



Outspoken visitor

Jean Pigott, Conservative Member of Parliament for Ottawa Carleton, addressed a fund-raising luncheon sponsored by the Simcoe North PC Riding Association on Tuesday. In her speech to the approximately 35 PC supporters, Mrs. Pigott explained the reasons she entered federal politics, and the experiences she has had since she became an MP. Also in attendance at the luncheon was Simcoe North MP, Dr. P.B. Rynard. Staff photo

PC caucus member tells supporters Canada is preoccupied with unity issue

Approximately 35 local Progressive Conservative supporters attended Simcoe North Riding Association fund raising luncheon, held Tuesday at the Panorama Inn, in Midland.

Also in attendance at the luncheon were Simcoe North MP Dr. P.B. Rynard, and a guest speaker, Mrs. Jean Pigott, MP for the riding of Ottawa Carleton.

The luncheon was part of a day long fund raising campaign that began with a breakfast meeting in Orillia.

Mrs. Pigott addressed the luncheon on the aspects of running for federal office, the reasons she personally chose to do so, and the relationship between PC leader Joe Clark and the rest of the party.

Mrs. Pigott explained that she is the newest member of the PC federal caucus, having been

elected to the Ottawa Carleton seat in an October 1976 by-election.

She noted that the seat she won was in former Finance Minister John Turner's constituency, vacated when he decided to retire from politics.

She also remarked that her victory in Ottawa Carleton was the first time a PC had been elected in that constituency in 93 years.

Mrs. Pigott is an Ottawa businesswoman, who heads a bakery known as Morrison Lamothe Foods Ltd. She noted that her company employs 750 people and last year had sales of over \$20 million.

First involvement
It was her involvement with Morrison Lamothe, in particular her saving of the company from bankruptcy, that led her to become involved in politics, Mrs. Pigott explained.

Her prime concern is with what she sees to be a lack of incentive for economic development in the country - an incentive, she says, which is stifled by high interest rates, the Anti-Inflation Board, and the Trudeau government's apparent preoccupation with the national unity question. "We've become preoccupied with issues such as unity, and we've forgotten that the country is still young and growing", she argued.

She feels that at present there is too much government interference in the private sector, and a lack of confidence and trust in elected bodies.

"I'm sincerely concerned with what seems to be a general cynicism in the country. I honestly believe that unless we bring politicians closer to the people, this cynicism will remain", she said. She added that "I can't

believe there isn't a great national indignation over the fact that we have a \$10 billion deficit".

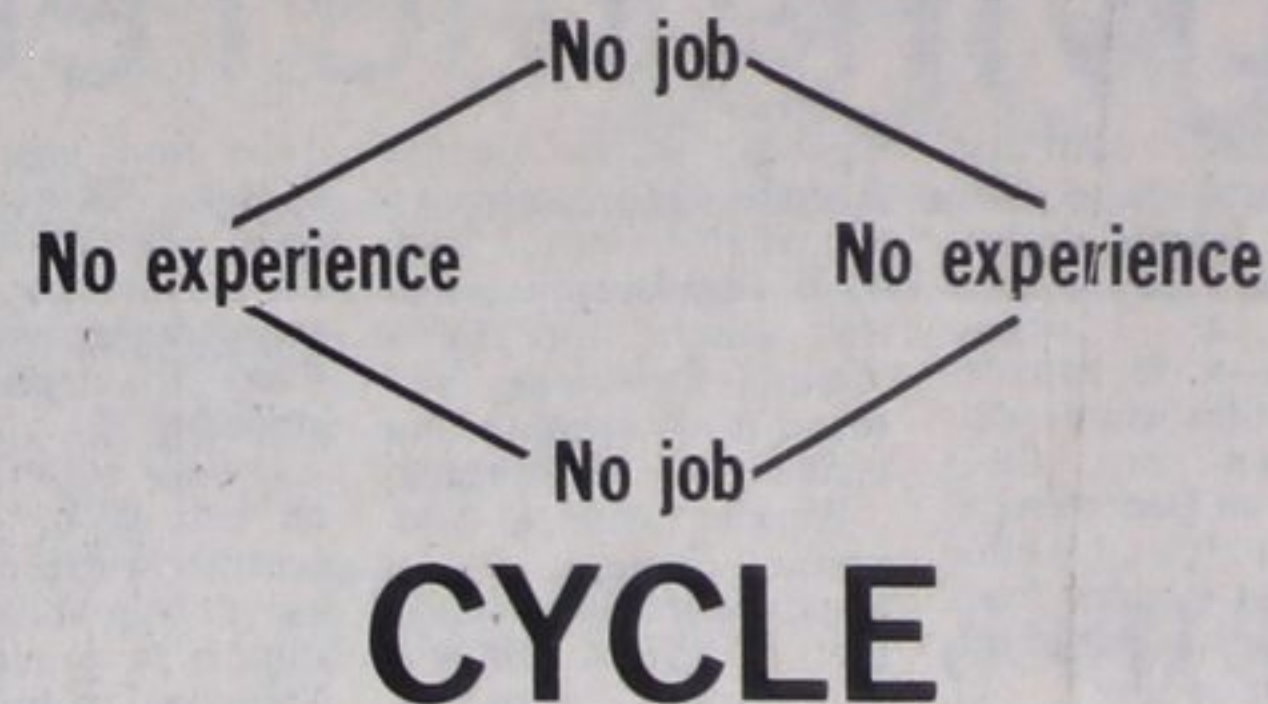
She went on to tell the PC audience that her involvement in politics in her constituency has given her an opportunity to perceive at the grass roots level the prevailing attitudes in the country. Her closest contact with these attitudes, she explained, was during her election campaign, when she knocked on 600 doors a day. She suggested to the Simcoe North PC's that public meetings provide a good forum at which

politicians can achieve the kind of grass roots contact she feels is so necessary.

Mrs. Pigott is obviously enamoured of PC leader Joe Clark. Noting that Clark has experienced his difficulties since assuming the PC helm, she stated that her respect for him has grown since she entered the PC federal caucus, and that Clark's performance at the recent PC convention in Quebec City served to enforce this respect.

"I'd hire Joe Clark and I'd let him run my business", she professed.

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