

Federal Election '88

Klein says seniors getting raw deal

A Liberal government will amend the Canada Pension Plan to provide broader benefits, according to Halton-Peel candidate Pierre Klein.

Mr. Klein says seniors are getting a raw deal from the Mulroney government: "Our senior citizens, after years of hard work and years of paying taxes, are being short-changed - and the rest of us won't have much to look forward to if the

Mulroney government's policies continue."

For example, Mr. Klein notes, the Mulroney government's changes in the CPP Survivor Benefits package have hurt many elderly citizens, most of them (91 per cent) women.

The Liberal amendments will allow divorced, separated, and never-married people to receive the Spousal Allowance which is now

available only to widows. Also, full-time homemakers will become eligible to participate in the Canada Pension Plan; and people who wish to take early retirement at age 55 or after will be able to receive a portion of their pension.

Mr. Klein says a Liberal government is committed to making housing available for seniors in rural areas, and will increase funding for research on Alzheimer's and related diseases which afflict the elderly.

"Many people in Halton-Peel will be especially pleased by the Liberal commitment to restore the investment income deductibility of up to \$1,000 a year for all Canadians over 65," Mr. Klein says.

Mr. Klein will be taking his concerns to senior citizens throughout the riding.



Pierre Klein, Liberal candidate for the riding of Halton-Peel, chats with Global television reporter John Darby. Global TV was in town last week to interview the three federal candidates at their Guelph Street campaign offices. (Herald photo)

Labor president Wilson attacks free trade deal

The free trade agreement "should ring a danger bell" in the minds of Canadians, Ontario Federation of Labor President Gordon Wilson told a gathering of NDP supporters in Milton Oct 15.

"The election debate on free trade is simply about who will have the power to make the decisions that will affect all of our lives," Mr. Wilson said.

"The centre of the universe will cease to be Toronto and will most likely be somewhere in the United States" if the free trade agreement is approved, said Mr. Wilson.

The OFL president spoke to a small gathering of NDP supporters at the Canadian Auto Workers union hall in an attempt to boost the fortunes of NDP candidate Fern Wolf in the riding of Halton-Peel.

He launched a scathing attack on the free trade deal and the government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

"There is a lingering, nagging feeling that Mr. Mulroney cannot be trusted," he said.

He reminded NDP supporters of the Prime Minister's promise to "have nothing to do with free trade" before the 1984 election and of his attempts to de-index pensions.

The Prime Minister "tried to pillage the seniors in this community," he said.

He mocked Mr. Mulroney's claims that his experience as a labor lawyer made him familiar with labor's needs.

"He was a lawyer who worked against labor," said Mr. Wilson who recalled that Mr. Mulroney shut down an iron ore company in Quebec.

Mr. Mulroney is simply protecting the interests of corporations and the United States with the free trade deal, said Mr. Wilson.

"In Washington there are hawks and there are doves and in Ottawa there are parrots," he said.

"Mr. Mulroney thinks the decisions of the marketplace independent of any government intervention is the road we ought to take," said Mr. Wilson.

"The NDP believes that Canada is far more than an economy that

governs its people."

The NDP "have concluded that (the free trade deal) is a deal that is not good for ordinary Canadians," he said.

He acknowledged that red meat farmers will benefit from free trade but jobs created under the auto pact will be in jeopardy, he said.

"As soon as those tariff-walls come down there will be no compulsion whatsoever for those companies to remain in this country," he said of the potential damage to the auto pact which compels the US to create jobs in Canada.

"As you give corporations more self control they will more and more act in their enlightened self-interest," the CAW member said.

"Their self interest is most often not compatible with ours," he added.

"You can't have a common market between countries when the costs of production are different," he said.

The cost of production in Canada is 15 per cent higher than in the US and Canada's labor standards are higher, he said.

And Canada cannot mass produce on the scale of US firms, he said.

Under the free trade agreement there will be "tremendous pressure to harmonize standards between the two countries and that will include social services," he said.

Canada will suffer from US policies in the area of health care, where 35 million people in the US have no health care protection, said Mr. Wilson.

"Individualism prevails in the US," he said. "If you happen to make it, that's fine and if you don't, that's tough."

Canada should not follow that route, he said.

He criticized Mr. Mulroney for selling off crown corporations like Air Canada which help service people in remote areas that private profit-oriented corporations wouldn't touch.

Everybody has the right to receive the same service no matter where they are in Canada, said Mr. Wilson.

"We cannot build a distinctively different Canada with the free trade agreement," he said.

Canada must trade to grow: Clark

By BRIAN MACLEOD
Herald Staff

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark rallied around the free trade agreement at a press conference in Georgetown Thursday.

"There are two debates going on. One is about free trade and one isn't," Mr. Clark said at the office of Halton-Peel PC Candidate Garth Turner.

Opponents of free trade "are trying to create a lot of boggy-men."

Mr. Clark is the second Tory heavyweight to visit the riding in two weeks.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney toured Mold-Masters in Georgetown Oct. 3 but he fielded no questions from the media.

Mr. Clark said people still don't know the facts behind the deal. "People are confused about it and they don't know enough about it," he said.

Sooner or later Canada will have to compete with Asian nations such as Japan and Korea and stronger European powers like West Germany, said Mr. Clark.

"We may not want to compete with them but West Germany and Korea and others are going to compete with us."

"We, more than most nations, have to trade if we're going to grow," said Mr. Clark.

The booming economy in Canada now is due mainly to initiatives put in place by the Tories, said Mr. Clark.

Moves such as tax reform and abolishing the Foreign Investment Review Agency set the stage for free trade, said Mr. Clark.

"It is in that tradition that we're pursuing the free trade agreement."

Canada is in the midst of building a world class ice-breaker to help protect the sovereignty of its waters in the north, said Mr. Clark, referring to the moves of a US ice-breaker, now in northern waters.

"Economies that are weak don't build ice-breakers," he said.

The free trade agreement would "send a positive signal" to other countries that Canada is willing to trade openly, said Mr. Clark.

any agreements with Asian or European countries would be worked out "in the context of GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)," said Mr. Clark.

Calling the polls, which indicate an increase in Tory fortunes of late, "a very good snapshot" Mr. Clark said the Conservatives are "on our way to a majority government."

He fended off accusations that Prime Minister Mulroney is

deliberately avoiding the media in the election campaign.

"I think he's running a very effective campaign," he said, citing a recent television interview with the CBC as an indication of the Prime Minister's willingness to field questions from the media.

The campaign has once again developed into a two-way race now that "people have recognized that

the NDP is not a national party," said Mr. Clark.

He commended Mr. Turner for publishing his "Citizens Guide to Free Trade" which he said is "a first class document."

Mr. Clark, who showed up more than an hour late for the press conference in Georgetown, headed up to Bolton with Mr. Turner Thursday evening to open a campaign headquarters there.



External Affairs Minister Joe Clark visited Halton-Peel PC candidate Garth Turner's campaign office in Georgetown Oct. 13 for a press conference. Reporters had brief double vision at the press conference as Mr.

Turner held up a picture of himself with Mr. Clark from the first time the two met several years ago when Mr. Turner went to Ottawa to protest policies of the federal government. (Herald photo)



Halton-Peel NDP candidate Fern Wolf was joined by Gordon Wilson (left), president of the OFL and former Welland-Thorold NDP MP Mel Swart for a campaign rally at the CAW hall in Milton Saturday. Mr. Wilson gave a rousing speech on the perils of the free trade agreement. (Herald photo)

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