

Deficit concerns Reform Party

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Reform party candidate Dick MacDuffee held a small press conference at the Georgetown Library Monday morning to talk about the Canadian deficit.

His party plans to eliminate the federal deficit in three years, because the deficit is the biggest threat to social programs in this country, he said.

"The challenge is going to be to convince rank and file Canadians that this is a very important issue," he said. "We want to balance the federal budget in three years without increasing taxes, and stop digging the hole of overspending and debt."

The Reform Party plans to maintain the same level of funding for health care, education, child benefits, Guaranteed Income Supplement (money given to seniors who qualify), and veteran's pensions. But his party plans to cut back on Old Age Security (eliminating payments to families with more than \$54,000), unemployment benefits and welfare. MacDuffee didn't have details on precisely how UI

and welfare programs would be affected, and said this information will be released over the next several weeks.

"The other parties have been stealing our policies left,

right and centre in the past, so we'll be feeding this out over the next three to five weeks," he said.

The party proposes placing contributory programs like CPP and UIC on a self-sustaining basis, so that money wouldn't be diverted from other areas to make up the shortfall in these plans.

Right now Canadians are spending 32 cents of every tax dollar on interest on the \$450 billion debt, and at the current rate of spending increases, that would be 40 cents by the year 2000, he said. His party's proposals would stop Canada from going further into debt.

"The real issue is which politicians have the guts and brains to address this threat of overspending which is killing us," he said. MacDuffee called into question the abilities of the three major Canadian political parties to make the necessary reforms. MacDuffee admitted that his opponent, Conservative MP Garth Turner, is very concerned about the deficit.

"But nobody in Ottawa is listening. This is an entire party dedicated to these principles," he said.

"Across the country now local reform party candidates are in the process of introducing our programs to balance the federal budget in the next three years," MacDuffee said. Party leader Preston Manning was speaking on the issue at the same time.

While there are 142 candidates for the reform party running in the next election, there is still currently only one elected representative from the party in the House of Commons.

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On Sunday, April 4, there will be a bylaw meeting at 1 p.m. Please try to attend as this is a very important meeting.

Last Saturday we had a full house for our Honors and Awards Night. We inducted 30 new members into the Legion ranks and awarded plaques to various members, including a 50 year certifi-

cate to Comrade Harry Bottoms. Congratulations to all recipients are extended by the executive.

Meat draw

Meat draw winners last Saturday: Lynda Clyma won the roast and two other prizes. Platters went to B. Davison and M. McGuigan. Other winners were Wayne Reid, J. Crawford, J.

Murphy, D. Appleyard, M. McGuigan, B. Lawrence, B. Leslie, C. McClements, P. Ackers, L. Lewis, J. Jeffries, P. Timmons, L. Ryall, D. Vinkle, B. Collier and D. White.

Friday night euchre results: First B. Porter, second L. Richardson, third I. Switzer. Most lone hands R. King.

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