

Turner urges Wilson to stay on and "be strong"



On The Hill
With
Garth Turner

EDITOR'S NOTE: Early Thursday morning Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner wrote a letter to Finance Minister Michael Wilson urging him to stay on despite the

unprecedented budget leak to television reporters Wednesday night. The contents of the letter were released to the local media Thursday.

April 27, 1989

Hon. Michael Wilson,
Minister of Finance,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Over the past few years, as you know, I have at times questioned

your economic and tax policies. As a journalist and broadcaster I've sent you petitions, appeared before a House of Commons committee and raised questions about tax reform.

Now, as a Member of Parliament, those past actions gave you every reason to deny me access to the decision-making process.

But that has not happened.

You have taken me in, worked with me, listened to me and even allowed me to make a contribution to the formulation of your budget.

Today I must go on record in expressing my respect for you, my admiration at your integrity and my utter support for your position as Finance Minister.

You must remain in the job. Canada will suffer greatly if you do not. The world community has confidence in you, as I believe the vast majority of my constituents and all Canadians do.

Your budget, as revealed last night, gives us that critical first, strong step toward a future free

from debt. Of course we can't cure ourselves of this disease in a single year, or in a single document.

But we can be strong. We can signal our intention to draw the line against past sins, and to draw it wide.

Today I am standing with you. You are Canada's best hope, and you are a man I simply believe in. Be strong. Be yourself.

Garth Turner, MP

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28 PAGES

Budget causes a stir locally

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

The federal budget, leaked and then officially announced by Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson Wednesday night, is causing a stir among Halton Hills' business owners.

"I think all the politicians should be jailed for six months," said H and R Block Georgetown and Acton franchise owner Mark Bulicki. Mr. Bulicki said while the cutbacks proposed by the federal government "are not too bad" some of the tax-based systems are not to the advantage of the consumer. The government's proposal is to save between \$5 billion and \$9 billion.

"I'm quite disturbed by the cigarette tax because I am a smoker," he said. The tax, once passed through the House of Commons in Ottawa, will mean a \$4 increase on each carton of cigarettes, bringing the average price to \$30 a carton.

The new tax system is supposed to shave millions off Canada's annual operating deficit, but Mr. Bulicki said there is no evidence in the newly-released budget to support this.

"I'm very surprised that although they're going to save \$5 billion, they're still going to be over \$30 billion in the hole," he said.

Other complaints about the budget included a proposed gas price increase of one cent per litre. Al Cook, owner of Cook's Sunoco on Guelph Street, said tax increases are a year-round problem for gas station owners. He said everyday people ask why gas prices are going up and he doesn't know who to blame for it.

"(Prices) were 40.9 (cents a litre). Now they're 48.9 (cents a litre)," he said.

And prices will likely be higher than one cent more once provincial tax is added.

But some aspects of this year's budget appeal to local businessmen. Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce president

Murray Lawton said Thursday although the budget was not a "fait accompli," he agreed with the government cutting \$1.9 billion in contributions to Unemployment Insurance (UIC).

He said these reductions "could have been taken a lot further."

Mr. Bulicki agreed saying, "it's about time" for UIC reductions, and that the government "should have gone further."

Despite this bright light in an otherwise dim impression of this year's budget proposal, Mr. Bulicki said government spending

"is not in control" and that politicians "do not know how to run a business."

Will this budget save earners money on their income tax return as claimed by the Progressive Conservatives in the last few months?

"Garbage, garbage, garbage," said Mr. Bulicki. "They don't know how to control spending, so how can they save on taxes?" he said.

The new Tory-proposed federal tax will be more visible than the previous 12 per cent manufacturer's tax hidden from the con-

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Hooper, Handy are "back in the saddle"

By PAUL SVOBODA
Herald Sports Editor

Weeks of speculation ended Thursday when Georgetown Raiders president Dave Kentner announced Bob Hooper would return to the Jr. B hockey club for the 1989-90 season as general manager.

At an executive meeting held Wednesday night, Jack Handy was re-appointed vice-president of hockey operations for 1989-90 and a subsequent motion passed re-naming Hooper as GM.

"I'm happy to have Bob back in the saddle and I'm happy Jack's back," said Kentner.

The announcements cleared up a hazy picture on the Raiders management team that appeared unsettled after the club lost in the playoffs in four straight games to Oakville Blades for the second time in the past two seasons.

Kentner expressed his frustration after the playoff elimination, especially in the wake of a much-improved regular season by the Jr. B Raiders in which they rose from second-last to third place in the Central Ontario Jr. B league's western division final standings.

"I'm content and very happy to have a stable condition on the hockey club in terms of public perception," said Kentner. "We understood where we were going. It's come together. There was never any doubt in my mind. We've put in three years with Bob and created an organization we can not only be proud of, but that is also on the edge of producing the fruits of our labor."

Earlier, Hooper had been offered the position of VP of hockey but had turned the job down, saying he would only return as GM. It was speculated that Handy would be offered another spot on the Raider executive.

But on Thursday, Kentner said he had discussed the situation, "for 40 minutes on the phone," with Handy on Wednesday and the current VP of hockey ultimately agreed to return in his current capacity.

It is likely Hooper will re-name Peter Sturgeon as Raider coach upon Hooper's return from a two-week Florida vacation. Sturgeon, an ex-Boston Bruin and former intermediate star in Georgetown, has been the Raider coach for the past two seasons.



I'm Number 1

Bob Jaques of Streetsville and his proud bulldog, Mugsy, were happy winners at the Guelph Kennel Club Show and competition at the Acton Arena last Saturday and Sunday. Mugsy walked off with the Best Breed and Best Puppy in Breed awards and took a break after his successful showing to allow his owner to reward him with his ribbon. Acton Arena was a hive of activity last weekend as dogs of all shapes, sizes and varieties strutted their stuff before judges and interested canine fans. See more photos on Page 5. (Herald photo)

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