

Simcoe East candidates woo voting-age high school students

by MURRAY MOORE

The candidates in Simcoe East in tomorrow's election were asked questions as far ranging as their views about the death penalty, at Midland Secondary School last Friday.

Conservative Allan McLean, New Democrat Fayne Bullen, and Liberal George MacDonald attended an all candidates meeting held for the benefit of MSS students of voting age.

One of Bullen's suggested ways to create jobs was his idea to bring the Ministry of Tourism to the "Midland area" from Toronto. McLean told the students that the day before, in Orillia, Bullen had suggested that the ministry be moved to Orillia. Where would Bullen suggest the ministry be moved in his next speech? McLean asked.

MacDonald spoke about the "little goodies" that the government has been "passing out all over the province." MacDonald advised students to look carefully at a booklet of information which McLean told the students was available after the meeting. The booklet could be a cheque book, MacDonald suggested.

Each candidate made education and jobs the theme of his introductory speech. McLean described education as being of "vital importance" to the Conservatives. Equal education for all is the Conservative position. The party's Enterprise Ontario program will create jobs. Conservative policy will stimulate the economy and, in turn, create the wealth needed to pay for quality education.

"Everything is fine in Simcoe East. Everything is wonderful in Midland. There are no issues in this election," Bullen said sarcastically. Young people are this area's greatest export, and that is a "tragedy." The "real" unemployment rate is 16 percent. Bullen promised to create 150 new jobs in Midland during his first year as MPP.

MacDonald said his party would guarantee every young person a first job, and training, and make incentives for businessmen to hire employees. Co-operative education programs would be available for all interested students.

Election fever heats up

Attendance at university would not be determined by a lottery, MacDonald said.

BEER, WINE

MacDonald insisted that young people working in small neighbourhood grocery stores would not lose their jobs if beer and wine, as suggested by the Liberals, is made available in those locations. Older employees would handle beer and wine, he said.

McLean would only go as far as advocating experimenting with the idea, in a remote area of northern Ontario. Bullen said that often at any time small stores such as Mac's Milk have only one employee on duty. Bullen and McLean each said young people would lose jobs in such a situation.

ABORTION

Students gave loudest applause to Bullen's position on abortion. The New Democrat disapproves of abortion but said the decision to have an abortion should be made "by a woman and her God."

MacDonald is opposed to abortion and would not allow clinics to operate. McLean approves of abortion if the woman and her doctor agree that her health or well-being is endangered.

DEBATE

Conservative Party leader Frank Miller has not agreed to debate the leaders of the two other parties, because a debate would not fit into his schedule, McLean said. Why should he debate when his party has 66 percent popularity?, the Conservative MPP asked. MacDonald said the

voters have a right to hear a debate. Miller fears losing support in a debate, MacDonald said. "I think they should put Frank Miller back in his plaid jacket and let him go."

The price of gasoline will rise soon after the election, Bullen predicted. Premier Miller is not doing anything about keeping quotas on imported Japanese cars, or arguing against higher gasoline prices.

EXTENDING FUNDING

A student was told by McLean that funding would be extended to the Roman Catholic separate school system boards only if the Catholic boards agree to

hire non-Catholic teachers, and also guarantee their jobs, tenure, and seniority. Non-Catholic students also must be free to attend Catholic schools. Bullen and MacDonald did not disagree that funding to Catholic schools ought to be increased, to allow the system's boards to add grades beyond Grade 10.

The cost of education should be shifted from property owners to general taxpayers, Bullen said.

The wrapping on the package is torn, but the extending of financial support to the Catholic school system is a gift that can't be refused, MacDonald said.

EXTRA-BILLING

Asked about extra-billing by doctors, Bullen said he helped collect 3,000 signatures opposing the practice. MacDonald said that, as well as being an opponent of extra-billing, he supports free OHIP, and Denticare for children and senior citizens. Co-operation, not confrontation with doctors, is necessary, McLean answered. The Conservatives want to negotiate but they also want to keep Ontario's doctors from moving out of the province.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Asked about affirmative action for women, McLean spoke about the equal pay

program to be started in the provincial civil service within one year, and the opening of new daycare centres. Bullen stressed equal pay should be for work of equal value. MacDonald agreed.

MacDonald told students he would sell the government's shares in Suncor to pay for extended funding of the Catholic separate school system. Bullen repeated his wish that the "burden" of education be shifted to the province, and general taxation. Everyone should pay income tax, he said.

McLean pointed out that the money for the proposed extended funding would come

from general revenue, not property tax.

DEATH PENALTY

None of the candidates proposed a change from the present law concerning the penalty for the killing of a police officer.

McLean favours the death penalty in case of the murder of police and prison guards. Fewer police officers have been shot through the life of the law, Bullen said. He is in favour of life, and "strong measures to contain prisons." MacDonald said the death penalty should not be used to empty jails. Those people responsible have a duty to make sure the guilty person is being convicted, he said.

Election '85

Ontario

If you don't vote in tomorrow's provincial election (if you are of voting age), please don't complain about the government the rest of us have elected.

You might be interested in knowing, during the March 1981 provincial election, only 58 percent of Ontario's voters bothered to get off their behinds to go to the polls.

If you don't know how to vote, haven't voted in years or it's your first time, we assure you, voting is harmless.

It takes a few minutes of your valuable time, but it is the least one can do in a democracy.

Vote tomorrow as you like but for goodness sake, vote.



Pulling together for PC McLean

Over the past few weeks, this group of provincial election campaign workers have become a team in their efforts to realize the re-election of Simcoe East PC incumbent Al McLean. From

LEFT: Robina Fair, Peggy LaNauze, Campaign Chairman Gail White, Walt Markham, Lucie Markham, and Katie Gatehouse.



Nos enfants ont un bel avenir - dans un monde uni

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