

# Parents question candidates on independence

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feel provides a balanced academic curriculum with religious values no longer found in the public school system. In addition to paying property taxes for public schools, parents sending their children to private institutions must also pay the school's fees.

Reed admitted the position of his party on funding alternative and independent schools is "cautious" owing to its defeat at the polls in 1971 while supporting aid for separate schools up to grade 12.

"We are of the profound belief in the right and responsibility of parents to educate their children," he said, pointing out that Liberal leader Stuart Smith believes pluralism within the educational system would benefit the province, rather than fragment the public school structure.

Echoing statements made earlier in the campaign, NDP candidate Chris Cutler promised to raise the question for clear policy guidelines the next time the party's provincial council meets because, he said, he has faced similar battles in the public school system to "have one's own point of view accepted".

Party leader Michael Cassidy supports alternative education, the OAAIS points out, although it wants to know what changes in the decision-making process between the local boards of education and ministry would be made to "allow alternatives to exist".

"Valueless education" under the Davis administration, Mr. Cutler said, "leads many parents to seek an (educational) environment similar to their own homes".

"There is no way the NDP would stand in the way of your freedom," he added, emphasizing that his party does not support a "two-class educational system".

Liberal incumbent Julian

# Jobs, equality are elections issues for AHS students

By PAUL SARGENT  
Herald Special

An all-candidates meeting held at Acton High School last Wednesday started with a bang when a table occupied by several hysteric Julian Reed supporters collapsed, but if this was taken as a sign of things to come, the crowd that filled the gym ended up sadly disappointed.

The meeting before a large group of students - most of them too young to vote - failed to produce any new developments in a somewhat uneventful provincial campaign.

NDP candidate Chris Cutler started the session with an outline of what concerns today's students. He cited job security in the future and the environment as the two major areas of worry for high school students.

Mr. Cutler outlined a few ideas to create jobs for the young people of Ontario. He expressed hope that if the NDP is elected, it would push for an industrial strategy to include major introduction of the mining equipment manufacturing field.

EXTRA JOBS  
When asked how the NDP would create these additional jobs, Mr. Cutler told the students that a crown corporation would be set up and facilities at Lakehead University would be expanded for research and development of

the field. He estimated that approximately 3,500 new jobs would be created if the plan was put into effect.

Progressive Conservative candidate Fran Baines told the restless crowd that the PCs have kept the "promise". Mrs. Baines pointed out that the senior citizens of Ontario have the highest standard of living in Canada because of the creation of some 35,000 apartments for the elderly across the province.

"Our seniors are very lucky

to have such outstanding care; this is the PC's doing," she commented.

Mrs. Baines asked why the PCs lasted four years with a minority government if they failed to keep their promises. Julian Reed, the Liberal incumbent, was greeted with squeals of delight from many young girls in the audience.

He explained that the major problem for Halton-Burlington is the ineffectiveness of regional government and the ways in which the Tory

government has implemented it without general public acceptance.

CONTROL SHOWN  
Mr. Reed attacked the PCs for using a type of control that has been shown to work improperly. He used the examples of the hydro transmission corridor "Hiasco" and the regional dump proposed for rural Milton.

"There's a myth in Ontario that the PCs are good managers. Now is the time to say 'Billy boy, we don't want you anymore,'" he said.

Mr. Reed explained to the students how the Tories spent \$10 million in a Mirakal lodge, a tourist resort, and forgot to include bedrooms.

"That's good management? I doubt it," he said.

After brief opening statements, the candidates invited questions. Things got rolling when a girl asked Mr. Reed if

he knows Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. He answered that he does but added that Ontario's Conservative Premier, Bill Davis, seems to like Mr. Trudeau better than his own federal leader, Joe Clark.

One area of concern expressed involved the role of women in the future job market. Mr. Cutler said he believes a private member's bill calling for equal pay for equal work should be passed as soon as a new government is elected.

"A woman today makes 58 per cent of the wages a man does for doing the same job. That has to stop," he said.

Mrs. Baines retorted that if a new bill was passed, a whole new level of bureaucracy would have to be formed.

COSTS MONEY  
"That costs money. I believe that women have the ability to make it themselves," she

replied.  
Mrs. Baines added that she believes the NDP does not have the same faith in women as the Tories do.

When the school bell rang, signalling the end of the day, more than half the students left the hall while the candidates were still speaking. The meeting continued for students who remained.

One area that touched a raw

nerve for the Acton students was the contention that Georgetown seems to reap more benefits from the provincial coffers than Acton. Why, for instance, does Acton not have a cinema or a shopping mall? Mrs. Baines explained the municipal government is responsible for local services and concerned residents should speak to their town councillors.

Did you know that Ontario's last winter election took place in 1905? The province's eleventh election was held Jan. 25 of that year. Two more recent elections occurred in late fall, however: candidates probably ran chilly campaigns for the Dec. 11, 1911, and the Dec. 1, 1926, elections. Winter elections were popular in the last century. Four of the first six took place while the mercury hovered at the low end of the thermometer, from the second Ontario election March 21, 1871, to the sixth, held Dec. 28, 1888.

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