

Douglas M. Fisher, M.P.,
Port Arthur, Ontario.

Dear Doug:-

You wanted to know how the Laskin meeting in Terrace Bay went--well, it was a great success! I didn't count the house but there would be close to seventy present. Most, of course were Liberals, but others were noted sitting quietly. I am reporting it as I, personally, saw it, and I am not unbiased. If money, (and lots of it, from somewhere), gimmicks, give-aways, expensive posters in colour, and paid organizers, can still buy votes in 1963-- brother, YOU'VE HAD IT! You might save what little money you've got and stay home. THE LIBERAL MACHINE IS OUT TO TAKE THIS RIDING FROM YOU, AND THEY ARE LEAVING NOTHING TO CHANCE. They have imported Senator Croll, an old Liberal war-horse who has done rabble-rousing jobs a thousand times--and he loves it! They brought along a bright young Italian lawyer to make sure that the Italian folk in Schreiber don't get confused about how to cast their ballots; and to top it off, their party organizer has rushed together a local machine to keep the ball rolling till after April 8.

Saul spoke first. You know Saul, and we all admire him. He is honest and sincere, and puts the people first. He has been a great Mayor--where politics don't mean much. If he ever gets to Ottawa, what a shock he is going to get! The big interests who put up the campaign money get looked after first...then the people come next. He made a little speech that followed the party line, nothing new, heavily salted with municipal problems which he knows, BUT his genuineness was spoiled by someone who has been coaching him in how to talk like a politician instead of a saint.

Senator Croll was next. You know him personally and his story. In no time he had the audience highly amused. He then poured on the charm so thick that even intelligent people stared glassy-eyed, heads nodding in unison as he proclaimed the virtues of Mr. Laskin, (which are recognized), the deep sincerity and dedication of himself (which we need not go into here), and the great leader for Canada that Mr. Pearson will make (which is obviously a real worry, even to his own followers).

About issues, the Senator said little. He was sent to sell Liberalism and sell Laskin, and he stuck to his instructions. "There will be jobs!" he shouted repeatedly, but we know that unemployment is not solved by shouting. The best, even non-political, minds in Canada have been working on this AND IT IS FAR TOO COMPLICATED TO SAY THAT ANY PARTY WILL SUDDENLY END IT--EVEN IN FOUR YEARS!

"Secondary Industry for our area!" he promised. Sounds good, but we have a large local corporation, with a considerable supply of brains running it, and if there were any answer to that one, we'd have probably had a Kleenex mill right in Terrace Bay today. The present problem in Northwestern Ontario is to keep what little secondary industry we've got from running off to the South.

The speaker spent about ten minutes raving about education--which is not even a Federal matter. Better, the Liberal Party should promise to amend the B.N.A. Act SO TOWNS LIKE OURS CAN GET MORE AID FOR EDUCATION, but that is never mentioned, for no one wants to tread on Quebec's toes--there are 75 seats there. Croll has never read "The Incredible Canadian (Mackenzie King)", by Bruce Hutchison, or he would never have called Mr. Diefenbaker an indecisive leader!

I wanted to hear a clarification of the nuclear position. Mr. Pearson is saying DISARMAMENT in one breath and MORE NUCLEAR BOMBS in the next. But no one has ever demonstrated that a fire is put out by pouring on more gasoline. This very important matter was not brought up. Neither was Medicare which Mr. Pearson says he will enact as law...after four years or so. Sensible people will spot this as a vote-catcher, because if it is a good idea in 1967, why isn't it good RIGHT NOW? Lots of families could be ruined by medical bills between now and then! Women and nothers want Medicare, but not Nuclear bombs.

He said that 22 years of Liberal rule were terminated in 1957 by their own carelessness. This drew tears but it should have drawn a laugh. He didn't say that it was carelessness with the DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF CANADIANS, when the Liberals resorted to Closure, a totalitarian tactic, to railroad through a bill which made your money and mine pay for the Northern Ontario (profitless) section of the Trans-Canada Pipeline, on behalf of a company of private investors in Toronto. The word "Liberal" took on such an indelicate odour after that one that the voters threw it in the garbage can and took the P.C.'s for better or worse. Actually, Senator Croll hurt Saul, because he overwhelmed him. Saul sat like a good little boy who has said his memory work correctly and was now being allowed to stay up and watch the late movie. CANADA'S PROBLEMS ARE DEAD SERIOUS. THEY ARE NOT GOING TO BE SOLVED BY SHOWMANSHIP--NOR BY DEALS MADE OVER A DRINK IN A HOTEL ROOM. THEY ARE GOING TO BE SOLVED BY EDUCATED AND INTELLIGENT LEADERS LIKE YOURSELF, REGARDLESS OF PARTY, WHO WILL STUDY THEM FOR LONG DAYS AND MONTHS. Let's have no more herding of voters like sheep, but let's have more thinking and explaining of issues. Many here are inquiring about you and many want to talk to you.

SEE YOU APRIL 3rd!.....

Regards,
Bill.