

Whiting...

from WHITING on page 1
Returning the shot, he added that if provincial "polls are correct the Conservatives may not elect enough candidates to form an official party in the Legislature."

Mr. Elliot called the statement "speculation" and "completely premature. You can't ever, in the first week of a campaign, predict a two-man race."

One item all candidates seem to be in complete agreement on is the need to hold a series of debates throughout the riding.

Mr. Whiting lashed out at Mr. Elliot, calling him a "politician who never met a tax he didn't like."

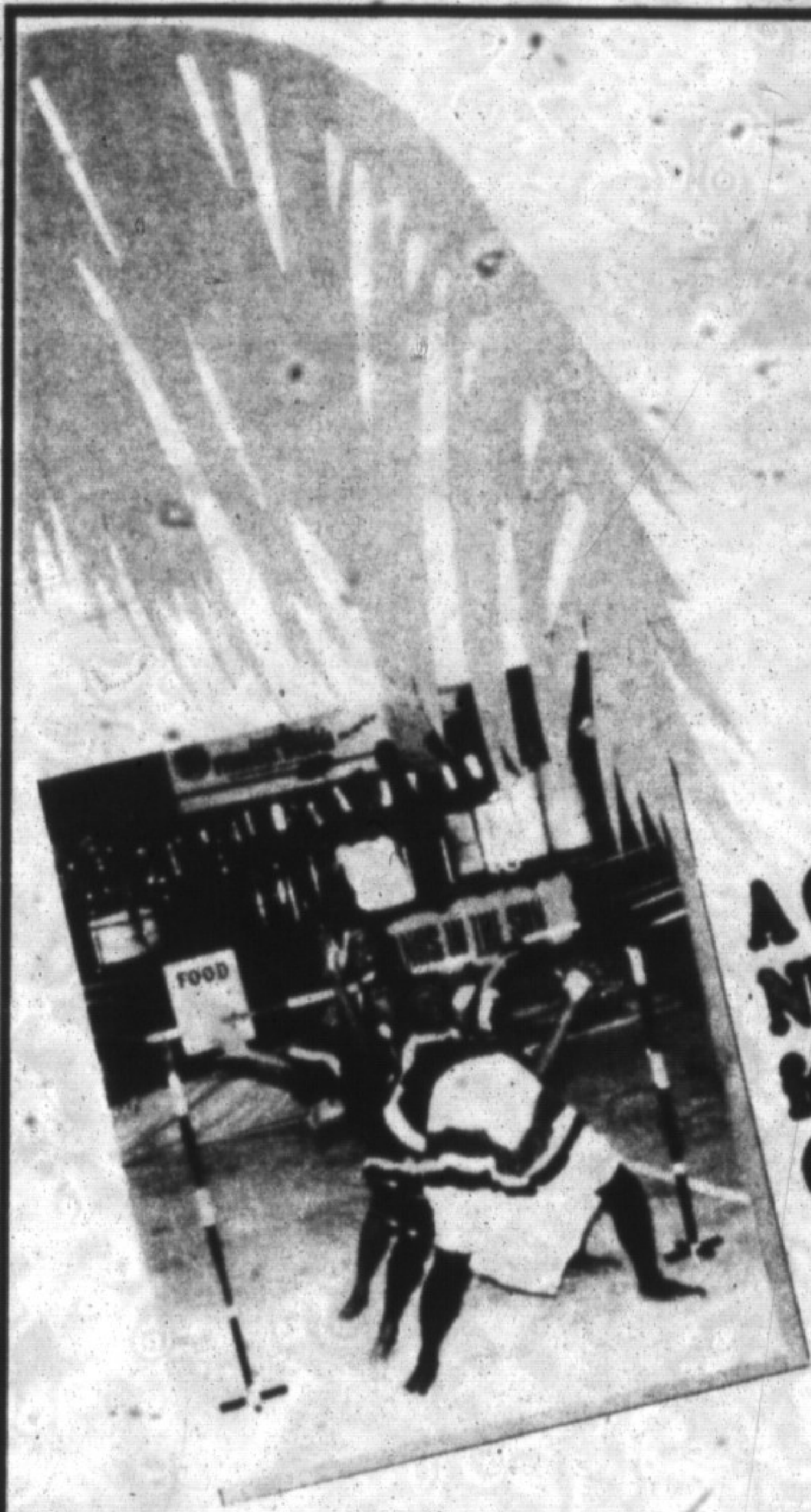
He accused the incumbent of voting in favour of 33 tax increases, including: an increase in provincial sales tax to 8 per cent from 7 per cent; increases in vehicle registration fees, driver's licence fees and a new tax on tires; a new Greater Toronto Area tax; increases in tobacco, gasoline and alcohol taxes; an increase in personal income tax to 53 per cent from 48 per cent along with a hike in corporate income tax rates.

Mr. Elliot brushed it off, however, saying "Mr. Whiting should be smart enough to know that to vote against money matters means you're no longer in the caucus."

Prior to a vote, he said government MPPs have plenty of opportunity to provide input on the legislation.

And as for the Liberal record on fiscal responsibility, he said being able to balance the past two provincial budgets in spite of cutbacks in federal transfer payments is "a very happy story."

Mr. Whiting said that during the five-year Liberal reign, the amount of tax collected by the Province from each Halton North resident has increased about 112 per cent while per capita income has increased by only 52 per cent.



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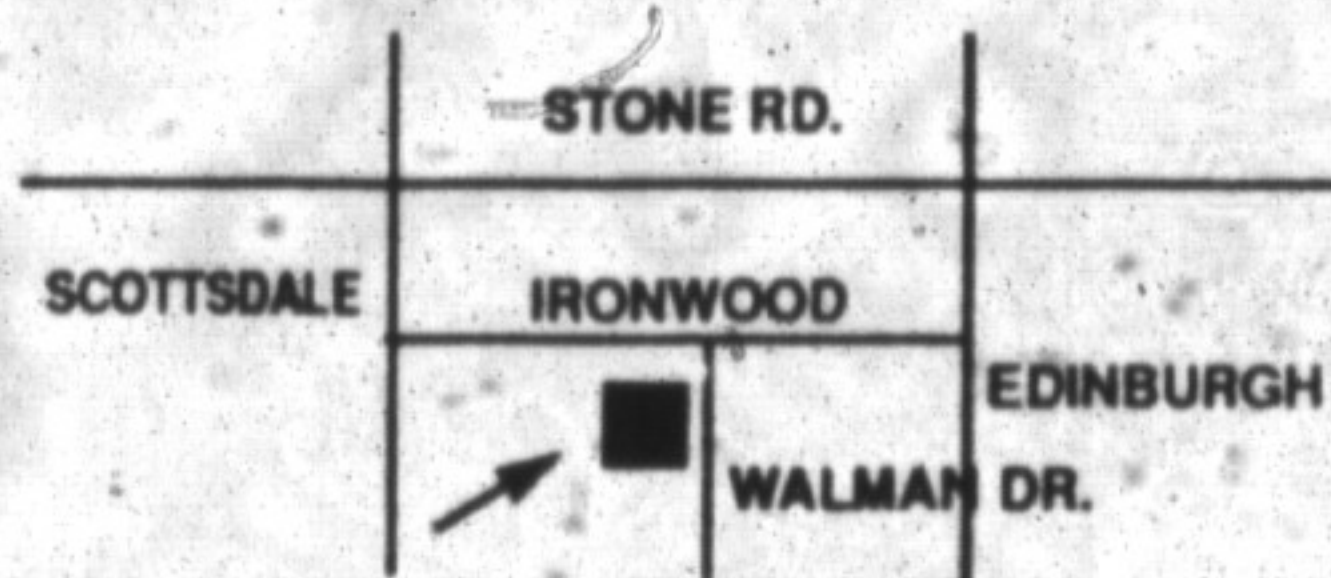
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