

Halton Hills Outlook

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Their Outlook

Turner changed man since trade talks

Anyone who doubts the premise that, in politics, a month is an eternity, need only take a look at the new John Turner these days.

And the change in the Liberal leader has happened in only half a month.

This is not to suggest that Mr. Turner is entirely out of the political woods and is breezing to victory in the next federal election. But, compared with just two weeks ago, he is certainly a new man.



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

There is no more punning and hawing "on the other hand," and he has quite looking over his shoulder to see which caucus members might be withholding applause. He hasn't been this fussy since returning to Ottawa in 1963.

And it's all because of free-trade that colossal issue which fell into his lap at just the right moment, when all the attention was being focused on the embarrassing split in Liberal ranks over the Meech Lake Accord.

The bothersome issue is still here, but it has been shunted into background temporarily as the country's politicians are seized with the free-trade agreement, a deal which Mr. Turner pounced on like an angry evangelist after a tight-fisted sinner. He even managed to leave NDP Leader Ed Broadbent breathless in his wake.

There seems to be a unanimous view that Mr. Turner's first fiery speech on the free-trade accord - which sizzled with criticism - was his best since his return to Parliament. He was absolutely scathing about "this sellout of Canada."

NEEDED ISSUE

To say that Mr. Turner longed for an issue like his represents massive understatement. There was desperate need for a major national issue on which he could demonstrate clear, uncompromising leadership on behalf of the united caucus.

He lost no time in staking out his position, even before seeing any documents. The moment he learned that, under the terms of the accord, Canada would have to share its energy resources with the Americans, his courses was clear. He would fight on behalf of Canada's future sovereignty.

But it is the way Mr. Turner was lead to the fight that delights his followers and surprises his op-

ponents. The change in the man is indeed remarkable.

Besides free trade, there have been other developments which have tended to make life easier for the Opposition leader. New Brunswick not only became the fourth province to embrace the Liberal government in the last three years, it did so by electing Grits to all 58 seats.

Victories like that are bound to have a positive effect on other Liberals, including those of the federal variety.

Then we had those encouraging comments from Liberal Party President Michel Robert, the man who just a few months ago warned Mr. Turner that unless he was quick to improve his performance, there would be a party revolt. Mr. Robert's latest remarks were probably more to leader's liking.

POLLS GOOD

What the president said this time is that Mr. Turner "is doing much better," and that, so far as he is concerned, he has put the leadership issue to rest. "There are still some people in the party who want to raise it, but I think it's strictly a minority now," said Mr. Robert. He acknowledged that problems exist in Quebec, where the party is having a great deal of difficulty rebounding from its 1984 trouncing by the Tories. But he was optimistic things would improve.

No sooner were Mr. Robert's comments on the desk of Mr. Turner than he received news of the first Gallup Poll to be taken after the free-trade agreement was reached. And this poll showed that, since a month earlier, the popularity of the Liberals had risen two percentage points, while the Tories dropped by the same amount. The New Democrats, up one point, were tied with the Liberals at 38 per cent.

The survey, taken four or five days after the free-trade agreement was announced, indicated that the Tories were at 23 per cent.

While the shifts were not democratic, they clearly offered encouragement to the Liberal leader. The gradual decline in Liberal popularity, which began a year ago, seems to have halted over the last three months.

Since so much can happen in just two weeks, it goes without saying that much more can occur, in any direction, over the next year when an election is a likelihood. But, for the moment, federal Liberals are exceedingly happy with the most recent turn of events.

Now, if they could just get the party out of debt.



Dump site talks political

by BRIAN MACLEOD

Herald Special
Garbage isn't something that's on the average working person's mind.

To most of us garbage is just a big green bag that gets dumped out on the sidewalk once a week for the men in the big white trucks to carry away.

But to 25 people in Halton Region have been battling it out for years in an attempt to decide exactly where Halton's garbage is going to go for the next 20 years.

The battle has cost the region and the four municipalities about \$10 million.

And that's just to find the dump. The cost of exporting waste to other regions, including the United States in the next few years is going to be astronomical.

When the Region hits full export in January it will run up a \$1 million a month bill just to dump our garbage.

Hearings trying to decide on a site will cost another \$250,000 a month.

It's incredible that the hunt for a new waste sight has been allowed to go on for more than ten years.

The fight currently centres around how export Halton's waste.

Burlington councillors are sparing no effort to make sure the dump there now gets closed in January and the transfer station located at the dump is deactivated.

Some councillors can't understand their motivation, when building new transfer stations which is necessary if the station is closed down, will cost the Region about \$2.5 million each. Oakville councillor Fred Oliver

another one somewhere in southern Halton.

But Burlington councillors must have weighed that possibility against the continued use of the site and decided the latter is the worse of the two evils.

The big decision comes Monday when the Planning and Public Works Committee must make the final decision on how to export Halton's waste. That decision, of course, must be approved by the full council. But that battle may just a hint of things to come.

If the hearings looking into the landfill issue pick Burlington as the best site for the new dump, you can expect emotions to run high.

Burlington councillors have taken their stand and they're not going to give up now.

Reporter's notebook

said the issue has been politics from day one.

And he's right. Those Burlington councillors must be fighting for their political lives.

After years of promises by the Region that the site will close, and after reneging on those promises because of emergencies, Aldershot residents have probably just about had it.

And why not? They've played host to the most dubious honor in the Region for years, that is, taking all our garbage.

And now the Region wants to move the bulldozers and seagulls just a hop skip and a jump away to the new dump for the next 20 years.

When you take that into consideration it's a bit easier to understand an "I don't care what it costs, just get that dump out of here" attitude.

It's going to cost the Region a bundle to close down that one transfer station at the dump site and open up

Working Women

Fifty-three percent of all women work outside the home, 36 percent have children, but only 26 percent are part of a traditional nuclear family.

Between 1976 and 1982, the percentage of women between the ages of 35 and 39 who hadn't had children rose from 11 to 14 percent.

Lucky we don't see stock markets behind the scenes

It's a good thing we don't see what goes on behind the scenes each day on world financial markets. We'd be scared skinny.

The full extent of last week's turbulence, and the clumsiness of valiant attempts of central bankers to smooth things over, were frightening.

The stock market's relentless slide sent interest rates soaring. Some U.S. rates leaped half a percentage point in a few short hours last Thursday after climbing steadily earlier in the week.

The surge did not show up in the weekly setting of the Bank Canada rate. The bank rate climbed to 9.25 per cent from 9.125 the week before. It would have been higher if the market had been more volatile.

The main question is what the central bank will do next.

the chartered banks in its role as lender of the last resort.

But the bank's actions under its new governor, John Crow, may have hurt more than they helped. It's not unusual for the central bank to try to influence the market. But Mr. Crow should have been more flexible, traders say.

"He's an economist who doesn't understand how markets work on a day to day, hour to hour basis," one banker said. "Scaring the pants off money traders is not a good way to calm financial markets."

SOOTHING WORDS

Some of the market's volatility was caused by the West. Money was being pumped to other, so-called, "emerging" markets. An administration official

spokeswoman said interest rates were being kept low to encourage the flow



Your Business

By DIANNE MALEY
Business Analyst

justified by inflation, and predicted they would fall in the months to come.

The secretary of the Treasury and the vice chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank, in the new book, "The New Economics of Money, Banking and Finance," said that the U.S. Treasury Secretary was about to quit because things were so bad. The rumor was denied.

Money markets are still in a state of

also made its presence felt in the marketplace. Like the Bank of Canada, the U.S. Federal Reserve Board has a number of arcane things it can do to influence interest rates.

Even so, at least one big American bank raised its prime business lending rate by half a percentage point, the sixth increase this year.

This is where the problem comes into public view. Eventually, banks, trust companies and credit unions have had to respond by raising their administered rates.

The Bank of Canada was also concerned about last week's big leap in the Canadian dollar. By holding rates down, the bank hopes to support the dollar and prevent a move in the currency market.

EXPIRES

As of Oct. 23, 1987, the following have