

Jarvis urges locals to push for a PC government

by Terri Howell
William Jarvis, federal M.P. from Perth-Wilmot and opposition critic of the federal Solicitor-General gave the Midland and District Progressive Conservative Association a brief look at what the Trudeau decade has done to Canada and urged them to help make the next government a Progressive Conservative one.

Fifty people crowded into the Oddfellows Hall on Thursday night to hear Mr. Jarvis speak at the annual meeting of the local PC association.

Introducing Mr. Jarvis to the crowd, Fred Hacker newly elected president of the local association said, "Bill Jarvis makes Jean-Jaques Blais wish he was back in North Bay. He added that he had high hopes that Bill Jarvis would be the next solicitor-general of Canada.

Mr. Jarvis spoke on the use of television in the House of Commons, the RCMP scandal, the Tom Cossitt affair, Canada's economic situation and finally turned his remarks to praise of P.C. leader Joe Clark and his wife Maureen McTeer.

Jarvis is concerned that having television in the house is giving people a poor conception of what goes on since only "question period" is televised. He says during question period the members of the house "really let go".

"I am sorry you can't see the committee work and compare that to question period," he said.

Jarvis asked the group how they felt about the televised period. He asked if the members should continue the traditional way of carrying on during question period or whether they should change that tradition to make it more acceptable to the viewing audience.

"All of us in the house are sensitive of criticism of TV," he said.

On the subject of the RCMP scandal, Mr. Jarvis said he wanted to clarify some misconceptions about the whole affair. Mr. Jarvis pointed out that the media had incorrectly labelled it the RCMP issue.

He explained that it is not the entire RCMP that is involved but the secret service end of the RCMP. The secret men make up less than 10 per cent of the total RCMP force.

Since the establishment of the secret service RCMP "we have had weak solicitor generals", he said. He added that this was analogous to a ship being without a captain. Thus the RCMP scandal happened.

Referring to the Tom Cossitt affair, Mr. Jarvis severely criticized government handling of top secret documents. He said there are 58 copies of the secret document which was leaked to Cossitt and the Toronto Sun. These 58 copies were distributed to five different government departments.

Multiply the number of copies by the secretaries, elevator operators and messengers who handled it, each with a xerox machine, and a lot of people could have seen the document, Jarvis said.

The document which has caused the huge controversy, is 300 pages long. However, the one which was circulated to the government departments was a 30 page précis.

Jarvis questions the fact that only the Toronto Sun has been charged under the Official Secrets Act. The CTV television network ran a documentary focusing on the Tom Cossitt affair which had six statements relatively close to statements published in the Sun.

Jarvis said one of his other concerns right now is government spending.

"I am concerned that the government is losing effective control of the public purse," he said adding that the enormous rate of growth of

government spending is not sustainable.

In the Trudeau decade, according to Jarvis, expenditures have gone from \$13 billion to \$44 billion which is an increase of 240 per cent. The budgetary deficit this year, he said, will be greater in this fiscal year than the entire budget in Mr. Trudeau's first year of office.

For the farmers this means in 1976 their income declined \$500 million. In 1977 the income declined another \$500 million. The forecast

for 1978 is the same. This represents a 40 per cent decline in farmer's income in three years. At the same time, says Jarvis, expenses have risen.

Jarvis says before Trudeau calls an election, he will have to give Canadians a budget. He says we have every right to demand a federal budget.

Since Trudeau came to office there have been 170 ministerial changes which represents a 50 per cent turnover according to Jarvis. There has been

a new post master every 17 months. In the past four years there have been four solicitor-generals and six in the past 10 years.

Jarvis says sitting in the House of Commons, he feels like asking Trudeau, "what are you doing to my country, over there?" He says he is afraid of the answer he would get.

Jarvis predicts that the main issue that will permeate the election campaign in 1978 is Trudeau and the Trudeau decade. He says

Canadians have to ask themselves "where are we 10 years later." He predicts the election will be "knock 'em down and drag 'em out."

Jarvis says Joe Clark, leader of the Progressive Conservatives "is aggressive, tough, intelligent, decent and honourable," adding, "He doesn't make compromises and deals and sticks to his principles."

Maureen Mac Teer, Joe Clark's wife, he says, is extremely intelligent a graduate with a law degree, she presides over

a home with love and laughter, and is a great campaigner.

"I knew and loved Mary Stanfield (Robert Stanfield's wife) and Olive Diefenbaker, but I am proud to call Maureen the first lady of our party," he said.

Jarvis says if "we give Joe Clark the responsibility of being the Prime Minister we will have a good Prime Minister. He is the kind that Canada needs."

"I am proud to be a Tory under Joe Clark," he said.



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Public hearings will commence on Monday, the 17th day of April, 1978, at 10:00 a.m., in Hearing Room No. 1, 21st Floor, 180 Dundas Street West, Toronto. Anyone wishing to speak at these hearings is requested to contact the Commission in writing or by telephone to arrange a time for making submissions.

The Commission continues to welcome opinions, comments and information from all interested individuals and organizations.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

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The Honourable Mr. Justice Krever,
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