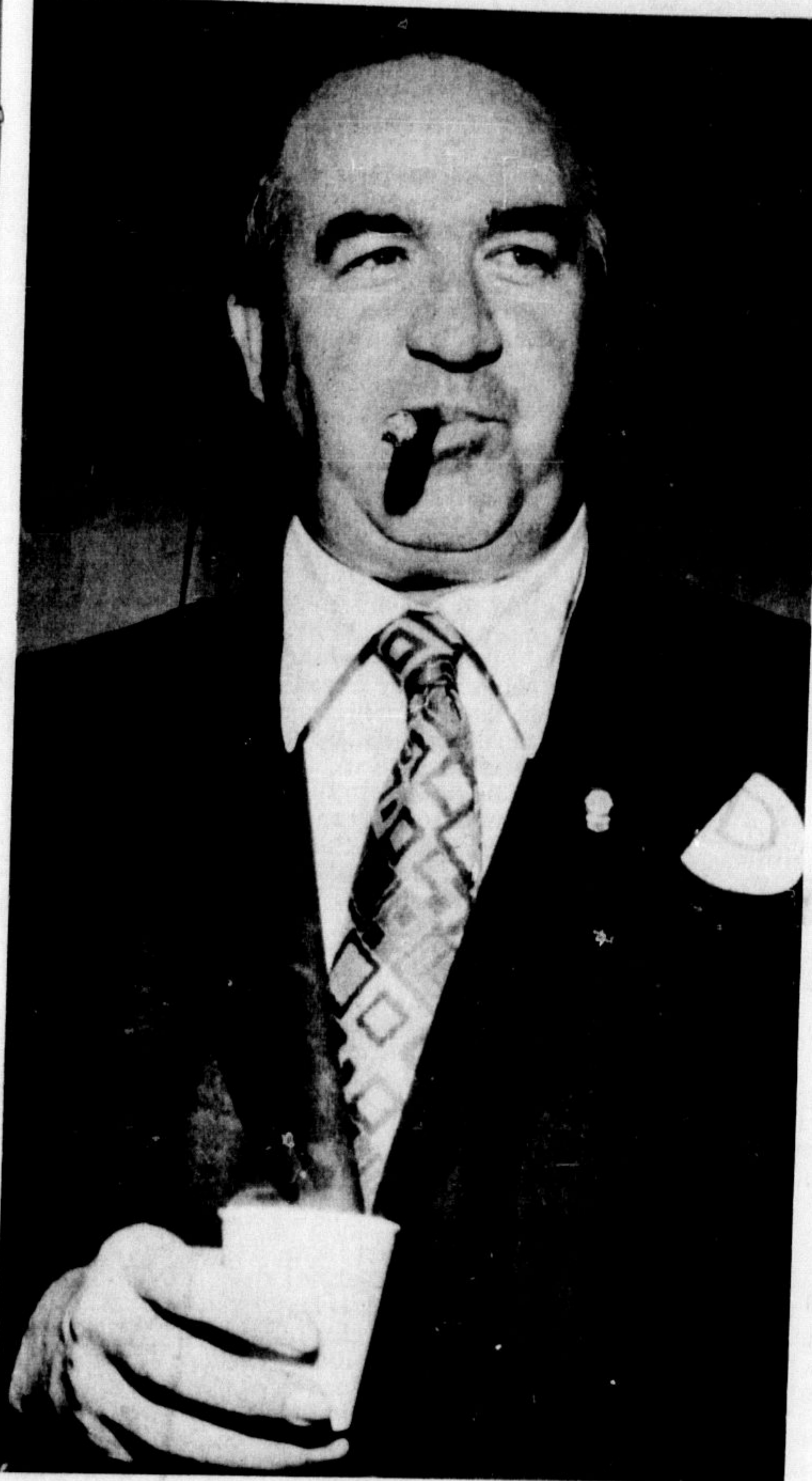


Excitement reigns as Jim Snow wins seat



COFFEE CUP AND CIGAR in hand, winner MPP Jim Snow chats with supporters on election night at Oakville headquarters of the Halton East Progressive Conservative Association. —(Staff Photo)

By Bob Burt

"Snow 140, Blake 82, Gelok 61, McGrath one," pretty Vicki Nelson said as she turned from her phone with a broad smile on her face and handed a slip of paper to Dave Green who in turn grinned and recorded the results on a chart at Tory headquarters for the Milton district.

A party worker's face lit up as Green posted yet another poll swinging in Jim Snow's favor. "That's one of the ones we lost last time. Hey, how about that," one worker cheered as the results of the Milton Heights poll was recorded showing Snow in front of second place Liberal Bob Blake by 50 votes.

After the first 10 of the 30 Milton district polls came in with solid support for Snow, workers relaxed. The anxiety that existed half an hour earlier was gone. Poll captains crowded the Milton headquarters set up at the fire hall and kibitzed with one another about the terrific turnout and decisive vote they helped swing in their own areas.

Snow's in
A raucous cheer emanated from the crowded committee room at 9 p.m. Just one hour after the polls had closed CBC television reporters were saying Snow had been elected with a thundering mandate to represent Halton East.

"This is fantastic, just fantastic," Mel Phelps was saying outside the committee room.

"He (Snow) has done a lot to enhance himself with this town and the whole riding in the past four years," County P.C. President Bob Reid was saying.

"This will assure him of a cabinet portfolio," another worker noted.

At 9.30 the jubilant M.P.P. arrived at Milton headquarters with his wife Barb, sons Jamie and Jeff and daughter Julie. After a brief speech, workers broke into a chorus of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Passers by shouted "We want

Snow", and "Yea, Jim".

Great ambition

Snow told workers his greatest ambition had been accomplished when he won the Scotch Block poll in Esquesing Township. He said he thought it was the first time any Tory organization had penetrated the Grit stronghold since Confederation.

Even though Snow was born in that very area he wasn't able to swing the vote in his favor in his first attempt at provincial politics in 1967. This time he did.

"That was the trend setter. That set the pace for the whole county," Snow said.

Snow left his Milton headquarters to go to Oakville where Bob Blake had gone to

concede. Snow got there late and Blake didn't wait but made a short speech to workers and left the room.

Gelok concedes

Gelok appeared at 10 p.m. and conceded at Conservative headquarters.

When Snow arrived at the Oakville committee room he spoke before an estimated crowd of 200 that packed the makeshift office on Lakeshore Rd., and spilled over onto the street.

The candidate appeared fresh in the midst of a hectic, excited crowd. The phone at the back of the smoke-filled room rang continually. Supporters on the other end offered their congratulations. The walls were

strewn with poll results, "Vote Snow" signs and pictures of Premier William Davis.

By the time Snow left Milton a horde of workers from Milton, Georgetown, Esquesing and Oakville had crammed into a barn at Hays Farms to celebrate.

At Oakville headquarters Snow told workers he was criticized for being overly optimistic when he predicted winning 80 seats in the province. "I guess we weren't optimistic enough" he quipped.

You all did it

One worker approached Snow with congratulations. "I didn't do it alone. You did it, we all did it," Snow replied.

Asked if he planned a holiday

with his family, Snow said he had not, but expected to be back at cabinet meetings at the first of this week.

"The campaign hasn't been hard on me. I've enjoyed it. It was hard fought and a clean campaign. I'm used to working

long hours. I always have and probably always will," the MPP said.

Snow wouldn't comment on a rumor to the effect he'd be appointed minister of housing in a cabinet.

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Independent candidate McGrath happy loser

Richard McGrath is a happy loser. McGrath ran fourth in the provincial election. He ran as an independent in Halton East and although he only polled 283 votes, he says he did better than he had anticipated.

McGrath told reporters he would have been happy with 100 votes. With the exception of some newspaper publicity and his attendance at some of the public meetings, McGrath ran a non-campaign.

No funds

He spent no money on the campaign and had nothing that even resembled party machinery behind him. McGrath indicated he would run again if an organization of independent candidates was formed.

He said he captured the votes of those people who were tired of the three traditional parties, as he was. McGrath continues working as a security guard at night and is a student of anthropology at the University of Toronto in the daytime.

He lives in Oakville with his mother and sister. His 283 votes represented .07 per cent of the total votes cast.

Election results given 150 callers

Election night in Ontario meant a busy night for Champion staffers. While reporters covered the activities in Halton East and Halton West ridings in Oakville and Burlington, the office staff was manning the phones for the newspaper's special election results phone service.

During the evening they handled an estimated 150 telephone calls from readers anxious to learn the up-to-the-minute results of Thursday's election. The telephone results service started shortly after 8 p.m. and lasted until 11 p.m.

Not a record
In this election the trend that

saw the Conservatives easily elected in both ridings was quite visible early in the evening and it never changed, and the 150 phone calls was far from the record 500 calls the staff handled in one municipal election.

Roy Downs, Bob Burt, Janet Braida and Dan O'Reilly covered the election scene in Halton East while Hartley Coles and Denis Gibbons of The Champion's sister paper The Acton Free Press were reporting the returns in Halton West riding. Their story and Photo coverage of the election will be found throughout today's paper.

Snow finally wins it

Scotch Block key poll

If there was one "key poll" in Halton East riding for Thursday's election, it was the poll commonly known as the "Scotch Block" in Esquesing Township.

Jim Snow, the winning PC candidate, knew if he won that one he could win the county. He went it, and he won Halton East by a landslide his supporters were soon calling a "Snowslide".

Scotch Block riding, Number 33 on the returning officer's lists, comprises the third, fourth, fifth and sixth concessions in Esquesing, Lots 1 to 10 inclusive.

The voters went to Hillcrest United Church at Hornby to mark their "X" on the ballots.

First win

Jim Snow was born in that Scotch Block area, named after a quick change and dropped the youngsters at their grandmother's before making their way downtown to the campaign headquarters.

It was Blake 8, Gelok 7 and Snow 5 at Poll 133 in Oakville when voters cast ballots at Oakwood Public School. He was one vote behind Blake's 35 but beat NDP's Gelok by nine votes at Poll 135B—Lions Club Swimming

"I lost it the last time," Snow told supporters Thursday night. "My biggest ambition was to win the Scotch Block because I don't think it's ever been won by a Conservative since Confederation."

Well, he won it. Snow polled 141 votes to Bob Blake's 104 and Ken Gelok's 43. Independent Richard McGrath won no votes in the Scotch Block.

Snow was beaming when he announced the results. "I think that sets a record."

Only lost three

Of course Snow worried needlessly—the entire county was behind him in this race. He only lost three of the 200 polls in the county, and he lost them by slim margins.

It was Blake 8, Gelok 7 and Snow 5 at Poll 133 in Oakville when voters cast ballots at Oakwood Public School. He was one vote behind Blake's 35 but beat NDP's Gelok by nine votes at Poll 135B—Lions Club Swimming

Liberal candidate Blake dejected at loss

By Janet Braida

"All I can say is, there are some lying Conservatives in this province," a man in the crowd remarked as Liberal candidate Bob Blake was about to concede to incumbent Conservative candidate Jim Snow. "He's fought a hard battle and should be proud for what he has accomplished," this same loyal supporter quipped.

It was the end of this election's road for Bob Blake as he stood in his campaign headquarters scanning the polling results board. Figures, though unofficial, showed Conservative Jim Snow leading him by an overwhelming majority and whispers of Blake conceding to the incumbent filtered through the crowd. Following 36 days of early mornings, busy days of campaigning and numerous sleepless nights, the bitter fight was over and Blake gave in to his opponent.

Though things had looked promising from the start of the day, with plenty of rest, a fresh start, a vote for himself and a tour of his riding, Blake looked somewhat nervous when he arrived at his campaign headquarters at 236 Lakeshore Rd. E., Oakville at 8.20 p.m. Thursday evening. He and wife Marian had visited his Milton, Esquesing and Georgetown ridings during the afternoon, had returned to Oak-

ville for a steak dinner at a restaurant, then visited home for a quick change and dropped the youngsters at their grandmother's before making their way downtown to the campaign headquarters.

"It's been a busy day all round," he remarked upon arrival.

The headquarters was buzzing with excitement prior to the arrival of the candidate. Supporters and press reporters milled about, phones were ringing continually, and several female supporters wearing mini skirts, Blake banners and hats chatted excitedly about the day's election. In a corner of the room several first year voters sat near the television watching the national election race results.

The Blakes arrived at headquarters (Bob wearing a mod outfit of red and navy plaid pants, red shirt and co-ordinated tie and navy sports jacket; Marian in a two piece navy pant suit and flowered blouse) to cheers from the crowd. The candidate stopped to glance at the score board, noting that of the several polls already reporting, he had only won one. His winning polls on the overall board were marked with large red circles.

Unofficial results poured in profusely to the headquarters and as more tallies came in, the further behind the leader Blake trailed. At 8.30 p.m. more

supporters arrived and spotted with the crowd were Halton MP Rud Whiting and his wife Anne.

The Whiting and Blakes chatted together while the two men looked at the scoreboard with dismay. "Yes, it's the end of the line tonight," said Marian Blake. "Yet if Bob could take an area the size of Bronte for example, things could again look good for us."

The minutes ticked on as the candidate and MP retired to a room to talk. Several more polls showed Snow still leading and by almost 9 p.m. he had taken over the race by a majority of 3,000 votes.

Workers tacked up signs posting the results and at one point in the evening Whiting made a fast exit from the room, checked the results and shook his head. "Hell, I thought it would be closer than this," he muttered, "Oh, oh, oh."

"Well, at this point it looks like you've had it," Mrs. Blake Sr., mother of the candidate remarked to her son. "Well, we gave it all we had and couldn't ask for more," was the disappointed candidate's reply.

By this time floods of reports from the Halton West election race were pouring into central headquarters. "I hear Kerr is already in over there," said one lady. "Oh, what a shame," added another woman in the crowd.

Near defeat by now, Bob Blake

retired once more to "the quiet room" and called several polling stations in the riding. "It's not looking too good over here," he

told one party on the other end of the phone. Following quiet words he invited workers to his home for refreshments, when final



DEFEATED LIBERAL candidate Bob Blake was second-place runner in Thursday's provincial election. He polled 25 per cent of the Halton East votes for a total of 9,737 ballots in his favor, while MPP Jim Snow of the PC party was returned to office with a resounding 21,358 votes. —(Staff Photo)

totals had been verified.

The concerned gentlemen in the crowd discussed the campaign. "Why did we fare not as good?" an elderly gentleman asked. "Was it the school question that threw voters off?" "It's just a Conservative surge," his listener remarked.

Oakville Mayor MacLean Anderson arrived at the Liberal headquarters at 8.55 p.m. and greeted the candidate and MP Whiting. Another poll was posted and Whiting cursed under his breath.

Shortly after 9 p.m. the announcement was made that Blake would visit Snow's headquarters and concede to the Conservative candidate. "You

can't win 'em all," the speaker began. "Bob stood tall all the way and still stands tall," campaign manager Harold Young noted. "I'm going to straighten my collar, put my hands behind my back and walk down there," said Blake. "It's the hardest walk I'll ever have to make. I've fought a good, hard campaign and am proud to be here. I hope you'll all rally around the next candidate and do as much for him as you have for me," he concluded remorsefully.

When asked, following his announcement of defeat, what issues had been the key ones of his campaign, he noted the questions he felt strongest about were the education costs,

environment and American control of Canadian business.

Mrs. Blake Sr. commented later "one door closes and another opens for Bob. He has worked hard and I'm very proud of him."

Numerous female supporters rallied around their candidate and walked slowly to Snow's headquarters, taking their defeated candidate by the arm. After a quiet speech, hardly audible to the Tory crowd, the candidate expressed his intentions. He shook hands with very few and with a stifled voice retired back to his own headquarters.

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"Election central" no hive of activity

Halton East Returning Officer P. J. Cowan set up his "election central" headquarters in the Oakville Municipal Building on Thursday evening. That's where DRO's phoned in their vote results and where a large board was set up to keep the press and public informed of the results through the evening.

It wasn't the hive of activity it has been in former elections, mainly because the press concentrated on the candidates' headquarters and the candidates rather than waiting at the town hall.

Oakville treasurer John White had his staff geared up to accept DRO phone reports and besides the main switchboard operator, he had five girls taking calls and four others calculating and posting results. Mr. Cowan, who was at his own headquarters on Florence Dr., kept posted on results by telephone through the evening.

The council chamber where the returns were posted was empty most of the evening. Only four reporters occupied the press room—one from the Milton Champion who phoned out results

to The Champion and The Acton Free Press, a girl supplying figures for the three Toronto papers and a Toronto TV station, a man handling results for an Oakville radio station and a Hamilton TV station, and a girl phoning figures to an Oakville paper and The Canadian Press.

The staff (and press) packed up and went home at 11.10 p.m., when 193 of the 200 polls were heard from. Officials had difficulty reaching DRO's at the other seven polls but the results were conclusive enough to call it a night.

Gelok: "Money power vs. people power"

by Dan O'Reilly

Sweep province

The defeated NDP candidate for Halton East in Thursday's election, Ken Gelok, summed up the election as a "clear case of money power over people power". Gelok was overwhelmingly defeated 21,358 to 7,164 by Jim Snow, the PC incumbent.

Gelok, 26, had spent Thursday afternoon talking to and encouraging positive supporters. He drove to his Georgetown base, arriving there about 8.20 p.m. He talked to a few supporters, and then departed for the NDP's Milton headquarters at the UAW Centre on Martin St., arriving there a few minutes before 9 p.m.

It was already evident by then that the Tories were going to win, not only in Halton East, but also across Ontario. Gelok himself was under no illusions: "It looks bad in Halton East", he remarked.

Gelok said he could see no difference provincially between the Liberals and the Conservatives, but did concede that he would rather see the Liberal runner, Robert Blake defeat the Conservative MPP.

Accompanying Gelok was his wife Edith, an accounts payable clerk and the mother of a five-year-old daughter. Asked what she thought of her husband's obvious defeat, she remarked "It's pretty good for the first time

around. What could you expect, this is a Conservative stronghold, especially Oakville."

"A conviction"
Mrs. Gelok remarked that when she first realized her husband had political aspirations, she was against it. "But it's sort of a conviction with him", she remarked.

Gelok managed to nibble on a few salmon sandwiches: "I haven't had time to eat supper, this is about all I've had to eat today". He also remarked that he had managed to pull a muscle in his right leg during the day's campaign.

After talking to some Milton supporters, Gelok left the UAW Centre at 9.15. Before he left, he told his supporters, "thank you

everybody, we'll be back in four years". He then drove to his Oakville headquarters at 373 Kerr St., arriving there at 9.35 p.m.

Had to stand

The Oakville headquarters, a converted store, looked like it would burst open because of the number of people jammed into the premises. There were a few seats but most of the people had to stand. There was a television in the corner of the room, and every so often someone would crane his neck to see how their party was doing.

A group of reporters buttonholed Gelok, who seemed very bitter: "We had a good platform, and so did the Liberals. The Conservatives won because of

massive media saturation". Gelok said that money had won over people. "It makes you wonder about our values". Gelok also told reporters that there should be limits on expenditures for political campaigns.

On the future of the NDP, Gelok predicted, "It will become very nationalistic—Ontario has to have control of its economy."

Believes in it

Gelok remarked that voting was a democratic process and the people of Ontario had voted for the party they wanted. "I believe in the democratic process," he quipped.

Escorting Gelok on the election night tour was his campaign manager Brian Thrippleton, a

member of the history faculty at White Oaks High School in Oakville. Thrippleton, a recent member of the NDP, said the Tory win was a clear example of the "terrifying power of mass media".

Asked about his reaction to the election, Thrippleton said "it was very disappointing". He said it slowly and with deliberation and with the tired expression of a man who seemed to have worked very hard.

Frustrating

Gelok had about 200 - 250 unpaid workers assisting him with his campaign. One of the volunteers, Bruce Burton of Oakville remarked, "I expected Ken



ELECTION NIGHT TALK... Brian Thrippleton confers with the NDP candidate for Halton East, Ken Gelok at NDP headquarters in Oakville. Thrippleton was Gelok's campaign manager.—(Staff Photo)

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