

Mud flies as federal candidates go head to head

13 The Canadian Champion, Wed., November 16, 1988

By ROB KELLY

An all-candidates debate at E.C. Drury school Thursday night had all the sophistication of a mud-wrestling contest.

Would-be Oakville-Milton federal representatives took stinging shots at one another and stacked the audience with their party faithful, all of whom dutifully asked loaded questions designed to embarrass opposition candidates.

Audience members jeered and hooted opponents' statements. Partisan supporters strode to the microphone with party buttons blatantly displayed, then zeroed in on the competition with queries designed not to illuminate positions but to anger or unnerve adversaries.

Perhaps the only two people who got off unscathed were Jim Stock and Paul Calloway, representing the Libertarian and Christian Heritage parties respectively. And the only reason the two men weren't bloodied was because none of the big three contenders viewed them as a legitimate threat.

Progressive Conservative Otto Jelinek appeared most at ease in the tumult. A veteran of many national political wars, Mr. Jelinek defended his party's record when he had to, but attacked whenever the opportunity arose.

Vintage Jelinek

It was vintage Mr. Jelinek. When he answered questions he uncoupled the stand-up microphone and strode away from the podium to front centre stage, his shoe tips almost overhanging the raised platform edge.

He quickly and easily identified the opposition questioners. Addressing one, he called the man "a regular on behalf of the opposition parties. I'm delighted to have you again, sir."

Another questioner offered a rambling treatise, criticizing a Quebec cabinet minister and was warned by the moderator to put his question or sit down. When the man finally did ask it, Mr. Jelinek started his reply by saying "I'm not going to comment on a long speech written for you by someone else."

Waving his document indignantly from his seat, the questioner replied, "Want to check my handwriting, sir?"

Liberal candidate Bonnie Brown

DECISION '88

faced her own array of traps laid by the opposition and became well and truly snared in one.

Retired radio and television personality Bill Walker, who declared in his deep and resonant voice as soon as he approached the questioner's microphone that he is a Tory, asked Mrs. Brown how she planned to pay for Liberal campaign promises.

Mr. Walker asked if she advocated higher taxes or deficit spending.

"Probably a combination of both," the Liberal candidate replied.

Later in the meeting, Mrs. Brown realized what she had done and attempted to atone for the costly error, which she blamed on misunderstanding the question. But not before Mr. Jelinek jumped on the original statement.

"I congratulate Bonnie Brown for admitting on behalf of the Liberal party that they would increase taxes and the deficit."

A few minutes later Mrs. Brown said "I'd like to withdraw that." After the meeting, she said Mr. Walker had "tricked" her with the question. The candidate said what she meant was to whittle down the deficit, taxes would have to be raised.

New Democratic Party candidate Richard Banigan took some heat from Mr. Jelinek when he admitted to having lost his house and being unemployed for three years during the economic recession of the early 1980s.

Banigan attacked

"I feel sorry for you," Mr. Jelinek countered. In area newspapers, he continued "there are hundreds of pages" of help-wanted ads from companies "crying out for people to come for work."

Mrs. Brown rose to say "I feel really badly when a minister of the government is so desperate he has to insult one of his competitors. I apologize to Mr. Banigan."

In his opening statement, Mr. Jelinek said in 1984 the newly elected Tory government promised to harness the deficit and to create "jobs, jobs, jobs. We have delivered, delivered, delivered."

The Tories have reduced the



BONNIE BROWN



MP OTTO JELINEK



RICHARD BANIGAN

deficit four years running, created 1.3 million jobs and devoted \$1.6 billion to environmental concerns, the Minister of Supply and Services said.

Mr. Banigan opened by saying the government's free trade agreement was "fast-tracked" without telling the public "what it is all about."

"The Liberals are saying maybe we can tinker with this deal, maybe it's salvageable. We're saying bunk." The NDP is not against free trade, Mr. Banigan said, but the current deal is not a true free trade agreement.

Deal is bunk

Mrs. Brown said the free trade concept as outlined by the government offered no more secure access to American markets than today and did not resolve what will be considered a subsidy.

Canadian technical standards could fall to conform with lower American ones, she warned. Social programs are not mentioned in the agreement, she noted, but "they did not get an exemption either."

"The Mulroney trade deal will

penetrate the very fabric of Canadian life."

Mrs. Brown said Mr. Jelinek has "gone out of his way to tell people they've reduced the deficit by one-third but they've blown \$16 billion in (election) promises. We're going to be in worse shape than before."

Mr. Jelinek replied that if re-elected the Tory government would continue to decrease the deficit, even with the new programs included.

A Liberal supporter asked how Mr. Jelinek can be "a proud Canadian" when some Tory members in the west are attempting to get re-elected by bashing Ontario.

The minister said he "can't speak for everybody in the Tory party. If Bonnie Brown spoke for everyone in the Liberal party John Turner would be dead from about 500 knives in his back."

East vs. West

Mrs. Brown said the trade deal "plays to regional resentments" because resource-based provinces such as Quebec and Alberta support it while service sector economies,

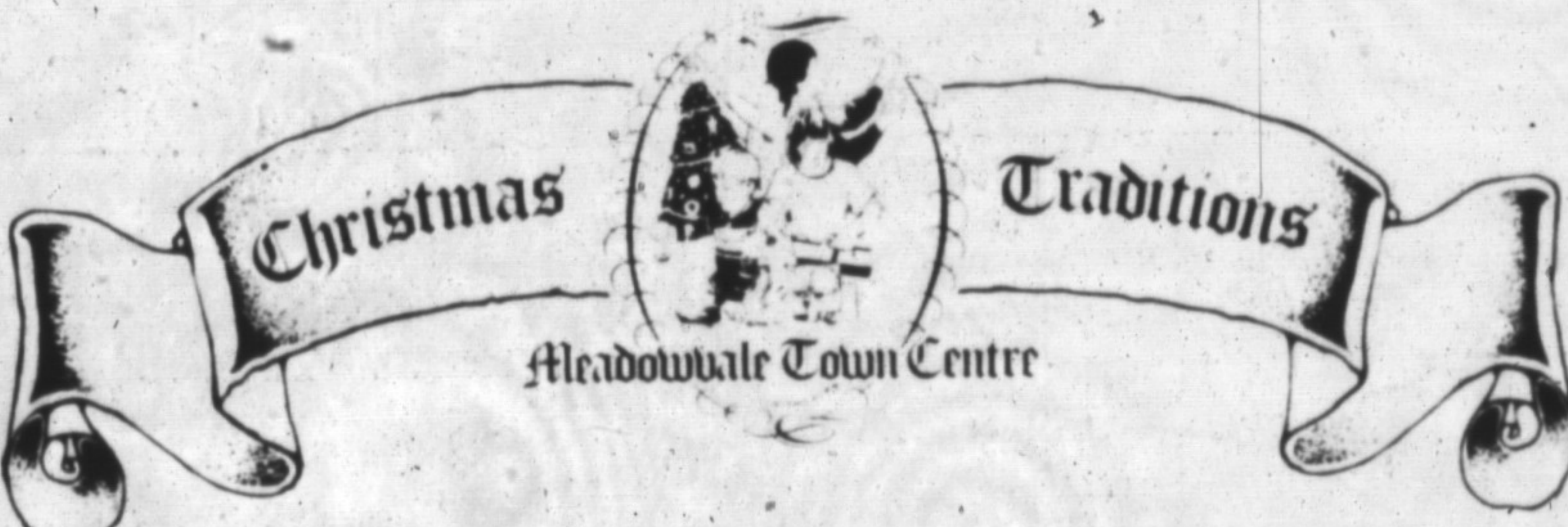
such as Ontario's, will suffer.

A Conservative questioner asked if the country could expect a return to the economic doldrums of the early 1980s if the Liberals take power again.

Mrs. Brown refused to take responsibility for the recession, although the Liberals governed through it. Economic downturn prevailed throughout the world at the time and was beyond Canadian control, she said. The Liberals were no more to blame for the global recession than the Tories are to be credited with recovery from it, she added.

Whatever the previous circumstances, Mr. Jelinek said since assuming power in 1984 the Tory record was clear. In that time the Conservatives brought Canada from 37th place in productivity to second, behind only Japan, he pointed out.

Mrs. Brown warned that the country's economy will become "more and more tied up with the military-industrial complex that drives the American economy" under the Tory trade deal.



Christmas Traditions

Meadowvale Town Centre


Deck the Halls Sale

November 17th to 19th

You can have Christmas "all wrapped up" early this year with a visit to Meadowvale Town Centre's "Deck the Halls" Sale!

You'll get all kinds of ideas for holiday entertaining and decorating - plus some great gift ideas that will please the whole family - now at pre-season prices.

This year, get a head start on Christmas at Meadowvale Town Centre!



Meadowvale Town Centre
 MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:30 AM - 9:30 PM / SATURDAY 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM
 SOUTH OF 401 AT WINSTON CHURCHILL & AQUITAINE

The **PREMIER** MILTON Cinemas 876-3333
 FREE PARKING
 121 CHISHOLM RD. MILTON W. OF HWY 25 • S. OF 101

HELD OVER

He's back! And this time...

Ernest saves Christmas

MATINEE SUN. ONLY 2:00 P.M. **FAMILY**

STARTS FRIDAY

THE LAND BEFORE TIME

Daily 7:00 & 9:00 **FAMILY** Matinee Sun only 2:00 p.m.

LAST 2 DAYS WED. & THURS.
7 & 9 **U2 RATTLE AND HUM**

STARTS FRIDAY

Kelly McGillis Jodie Foster

THE ACCUSED

Daily 7:00 & 9:00 Matinee Sun. only 2:00 p.m.

LAST 2 DAYS WED. & THURS.
BAT 21 7:00 | THEY LIVE 9:30

ADMISSION PRICES MON - THURS
 ADULTS, YOUTHS \$4.00
 CHILD, SENIORS \$3.50