

**Tories relieved**

# F-18 'boon' to area economy

Local politicians have expressed elation at the federal government's choice of

the McDonnell-Douglas F-18A fighter jet, calling the project a definite boon to the area's

economy. Brampton-Georgetown Conservative MP John

McDermid said Friday he gives "full marks to the minister of national defense (Gilles Lamontagne) for holding up against the pressure I know was applied...by the Quebec caucus."

Mr. McDermid said the decision to go with the F-18A was "the wise decision" because Canada will be getting a fighter plane "the armed services wanted and need to fill NATO and NORAD commitments."

In addition, the awarding of the contract to McDonnell-Douglas Corp. will have tremendous spin-off benefits for this area, Mr. McDermid said.

Ontario premier and Brampton MPP Bill Davis also thinks the project will be a boost to the economy, not only for this area but the entire province.

In a statement issued Friday

from his Queen's Park office, the premier said he is "absolutely delighted with the contract awarded to McDonnell-Douglas."

"It means a great deal to the entire province, the Peel Region and Brampton in particular. The most obvious benefit, of course is the increase in direct jobs in constructing the aircraft. But I think it's safe to predict that a contract of this magnitude will attract new companies."

"All those involved feel the F-18 is a superior plane," Mr. McDermid said at that time.

# MP urges government help to small business

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Halton Conservative MP Otto Jelinek has urged the government to re-establish an interest rate policy review to save small businesses threatened by rising rates.

In a letter to Small Business Minister Charles Lapointe, the veteran Tory complained that continuing interest rate increases are to blame to a record number of bankruptcies in the small business

sector.

"It is my belief, shared by many businessmen and economists, that unless some attempts are made to exempt small business from these exorbitant rates, free enterprise as we know it will suffer an irreparable blow," he predicted.

Jelinek claimed to accept, "on a general basis", short term high interest rates as a method of controlling inflation

and protecting the dollar. "However, the introduction of floating interest rates is a deceptive cop-out, as it seemingly allows the government to deny responsibility for interest rate increases," he added.

He also recommended the government act on a Progressive Conservative proposal for "small business development bonds" to provide the sector with financing at half the interest rates.



## SECOND TERM UNDERWAY

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid (seated) formally launched his second term Thursday morning when he was sworn in by assistant clerk of the House of Commons Marcel Pelletier. On hand in Ottawa for the occasion were the MP's mother, Nora McDermid, his wife Elaine and several constituents from this riding.

(Ottawa Bureau photo)

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