

Region must fight -Reed

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precarious basis."
Mr. Reed predicted a spring election, possibly in May or June, to which he said there could be three possible outcomes—a majority Conservative government, a Liberal minority or a Conservative minority.

"I think there's some logic in the idea of a minority government," he said. "Most citizens in Ontario see it as having worked well recently."
"In a minority, the government has to bend more—it has to be more sensitive and receptive to public opinion."

Regional government will be the key issue in the campaign in Halton riding, Mr. Reed said.

"It emerged as one of the major issues in the riding in late 1980, although it's been simmering all along," he said. "With the deficit, it once again became a major issue."

The Liberal party has said in past campaigns that if necessary, it is prepared to dismantle regional government, or to perform major surgery on it, in order to make the system more effective, Mr. Reed said.
Mr. Reed is predicting national issues will also play a big part in the campaign, with energy policy and French language rights as issues which have more national scope.

"People are going to have to make a profound decision whether the government which has been in power for 37 years should be in for another 37 years, or even another four years," Mr. Reed said.

The environment is a big issue and will continue to be an issue in the coming year, with the South Cayuga dump an issue of particular interest to Halton because of the region's problems with its garbage, Mr. Reed said.

"I've been an outspoken advocate of resource recovery for a long time," he said. "We're one of the last jurisdictions in the world to take this seriously."

The shelving of Bill 127, the Pits and Quarries Act, was one of the few issues in the Legislature which affected Halton directly this past year, Mr. Reed said. He predicts that if the Liberals win a strong minority, the bill would be amended and passed. If a majority Conservative government is elected, however, there may be problems because the act is geared towards letting the ministry of transportation and communications do whatever it wants, without giving due consideration to the residents, the municipalities or the region.

"Energy could be an energy issue in 1981," Mr. Reed said. "It's not so much for the price but with utilization and security of supply. Cheap petroleum is dwindling and we need alternate sources of energy and more sources of petroleum."

"Energy is not particularly a catchy issue. It's like water in your well—you don't worry about it until the well goes dry."

Mr. Reed said he is pleased to see the number of people who are involved in conservation, but there are steps which could still be taken to help conserve.

"I would like to see a simple system for energy rating a home so the value selling can include the energy rating."

The coming year could be a very productive one, once the election is over and the balance of power has been established, Mr. Reed said.

"We've all got to shoulder some responsibility, and if we do that, we'll have the strongest country in the world."

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