



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

City slicker

Fraser Yull, 3, has a hard time holding onto his bucking bronco coming out of the shoot. He was one of the young cowboys who entered the Buckle Rodeo at Milton Mall Saturday. The event was a promotion for the Milton Lions' Exhibition and Stampede May 20 to 24 at Milton fairgrounds.

Reform Party doesn't want Ken Campbell's party backing

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

The Reform Party sent Milton evangelist Ken Campbell a 'Dear John' letter last week, but Reverend Campbell said he doesn't feel jilted and won't behave like a dropped date.

In a letter circulated by Reform to area media, the Calgary-based political party warned Mr. Campbell they would take "all necessary steps to dissociate ourselves from you."

Several months ago Mr. Campbell, who leads a fringe political entity called the Christian Freedom Party (CFP), came out publicly in support of Reform despite the fact CFP plans on running candidates in the next federal election.

As a rule Mr. Campbell enters political frays, or asks those sharing his fundamentalist Christian views to do the same, mainly to promote causes such as the battle against abortion, or the fight for state-sponsored childhood religious education.

That premise established, and an understanding that CFP is never like-

ly to be a major political force, Mr. Campbell has little trouble endorsing other political parties, should parts of their platforms appeal to CFP. He therefore plans to ask his followers to carry the CFP banner in the next federal election while pushing voters to support Reform.

The problem is, Reform doesn't want the CFP backing.

In a tersely-worded communique Thomas Flanagan, Reform's director of research, wrote, "We reject your attempts to attach yourself to the coattails of the Reform Party. We do not appreciate your attempts to merge your cause with ours. If you persist in trying to attach yourself to the Reform Party, we will take all necessary steps to dissociate ourselves from you."

"I hope I have made it sufficiently clear we intend to have no political connection with you or the Christian Freedom Party. We do not want your public support and will repudiate it if you continue to offer it."

In a press release Tuesday morning, an unruffled Mr. Campbell told Mr. Flanagan to "mind your busi-

ness". He also said CFP would continue to sanction whatever political party is deemed appropriate.

"We are not riding on their coattails. We are maintaining our independence," Mr. Campbell said. The CFP expects no political gain out of supporting Reform, he added. "We are Christian gadflies and quite comfortable with that, and we will not apologize for that."

His party is "philosophically" in tune with Reform at present because it espouses "government by the consent of the governed. All I'm interested in is that they would legislate citizen-initiated referendums."

His CFP "may not last beyond" the next federal election anyway, since to maintain its standing it must field 50 candidates, Rev. Campbell said.

He admits the organization was formed as a fallback position after Revenue Canada contended a similar group called Renaissance, registered as a charity, was too political.

He is deeply resentful of what he sees as persecution.



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