

Acton all-candidates meeting

Capital punishment debated

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

Three of the four Halton candidates attending an all-candidates meeting in Acton Monday called for the return of the death penalty in order to curb premeditated first-degree murder such as that of Ontario Provincial Police con-

stable Duncan McAleese, shot last week in Delhi.

While Progressive Conservative incumbent Otto Jelinek and Liberal candidate Bill Perras said that Canadians as a whole favor capital punishment and thus the 1976 legislation banning it should be reviewed, independent candidate

Bob Ritchie called for a national referendum on the issue.

New Democratic Party candidate Doug Black, however, firmly disagreed with his opponents.

"I am unalterably opposed to capital punishment," he said "on moral grounds. How can society improve itself when the state that represents

it sanctions killing?"

Mr. Black, an Oakville lawyer, said he had visited prison inmates jailed for murder who indicated they would rather be dead than have to spend 25 years in prison. The minimum term for first-degree murder is 25 years and there is no parole available before the sentence is served, he said.

"The real deterrent is putting them away for 25 years," he said. "In the three years since the death penalty was abolished in 1976, the death rate has gone down. It's fundamentally a moral issue. How can a society grow when it sanctions killing?"

SELICK ABSENT
The issue of capital punishment was raised during the question and answer section of the meeting which attracted four of Halton's five candidates. Absent from the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored meeting was Libertarian Karen Seliak.

All four candidates expressed a need to see foreign aid money being more closely controlled. Mr. Ritchie suggested that full employment in Canada should take precedence over loaning money to foreign

countries many of whom are Communist-oriented.

Mr. Jelinek said that when his party was elected it had immediately put controls on how foreign aid was used in the country to which it was given to ensure that the money got to the poor who needed it. His party had also cut off loans to countries like Cuba and Jamaica and began cutting back on the SEDA program where necessary.

Mr. Black said that while there was a rationale behind the foreign aid programs it was suffering from faulty implementation. The loans are not just give-aways. The recipient of the loan must purchase goods in Canada thus increasing Canadian trade and exports. He stressed the need for tighter controls on the merchandise being purchased and the sort of companies from which it is bought. Purchases should be made from the small business sector which would help to stimulate the economy.

Mr. Perras said that while Canada is an affluent country, "charity begins at home" and foreign aid programs must be closely monitored to protect Canadians first.



MOULTON ON THE MOVE

David Moulton (left), NDP candidate in Brampton-Georgetown, explains party policies to area voters.

(Herald photo)

Sweeping changes proposed by local communist candidate

By JIM MACDONALD
Daily Times Staff Writer
What would your strategy be if you only polled 77 votes in the last federal election?

That's the question facing Jim Bridgewood, the Communist Party of Canada's Brampton-Georgetown candidate in the Feb. 18 federal election.

According to Mr. Bridgewood, the answer is to demonstrate a real alternative to the major political parties, and alert as many people as possible to the party's policies.

Those policies were outlined Friday at a press conference in Brampton hosted by Mr. Bridgewood and Communist Party leader William Kashtan.

With the discussion centering mainly on economic and energy issues, they say the major political parties don't have the answers while the Communists offer the only chance at real change.

The Progressive Conservatives propose that the "people of Canada tough it out" while exempting multi-national corporations and the rich, Mr. Kashtan said.

Neither a majority Tory or Liberal government "would serve a useful purpose to Canada," Mr. Kashtan said.

The party proposes sweeping economic changes to wrest control of the economy from foreign countries and multi-national corporations.

Energy and natural resources should be nationalized to permit "rational planned development," Mr. Kashtan said.

"They are too important to Canada to be left in the hands of the multi-nationals," he said.

The party also proposes selective nationalization in other key areas, and plants should be prohibited from closing, unless just cause is shown.

That's so workers don't "arbitrarily" lose jobs since the right to work is a "precious" right, Mr. Kashtan said.

Mr. Bridgewood, 49, an auto worker in Oakville, said approximately 20,000 Canadian auto workers have been laid off and said the government should intervene in the industry which could and should lead to the development of a Canadian car.

The party advocates a freeze on domestic energy prices. Mr. Kashtan disagrees that higher prices encourage conservation. Prices have grown 400 per cent since 1973 and "that hasn't conserved anything," he said.

The real reason for higher prices is to raise revenue for other purposes, such as the Tories' mortgage tax credit plan, which helps only a minor-

ity of the public, Mr. Kashtan said.

Mr. Kashtan also proposed a federal-provincial Crown corporation to develop energy resources, and gas and oil pipelines across the entire country to ensure security of supply.

Mr. Kashtan, 70, has been a Communist since 1927 and party leader since 1965.

On a local issue, Mr. Bridgewood said police have no right to intervene in strikes, referring to the recent Douglas strike which ended Friday.

That dispute was marred by police-picket line scuffles leading to several arrests.

Mr. Bridgewood said workers were "fighting mad" when vehicles attempted to cross picket lines, "and I can't blame them. That's their jobs at stake."

Other national leaders want to "revert back to a Cold War stance" and are "echoing" U.S. policy, but Canada's future doesn't lie in joining the Cold War camp and entering military adventures, he said.

"I don't think (the crisis) will hurt our position," he said. "I think it will strengthen it."

Fifty-two Communist candidates, including 22 in Ontario, are running in the Feb. 18 federal election.

Mr. Kashtan said Canada should continue, and even expand, trade and cultural ties with the Soviet Union. He also wondered why boycott the Moscow Summer Olympics as the U.S. has threatened.

Local industry hurt by auto pact: Black

Doug Black, New Democratic Party candidate for Halton, took a swipe at the Liberals and Conservatives for jeopardizing the area's economic well being by failing to see that the intent of the Canadian Auto Pact was implemented.

At a press conference in the Oakville headquarters Monday, Black said that this failure coupled with 11 raises in the Canadian interest rate over

the past 30 months have resulted in 750 Oakville workers being laid off indefinitely at Ford and Long Manufacturing.

Rockwell International in Milton is expected to lay off 125 auto industry workers by mid March, he said. Another 3,500 Ford workers temporarily laid off may soon be joined by 1,800 workers operating one shift at the plant.

Mr. Black said he finds the

Liberal and PC neglect of such a vital industry very frustrating. The auto industry accounts for 11 per cent of gross provincial product and 12 per cent of wages in Ontario.

While Canada constitutes 10 per cent of the total North American market, Mr. Black said, it gets less than eight per cent of the industry's jobs and more than half of these are for unskilled labor. Canada also receives less than half its fair share of capital investment and almost no research and development funds. Between 1970 and 1975, United States parent companies reaped an average of \$230 million annually from their Canadian subsidiaries. At the same time Canadian car prices remain substantially higher than American ones, he said.

The independent parts manufacturers were the only bright spot in the industry and exorbitant interest rates have made it almost impossible for them to expand.

Mr. Black accused the Liberals and PCs of fearing the auto manufacturers and said three of the four auto makers frequently ignored pact requirements with impunity.

An NDP government would use Canada's strong bargaining position of a 1.1 million vehicle market to negotiate with the auto makers. Their goal would be a fair share of jobs both quantitatively and qualitatively within five years and a fair share of capital investment and research and development funds. The NDP would also insist that companies live up to the letter and the intent of the pact, he said, as well as removing the price differential between the two countries.

Mr. Black emphasized that NDP policy of lowering interest rates by two percentage points would permit expansion and stimulate sales generally.

Communist urges restraint on crisis

Canada should "add a voice of mediation, sanity and a cool head" to the Afghanistan crisis rather than become involved in the "artificial hysteria" drummed up by the United States, the leader of the Communist Party of Canada said here Friday.

William Kashtan said "jaw jaw rather than war war" is needed in the crisis sparked by the Soviet Union's incursion into the Central Asian nation.

"That's what's called for here, and Canada could play an important role as a mediator," Mr. Kashtan told a press conference Friday where he appeared in support of local Communist candidate Jim Bridgewood.

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MILNE OPENS LOCAL OFFICE

Ross Milne, Liberal candidate for the riding of Brampton-Georgetown, performed the honors to officially open his Georgetown campaign headquarters Friday, with assistance from wife Lorna (left) and Sharon Izzo. Mr. Milne hosted a breakfast with friends and supporters at Neptune's Restaurant, just around the corner from his campaign headquarters in the Guelphview Square, before the official opening.

(Herald photo)

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