

Energy, military, interest rates are the issues

John McDermid questions giving Trudeau right to lead

John McDermid, PC incumbent candidate in Brampton-Georgetown riding, questions whether Pierre Trudeau should be given the opportunity to lead the country under present world conditions, considering his past history as a conscientious objector during World War Two.

"I don't know Trudeau can be prepared to lead the country, should a war come, when he wouldn't fight in the second world war", Mr. McDermid told The Herald in an interview following a luncheon with Prime Minister Joe Clark and Premier Bill Davis Thursday.

Continuing on the subject of the military, Mr. McDermid blasted Mr. Trudeau and the Liberal party for reducing the strength of the Canadian forces.

"In the 11 years that Mr. Trudeau was in power, our armed forces have been reduced by 26,000 and our NATO commitment was cut by 50 per cent, against the wishes of our allies", he said.

According to Mr. McDermid, the Canadian forces presently have more German tanks than Canadian tanks.

"We are so short of equipment, we have to borrow tanks to train our men", he explained.

Regarding the negative television commercials, which directly attack the other parties, aired by the Conservatives and Liberals, Mr. McDermid said that he was one of the first to condemn them publicly.

"I called party headquarters the Monday after they first came out", he said. "I feel there are too many positives to talk about and I'm glad to see that we've (PC's) started running commercials that concentrate on party policies."

NDP, TOO
Mr. McDermid added, however, that he has noticed that the NDP is also running negative commercials.

To help out those who might be adversely affected by the proposed 18-cent per gallon



FLASHBACK: Rookie MP for Brampton-Georgetown John McDermid browsed through some literature in preparation for his first parliamentary session following his election May 22.

increase in the excise tax on gas, as outlined in the budget, Mr. McDermid said the PC's have an energy tax credit program ready.

The credit would apply to families earning less than \$21,000 per year and average out to about \$60 per year, per family.

The revenue gained from the excise tax would be used, Mr. McDermid said, partly to build an energy bank for future oil exploration and partly to defray the cost of importing oil.

Mr. McDermid criticized the Liberal's energy policy.

"They want us to switch our dependence from the Middle East to Mexico and Venezuela", he said.

According to him, such a dependency would be risky considering the limited political stability that exists in those countries.

The mortgage deductibility scheme will, Mr. McDermid said, effectively reduce the impact of interest rates and help the ailing construction industry.

Mr. McDermid said he was greatly disappointed that Mr. Trudeau did not want to debate the other party leaders on national television.

"The Liberals are hiding their leader because they have no platform and they're ashamed of him", he said.

Mr. McDermid feels that the budget in which the government was defeated and on which the Conservatives are running this election is tough but honest.

"Our budget will set the course for the 1980's", he said.

By LOUI TAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer
Brampton-Georgetown
Liberal candidate Russ Milne says energy is the major issue in the current election campaign, largely because of its close ties to the other major issues in the campaign, including national unity and the budget which led to the defeat of the Clark government.

"The government was defeated over a budget that was tough for a soft economy," Mr. Milne told The Herald last week. "There were a couple of things in that budget that just weren't for one of the major issues was the 18-cent-a-gallon increase in the price of gasoline."

"That's to pay for the mortgage tax deductibility program because now that they're planning to implement the plan over three years instead of four, the 18 cents won't be enough," he pointed out. "People with a low income who rent accommodation and those people who already own their own home are paying for the mortgage tax scheme through their increased fuel costs and not getting any benefit from it."

GAS PRICES
Mr. Milne said he believes Canadians would support increased gasoline prices, provided the revenue would be used for exploration and development. As the Conservatives have proposed it, the money would go to the oil producers, most of whom are concentrated in Alberta, he said.

"This is why Premier Davis came off the chair and protested so vigorously (about the budget)," Mr. Milne said. "For Ontario, that budget would have meant the loss of 20,000 jobs, and it would mean each family paying an extra \$4,000 a year for fuel by 1984."

Another energy-related issue is PetroCan and the prime minister's changing policies for the crown corporation.

"People are concerned about the fact that the Tories don't support PetroCan," Mr. Milne said. "They've changed their position to find one they could live with politically. And now they haven't approved PetroCan's exploration budget, so they can't do any exploration."

"We want to strengthen PetroCan and Canadian ownership of oil resources," he continued. "We want to see 50 per cent of Canada's oil and gas under Canadian control by 1990."

Mr. Milne says the energy issue goes hand in hand with

Energy issue ties in with all issues: Milne

national unity because of the concern over the imbalance being caused by the oil-rich provinces like Alberta. Mr. Milne says that Alberta is a much greater threat to Confederation than Quebec is, because while Quebec is striving for political independence with economic ties, Alberta has already achieved economic independence and is now tied to Canada only politically.

"I think if there's any reason Trudeau is required as Prime Minister, it is because Clark says he is not interested in this issue (national unity), and I think that's an incredible position for a prime minister to take," Mr. Milne said.

"Trudeau is one of the few people who has the credibility and the strength to go to

Quebec and say there will be no special status but that Canada will do its best to assure the province that the rights of all its citizens will be observed."

NOT AN ISSUE
"Whether the referendum carries or not, people don't think it's an issue," Mr. Milne said. "They think (Liberal leader Claude) Ryan will win the next provincial election and the issue will disappear, but Mr. Ryan is proposing special status for Quebec, and that's not good either."

"I oppose Mr. Levesque's proposal vigorously, and while Mr. Ryan's proposals are more moderate, they still aren't acceptable," he said.

One of the local issues which Mr. Milne is concerned about

is the proposed sale of DeHavilland, a crown corporation, by the Conservative government. Many people he's met in Georgetown work for DeHavilland, and Mr. Milne said he's concerned about the loss of jobs, which would result from the sale. Because DeHavilland has the world's most advanced Short Take off and Landing technology, the buyer of the corporation would probably take the technology out of the country, and the plant in Canada would shrink as a result, he said.

Mr. Milne said he is very optimistic about the Liberals' chances in this election. "I think our chances are very good," he said. "I find the chemistry is very good with the people I meet."



FLASHBACK: Liberal Russ Milne tried to persuade voters to jump on his re-election handwagon last May while campaigning on Georgetown's Main Street.

Moulton vows lower interest, research grants for business

By RICHARD PETRASHEK
Herald staff writer
Brampton-Georgetown NDP candidate David Moulton believes Canadians will reward his party for its consistency by electing an NDP government February 18.

"When the Liberals were in power, they talked about tough times and belt-tightening, while the Conservatives attacked them for allowing interest rates and inflation to increase," Mr. Moulton, 29, told The Herald Thursday. "While the Conservatives were in power, the Liberals attacked them for allowing interest rates to go up and, before being defeated, the Conservatives tried to introduce a depression-era budget."

Mr. Moulton, a marketing executive with Pitney-Bowes in Mississauga, contends that the NDP has not changed its basic platform from the previous election.

"I don't even have to change my campaign literature from the last election," he said, commenting that he is not concerned about the recent Gallup poll results which showed the Liberals holding a commanding 50 per cent of the popular vote.

SOFT SUPPORT
"The Liberal support is soft, and in the next few weeks, you're going to see a definite change," he explained.

Mr. Moulton said that the main issues voters in Georgetown have expressed concern about are interest rates, energy and leadership.

"There are a lot of small businessmen who find it very difficult to expand their companies under the present high

interest rates," he said. Mr. Moulton vowed that the NDP would lower interest rates and guarantee research grants to help small businesses.

Mr. Moulton also said the NDP, if elected, would expand the role of PetroCan into every phase of oil production, while ensuring a fair return to the producing provinces, while eliminating the windfall profits of the multi-nationals.

Mr. Moulton said that he has not encountered any negative response, while canvassing, toward NDP leader Ed Broadbent.

"The fact is," he explained, "I'm the only candidate in Brampton-Georgetown who doesn't have to defend his party leader."

One of Mr. Moulton's personal concerns is the treatment of the elderly in Canada.

"I've been getting a lot of calls from pensioners who are having serious problems because of high interest rates and inflation," he said.

Mr. Moulton explained that many pensioners are skipping meals and giving up their homes because their pension cheques do not cover expenses and mortgage payments.

He said he plans, if elected, to propose that the veteran affairs department be changed to deal with the problems of all the aged. The NDP party would make significant changes in the Canada Pension Plan, Mr. Moulton indicated.

One proposal is a guaranteed income for Canadians, aimed at wiping out poverty for good. "It's unfortunate, but the majority of people on welfare are women over 55 and single mothers," Mr. Moulton said.



FLASHBACK: NDP candidate David Moulton prepared campaign strategy with campaign worker Gerry Campbell ready for the election last May 22.

Communists support Iranian embassy escape

The Communist Party feel that, on purely humanitarian grounds, there is justification for the action Canadian ambassador Ken Taylor took to smuggle American hostages out of Iran.

At the same time, the party strongly condemns the Tory administration for having allowed this affair to be leaked to the press, suggesting that by giving this incident so much

publicity, the Clark government has done a disservice to Canada's "otherwise efficient foreign service."

The Conservatives "have totally destroyed Canada's credibility abroad, put in jeopardy the lives of the 50 odd Canadians still living in Iran and may have further complicated the negotiations which may be taking place to free the remaining hostages," a Communist party release suggests.

CHRETIEN COMES TO GEORGETOWN

Former Liberal Finance Minister Jean Chretien will be visiting Brampton-Georgetown riding Thursday evening, dropping in at the Georgetown committee room in the Guelphview Square from 6 to 6:30 p.m. From there, it's on to a fund-raising dinner at Carl's Catering on Queen Street in Brampton, where Mr. Chretien will be the guest speaker. After the dinner, Mr. Chretien will be visiting the Brampton campaign headquarters at 152 Queen St. East.

FLORA VISITS BRAMPTON

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid took his Conservative campaign to the air as well as the streets this week with an appearance on Channel 10 Rogers Cable TV last night and an afternoon visit with senior citizens in Georgetown yesterday.

The MP will be on hand at tonight's (Wednesday's) Georgetown Business Award of the Year banquet and plans to canvass all day in Georgetown tomorrow following an all-candidates meeting at the high school, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

On Friday, Mr. McDermid will greet Conservative external affairs minister Flora MacDonald at Peel Manor seniors' residence at 2:15 p.m., after which both politicians will face students at Sheridan College's Brampton campus.

The riding's PC association plans a True Blue Tory Rally Friday at 8 p.m. in Huttonville community school. Tickets are \$5.

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