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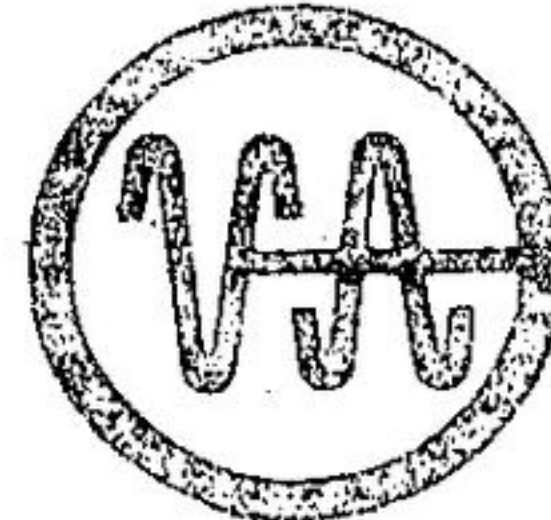
Firm's high tech attracts Opposition leader

Joe Clark impressed by Varian

By ASTRA PAPE
Herald Staff Writer
Federal Opposition leader
Joe Clark visited Georgetown's Varian plant on Mountainview Road North Tuesday afternoon with an eye toward learning more about Canada's high technology operations and their training procedures.

Mr. Clark spent an informative hour and a half touring the firm, which manufactures telecommunications products, and spoke with Varian officials.

Varian is one of several high technology plants Mr. Clark is visiting across Canada this summer to see how viable current government policies are in dealing with technological development and the promotion of skilled labor.



Even though Varian is a relatively small company in Canada, it is number one in the development of certain products also and, according to Mr. Smith, employees "have more ideas than we can run with."

Mr. Smith said that as a Canadian firm, Varian has no unusual barriers in exporting its goods, exporting 70 to 80 per cent of everything manufactured. Mr. Clark had questioned the government help they receive in terms of protection. Mr. Smith admitted to tough competition on the foreign markets in the United Kingdom and West Germany.

After their informal discussion, Mr. Smith led Mr. Clark and Mr. McDermid on a tour of the entire plant, showing them various work areas and some of the Varian products. Mr. Clark was able to question several employees about their jobs.

After the half-hour tour, Mr. Clark sat down in private with Mr. Smith where, Mr. McDermid said, they discussed a number of things including manpower planning and training. Mr. McDermid said Mr. Clark was very impressed with Mr. Smith and found the tour very informative and interesting. Various recommendations were made which will be presented in a report entitled Employment Opportunities in the 80s, to be submitted some time this fall.

After the visit, Mr. Clark answered a series of questions concerning the federal government's decision to cut off 20 per cent of VIA Rail service, the current postal contract negotiations and Canada's rising interest rates. He also mentioned that after his talks, with Mr. Smith, he felt the government should encourage better skilled labor to enter the job market and that there has to be more co-operation between government and industry in this respect.

Mr. Clark had also planned to visit Northern Telecom in Brampton, one of Canada's largest telecommunications firms, the plant is shut down for vacation.



Y'ALL COME BACK NOW

Representing the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Walter Dixon was on hand at Varian Tuesday afternoon before the official tour to greet Joe Clark and to present him with an invitation to be the Chamber's guest speaker at the fall dinner. Mr. Clark jokingly remarked that it seemed about the only way to deliver an invitation during the postal strike is to do it by hand.

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Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid, who accompanied Mr. Clark on his tour, told The Herald that Canadians "must come to grips with the problem of one million unemployed in this country and yet a severe shortage of skilled labor."

Prior to the tour, Mr. Clark spoke for several minutes with the operations manager for the electron device group, Connell Smith, who explained the basic operation of the firm, its history and its line of products. Regarding Canada's shortage of skilled labor, Mr. Smith told Mr. Clark that universities and industries in the U.S. seem to



WEIRD STUFF

There was a day-long display of "interesting and weird" collections at the Georgetown library Saturday. Lynn Clark (left) is a collector of penguin knick-knacks and brought part of her 23-item collection to show the public. Jim Collier is a great fan of science fiction novels and short stories and offered a small part of his extensive collection of books to the library for display, a collection which, he says, amounts to over 1,200 books. If Lynn is into penguins, Heather Collier loves owls and showed some of her 150 owl candles, ceramic works, calendars and other paraphernalia.

(Herald photo)

Naked woman pinched by cops

An unidentified woman wandering nude in the Delrex Boulevard Rexway Drive area of Georgetown late Wednesday afternoon kept police busy as she eluded attempts to be taken into custody. Police arrived after a complaint was received that a woman was strolling around the streets naked and attracting quite a crowd of children and other residents. One resident had already given the woman a pink bathrobe to put on by the time police arrived. According to an eyewitness, police had a difficult time coaxing the woman into their squad car. In order to get her to step into the car, one officer had to walk around to the opposite side and call her and, as she leaped into the car, his partner slammed the door. Halton Regional police reported that the woman is approximately 26 years of age and is visiting from Georgia. She had been staying in Georgetown for a few weeks and has been admitted to the Homewood Sanitarium in Guelph for observation.

Stop sign likely for 22 Sideroad

Southbound drivers on the Eighth Line may have to stop as they approach Sideroad 22 if council approves a soon-to-be introduced bylaw. Resident complaints from the area and from Exquisite Coun. Russ Miller point to the intersection as a traffic hazard because the hill along the Eighth Line north of the intersection makes it difficult for drivers to see traffic stopped and waiting to turn from Sideroad 22. Police records state that there have been six accidents at the intersection, four of which may have been caused by visibility problems. Advance warning signs on the sideroad have been "worthwhile", the town's public works department reports, but the southbound stop making the intersection a two-way stop zone is hoped to allay concerns.

Maybe it's time you jumped into something more demanding than a car pool.

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