



REEVE MUTCH WITH WIFE ANNE AND DAUGHTER JUDY

Nipigon Reeve I. Mutch ^{April 1972} Heads Thunder Bay NDP

Nipigon Reeve Isaac Mutch will be Thunder Bay riding's New Democratic candidate in the next federal election.

Mr. Mutch was chosen to head the NDP at the riding association's annual convention in Nipigon Sunday. He defeated Carson Hoy and John Gorges, both of Manitowadge.

A total of 134 voting delegates were present. Mr. Mutch was also elected president of the riding association, with Al Oliver and G. Tremblay as first and second vice-presidents, respectively. Secretary is K. McNeill with treasurer H. Atwill.

Mrs. E. Ochitwa is the new delegate to the provincial council and Gilles Pouliot of Manitowadge is delegate to the NDP northern area council.

Guest speaker at the gathering was Sid Green, MLA for the Manitoba riding of Ingster. The theme of his address was the future social and economic direction of Canada.

"Is the elected government of

this country willing to rely on the intelligence of its citizens or will the two old parties who see themselves as the business governments continue to convince the electorate that their irrational economic policies are viable?" exclaimed Mr. Green.

"Can they continue to use the taxpayer's money as risk capital, but insist on funnelling the profits to the same five per cent of the population who now reap the benefits?" he asked.

Mr. Green inferred that the present government's economic policies "are taking a backward step."

Turning to his own party, the speaker re-stressed the NDP's stand on social programs. "There has never been an anti-poverty program that just didn't create more poor people. Once some families receive the baby bonus and others do not, immediately one group is placed in the position of being the receivers and another group the givers," he said.

Any social program proposed by the NDP would have to be universal in character, contended Mr. Green.

Steel Companies Buying U.S. Ore

Schreiber MPP Jack Stokes recently attacked two Ontario steel companies for buying iron ore in the U.S. just across the lake at Marquette. He claims the ore in Northwestern Ontario should be mined. This would boost our own resource industries instead of shipping capital across the border.

The NDP member asks why the Steel Company of Canada and Algoma Steel "import ore from the U.S. when we have an abundance of it waiting for development here." He calls the situation "incredible and intolerable."

Mr. Stokes even goes so far as to say buying from the U.S. could place Steep Rock Iron Mines at Atikokan in jeopardy. SRIM President F. R. Jones has refuted this. In fact Mr. Jones supports the steel companies in their purchase and says his mine could not fill the new order anyway.

Mr. Jones said he has known of this proposal for about two years. He feels the companies are justified.

The two steel companies are joining a consortium which will participate in a \$165 million development at Marquette. Using ore from this mine Algoma Steel will expand its Sault Ste. Marie mill to produce four million tons of pellets. Present output is about 2.6 million tons.

Hon. Leo Bernier seems to have been right when he told the NDP member the two steel companies had no choice but to buy ore from the States.

Certainly there are vast bodies of iron ore in this district but a massive investment would be required to exploit them. Lake St. Joseph is a typical example. Algoma Steel has said before it can exploit any ore in this area it will need sales of three-four million tons of pellets a year. Present market is only 1.5 million tons. It would take a very wealthy consortium to overcome this and even then it would probably need tax concessions.

At one time there were federal tax concessions but they were eliminated Jan. 1. Before this, companies were given three tax-free years and a 30 per cent depletion allowance from crude ore through to the hot metal stage. Now, without these concessions

it is uneconomic for them to develop large new mines in Ontario.

Anyway, a halt to all buying across the border is Canadian nationalism gone hog-wild.