Halton Hills Stiff OOK

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Their Outlook

Turner's tenacity tends to astound

Whether John Turner survives as leader of the Liberal Party is not as intriguing a question as why he would even want to hang on.

After all the caucus revolts he has faced, ranging from miniscule mumblings to a majority uprising, along with all the criticism, insults and other abuse that has fallen on his shoulders over the past few years, it's a wonder he doesn't simply pack it in and go fishing.



Ottawa Report

131 Stewart MacLeod Thomson News Service

I mean, when you can't even go to your mother's funeral without supposed supporters plotting your retirement, things are becoming decidedly desperate

It would be different if there were clear signs of daylight ahead. But there are none. Not only has caucus dissatisfaction been increasing, but so has the party's debt - and, oddly, Mr. Turner is the only person blam-

ed for this money crisis There is little doubt that the leader's strident opposition to the free-trade deal with the Americans has contributed to the crisis, since a vast majority of potential corporate donors favor the deal. But if all officials in the Liberal Party were do ing their jobs, there would surely be some progress in decreasing the debt.

After all, despite the wellpublicized difficulties of the Liberal Party, opinion polls suggest it remains ahead of both the Conservatives and New Democrats in terms of voter appeal

It's ludicrous that the most popular party in the land - which suggests it's the best bet to form the next government - can't raise any money. The Tories, who have spent most of the last two years in third place, are rolling in dough

OTHER ODDITIES It also seems passing strange that

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A special Mother's Day message

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the last throws of winter quickly thing they are doing, giving in

vanishing and tresh life arrabusly dividuals a feeling of self respect, a

awaiting the beautiful warm sun so new lease on life, the joy of sight

it can burst from the ground, I look Donations can be forwarded to P.O.

around me and feel yery thankful Box 123, Station 'M., Calgary, Alber

in Canada and able to enjoy the I have one more wish, which un

fresh, clean air. To blue sky and fortunately is an impossible one I

ruch fertile soil that a so much a part wish my mother's sight could have

But along with being grateful for her grandchildren married, or the

where I live, I am also very grateful beautiful smile of her first great

for the people who are a part of my grandchild. But I also know what she

country. 'Canadians Care' Yes, would have said, "Don't worry about

they really do, a 1 nowhere is it me, talp those who really need your

more apparent than in the Third help, restore their sight so they can

World. Of course there is much more experience all the joys I've had most

acknowledge our a complishments. Albert Schweitzer said: "I don't

Accomplishment such as the know what your destiny will be, but

number of man had that Operation one thing I do know; the only ones

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the leader of the most popular party in Canada has to devote so much of his working time to fending off uprisings. He seems constantly busy composing such silly quotations as: "It sometimes takes an issue like this to really bring everyone together."

That was after the recent six-hour marathon caucus in which a majority of Mr. Turner's elected MPs - 22 to be exact - let it be known they would dearly love his resignation. Whatever else that meeting might have accomplished, it did not provide a classic demonstration of bringing people together.

The leader was far from convincing when he said he felt "reinforced' by that particular gathering But I guess the poor man had to say something positive

He's in an unholy situation. Here he is, leading the most popular party in Canada only 16 months after three-ugarters of laboral delegates from coast to coast gave him a rous ing vote of confidence and his 38 member caucus seems to be crumbiing around him.

Sure, all the right things are being said now that Mr. Turner has rejected requests to step down, but wasn't it always thus? If 22 MPs were willing to sign letters calling for a new leader, it's unlikely they all went through a conversion process in one six-hour meeting.

The problem is, there is no apparent solution Since Mr Turner seems to have no intention of quitting . "my commitment to lead is firm" - there is absolutely nothing his critics can do about it, except, perhaps, organize a six hour caucus.

"The party elected me, reconfirmed me and expects me to lead " be Says

PROUD MAN

Given what the Liberal leader has endured since he returned to active politics in 1984, and given his personal pride, one can readily understand this determination to vindicate himself

No, it's been another lousy spring for John Turner. The fact that he soldiers on is not just a wonder, it's a miracle

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whole life was spent doing for

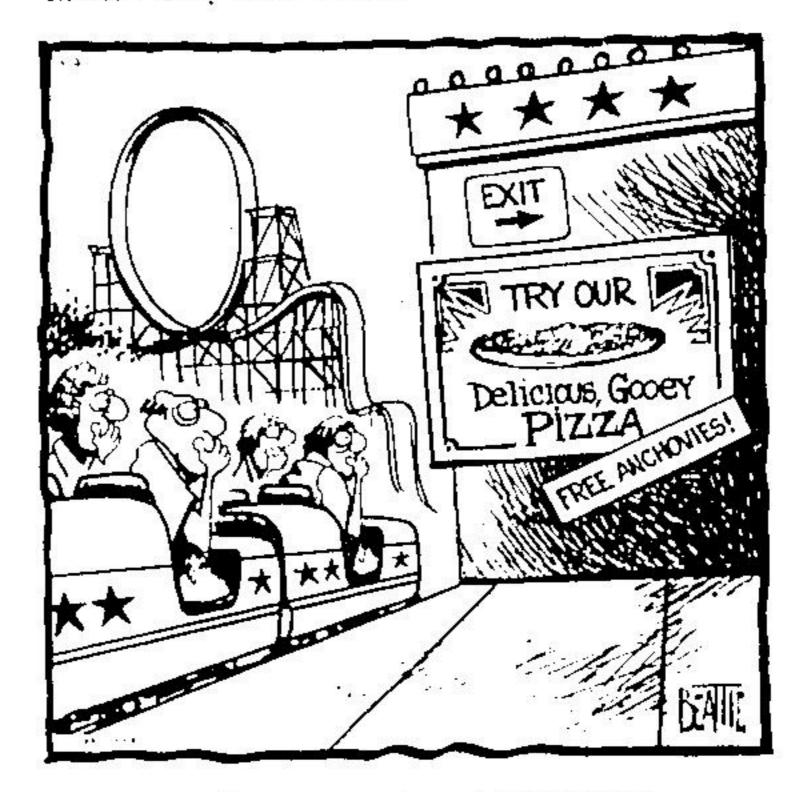
Very sincerely

Doreen Ranson

Wintopeg, Manitoba

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SNAFU® by Bruce Beattie



Someone in the ad department has a cruel streak

Political scandals aren't forgotten

Review

By J.L. GRANATSTEIN

Corruption and patronage scan dals have become staples of Canadian political and public life in the last decade. Who can forget Pierre Trudeau's orgy of appointments in the last days of his government. Or Brian Mulroney's scathing criticisms of those appointments" Or Mulroney opening the trough to party stalwarts as soon as he was in power? One who has not forgotten is Robert Harrison in And Justice for Some: Power and Patronage in Ottawa (Eden Press, 177 pages, \$14,951.

Harrison was a lobbyist in Ottawa for the accounting firm of Touche Ross during the late 1970s. As such, he wined and dired the politicians and their hangers on, doing favors here and scratching a back there His interest was in gelting Touche Ross the contracts for the auditing of Crown corporations and the like He was, by his own acrount, notably successful. His recounting of the Ottawa lobbyists' work is interesting in parts but careful, and readers will find a better story in John Sawatsky's recent book The Insiders

TROUBLES

Harrison's tale becomes more useful when he recounts the story of his own troubles. He was a friend of Bryce Mackasey, a sometime Trudeau government minister and briefly head of Air Canada from Montreal, and evidently a stock market investor without much skill. Mackasey run into difficulties and Harrison an obliging friend, helped

But somehow according to Harson, some chore observers thought Mackasey had become a paid lob hyist in return for this help

Those suspicions eventually

brought in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, that involved Harrison, and the resulting imbroglio led to yet another political scandal.

The details of this unhappy story are complex and of interest only to afficionados of political party corruption. What is interesting is that Mackasey, though his political career was ruined, emerged relatively unscathed. Harrison, on the other hand, again by his own account, had his marriage destroyed, his job disappear, and he landed in

Truth is always in the eye of the beholder, of course, but Harrison's account of his troubles, forming the middle part of his book, reads con-

vincingly. At worst, he was toolish. Whether the same thing can be said for his employers or for the politicians, banks and businesses with which they dealt in this messy affair is less certain. Any lobbyist, given Harrison's cautionary tale, should worry about his employer's loyalty and the easy friendship of the politicians with whom he has to associate

PATRONAGE

The final third of Harrison's book is a cursory recounting of the Mulroney government's difficulties with patronage and corruption. Harrison has no inside information to retall here, and this section seems to have been tacked on merely to add some spurious currency to the book.

The book, as a result, is a curious one. The first and last parts are of dubious value. The central section, however, is virtually unique in being an account of a trelatively minorscandal by its central player and victim. The uniqueness makes Har rison's book a valuable one. Now, it we can only persuade Michel Gravel MP, and Andre Bissonnette. MP, and ex-minister and a host of others to tell their storass in print

-Prof. J.L. Granatstein teaches Canadian blatory at York Universi-

Smooth talking

About 20 people who attended the Acton quarry dump hearings which officially began Tuesday may have been baffled at times by the technical nature of the discussion.

Although the two consultants, hydrogeologist Vern Dixon and engineer Michael Pullen, attempted to keep their presentations in laymen's terms, some of the ensuing questions proved the study group knows their stuff.



Halton Region's Linda Friesen and Power's Ruth French as well as Richard Brocklebank, Jim McColl and several other members of the study group were right on top of the consultants during their presentation with detailed questions To the laymen, it seems, those

committee members are on top of things.

The committee discussion itself was open and informative. Bill Johnson turned out to be an

excellent choice for the chairman He is keeping the meetings orderly with plenty of chances for the panel members and the audience to ask questions The 312 hour meeting could have

gone on a lot longer but the idea was just to discuss introductory hydrogeology and design in the first meeting.

It is clear however, that there were plenty of questions to be answered still at the end of the meeting.

But there was nobody from the town of Halton Hills present until Mayor Russ Miller arrived around 9

At the beginning of the meeting Mr. Johnson scanned the audience and asked if there were any councillors present who might want to be recognized and given the opportunity ask questions. Dead silence

"I guess none of them want to get re elected. Mr. Johnson deadpann.

My, my isn't our diminutive councillor Joe Hewitt pushing the Liberal red banner these days?

A few weeks ago during a discussion on the perits of having a federal election compargn and a municipal election at the same time Coun-Hewitt quipped "The Conser vatives are used to causing confusion around the country "

On Monday councillurs were discussing the merits of giving money to the Guelph General Hospital for equipment replacement Coun Pain Johnston said hospitals are desperately under funded these days

But Coun. Hewitt, also the president of the Halton-Peel Liberal Riding Association, came to the defence of the mighty red and white Much of the increased revenues from the recent Onlario budget will likely find its way into hospital

budgets, joked Coun, Hewitt In the same breath he managed to say he ween't taking a political

stand on the issue, And wasn't Coun. Hewitt seen wearing re-rimined glasses down

at Halton Region on Wednesday? There's no doubt that red blood runs through Mr. Hewite's years

these days. Dare we speculate on the color of

his underwear?

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