Lakeview Avenue home of party organizers Alan and Sharon Foster.

"It's a novel idea, which makes things a little more personal and warmer for people who come in with questions", he said. "We really appreciate the Fosters opening their home for us."

Mr. Black said that in this election, the NDP is offering the only true alternative for the electorate.

OLD PARTIES
"The disillusionment of the voters with the old parties (Liberals and Conservatives) is unprecedented", he noted. "People are now ready to accept a new approach to government for a new decade."

Mr. Black said he realizes one of the main concerns in the Acton area is the relative shortage of industry. The NDP, he said, would stimulate new industrial growth two ways.

"We would reduce the interest rate to help small businesses, who can't afford to start up new businesses with the present high rates, and we would regain control of our

resources for secondary industry", he said. "We need to have more industrial research in Canada, and a town like Acton would be very attractive for research industry."

Mr. Black contended that Canada's present deficit could be greatly reduced if the deferred taxes which have been granted to the oil companies were collected.

COMPANIES DEFER
"The Liberal and Conservative governments have been allowing the multi-national oil

companies to defer payment of billions of dollars in taxes," he explained. "This money is supposed to be invested by the companies in oil exploration in Canada, but the vast majority of it is going out of the country."

Mr. Black suggested that if these deferred taxes were collected, they could be used by PetroCan for exploration in Canada.

The excise tax on gasoline, proposed in the defeated Conservative budget, will not increase conservation of gaso-

line by Canadians, Mr. Black said.

"There is no evidence to indicate that high gasoline prices decrease consumption", Mr. Black said.

He suggested that oil prices in Canada should not be arbitrarily raised to world prices. "We shouldn't let OPEC set our prices for us", he explained. "We shouldn't raise our prices till we know what is a relevant price for Canada and we have to get that information from the multi-nationals."

Perras sees main issues as leadership, budget

The Conservative budget and leadership are the issues concerning most voters in this election, according to Halton Liberal candidate Bill Perras.

Speaking to a gathering of party workers in Acton Monday afternoon, Mr. Perras said the budget, with its 18-cent a gallon gasoline price increase, was totally unacceptable to Canadians in general and to Halton residents in particular, since Halton is basically a commuter riding. Many residents moved to Acton because that was where the affordable housing was to be found and now, any savings in housing would be eaten up in increased transportation costs, he said.

While the Conservatives were busy calling Pierre Trudeau arrogant in the last election, their leader Joe Clark has simply proved his arrogance in his election statements saying he won't change the budget "one iota" if he is re-elected, even though it brought down the government.

Mr. Trudeau has learned a lesson in humility through his defeat last May 22, Mr. Perras commented and that is one reason why he is less aggressive and less arrogant in this campaign. He has an internationally-respected reputation as a political leader and Canada needs a prime minister with this respect in time of international unrest.

The Halton Liberals will be concentrating on regaining the seats they lost to the Conservatives by small margins during the May election, Mr. Perras said.

Although he is an underdog in this election campaign, Mr. Perras said he relishes the battle. The hard work of getting known in east Oakville, where so many of the close vote polls were located in May, has taken place over the past 30 years while he and his five brothers and sisters were growing up in the area.

He will be in Acton talking to high school students Friday afternoon, followed by a coffee party to meet voters, a main-streeting session in the early evening and visits to the Acton Legion and the curling club later in the evening.

Mr. Perras will attend an all candidates meeting in the Acton Legion Monday evening sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and main-streeting in the town February 4. He hopes to have former

Liberal cabinet member Jean Chretien or Donald Macdonald, campaigning with him in the near future but has not had confirmation yet as to a possible date for their visit.

Mr. Perras does not favor boycotting the Moscow Olympics.

Mr. Perras kicked off his campaign in the Acton area Monday by opening his "command posts" from which workers will be dispensing information on the Liberals campaign during the coming weeks.

Posts have been established in the following locations: Dolly Moulden's home on the Fifth Line, Bob Saunzig's home on Storey Drive, Steve Ormsby's home on Elizabeth Drive and Nancy Vidler's home on McDonald Boulevard. A fifth location has yet to be named.

CBC missed Carter speech, McDermid, viewers upset



PLOTTING STRATEGY

Dolly Moulden discusses Halton Liberal candidate Bill Perras' schedule with him during the opening of the Liberal "command posts" in north Halton Monday afternoon. Mr. Perras will be visiting the Acton area several times in the next couple of weeks trying to meet as many voters as possible. (Herald photo)



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