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'Victory possible in 1978'

Midlander prepares for PC executive challenge

Midland lawyer Fred Hacker has been spending the last three weeks studying.

He's been studying the workings of government and the administrative structure of the Progressive Conservative government. Beginning in the new year, Hacker will assume an active position as one of the party's five National vice-presidents, and it's a position he considers to be very important.

The Midland native believes the Progressive Conservatives under the leadership of Joe Clark, stand a better chance of winning in the next election than they have in the last 15 years.

"The political picture looks better for the Conservative party than it did in 1972," Hacker says, "and this should be our election."

While the party's national executive body does not deal with party policy per se, it does look after the administration of the Progressive Conservative activity throughout the country—and that means 'grass roots' work, work at the constituency level where elections are won.

Campaign expert
Hacker's a natural at the art of campaign organization. He's been involved in several and his most recent accomplishment was co-managing the successful re-election of MPP Gord Smith in the Simcoe East riding. Prior to the Smith campaign, the Midland lawyer taught in a campaign schools that the party operates prior to election time. He got to meet many of the political

hopefuls that the party has and many of the minds behind the men who are elected.

"I've noticed a trend in the Conservative party recently to select men of public life who often have business backgrounds—who have some knowledge of money management."

The party's National Vice-President feels that the state of the economy is obviously the overwhelming issue on the Canadian political scene today.

"It would be difficult to think of a problem that this nation is facing today that does not come down to a question of economics, when all is said and done. It would certainly be more difficult for the province of Quebec to leave a strong Canada than it would for it to leave the founding economic entity that we have now," he said.

Hacker believes that his party's selection of young, bright business-oriented candidates could be the answer to Canada's economic future. In addition, Hacker feels confident that Joe Clark's shadow cabinet could comfortably take over the operation of the country now and operate it much more smoothly.

"The country is in bad need of some good old-fashioned business efficiency that the Conservative party is known for," he says.

One man Hacker insists that the people of Canada have grown tired of a federal government who's views and sentiments are the views and sentiments of

the members of the Liberal cabinet really are," Hacker says. "The televised sessions of the House of Commons have brought this message

home to Canadians from coast to coast."

He feels that the televised sessions are probably the best thing that could have happened to Joe Clark. The exposure in the heat of parliamentary debate has shown to the Canadian people how adept he is at parliamentary procedure, and at the same time, "the utter contempt for parliament that Mr. Trudeau has."

Clarke is now a man of confidence. Hacker feels the leader is now comfortable with his position, and has been boosted by recent votes of confidence from former PC leaders and—the recent RCMP crisis as well.

"In spite of how people may portray the RCMP crisis, Clark has grown with the issue and has come out of it as a person who possesses a very clear distinction between right and wrong—regardless of the players," Hacker states.

While the debates in the House continue and the Progressive Conservative party seemingly grows

stronger every day, Hacker feels the likelihood of a PC federal government by next June, grows stronger as well.

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Fred Hacker

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Local Red Cross to assist India

A release from the Midland Chapter of the Red Cross says that the Canadian organization has sent \$20,000 to India where at least 12,000 people have died, and hundreds of villages have been destroyed as the result of India's worst cyclone disaster of the century. In addition the release states that an estimated \$625 million damage has been done to the nation's crops.

The Canadian government also announced Wednesday that it intends to donate \$200,000 through the Canadian Inter-

national Development Agency (CIDA) which will be channelled through the Red Cross Society for relief work.

Any concerned Canadian who wishes to help India's cyclone victims may send their cheques or money orders to the Midland branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society or to the Ontario division headquarters on 95 Wellesley Street East in Toronto, postal code M4Y 1H6, marked "India Cyclone Relief".

Tax deductible receipts will be issued.

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