

Liberals offer a chance for renewal

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After 28 years of Progressive Conservative government, The Star believes it's time for a change in Ontario.

It would not be credible to argue the Conservatives must go because they are villainous or even particularly inept. Ontario is too rich and powerful and incorrupt after a generation of Tory rule for city workers, farmers or students to buy that.

And Conservative Premier William Davis has done his public relations best to try and sharpen up the Conservative image. He has dropped some of the party old guard; pushed bits of legislation through the House in rapid-fire fashion and given the appearance of decisiveness by stopping the Spadina Expressway.

But after nearly three decades in power, the Conservative establishment is too solidly entrenched for Mr. Davis to make any fundamental changes even if he wished to do so.

The government remains fixed in its attitudes, prone to leave policy-making to the powerful civil service, indifferent toward the Legislature.

In times of easy affluence - the '50s for instance - these matters were not much noticed by Ontario people busy trying to cut themselves a piece of the good life.

But today, Ontario people - particularly the young - are awake to the kind of problems that cannot be solved by a government dedicated to the showy gesture.

In short, the Conservatives have been around too long. Not even television shots of the youthful looking premiere mooning through the woods can conceal the evidence of decay in the party around him.

The Star believes the best alternative to the Conservatives as the next government of Ontario is the Liberal party under leadership Robert Nixon.

The Liberal program, in most fundamental respects, is a soundly reformist one. It reflects the opportunity for a new approach to many of Ontario's besetting problems, particularly education, finance and foreign ownership.

We believe Ontario people will accept as desirable and necessary the Liberal plan to finance 80 per cent of education costs out of general revenue and only 20 per cent out of taxes on property. At present, the province meets only 55 per cent of school costs, leaving 45 per cent to be raised by property taxes.

The Liberals argue - reasonably that land ownership or rental is far too narrow and inequitable a tax base to carry such a heavy burden. Education costs should be the responsibility of every earning citizen in the province.

On the fundamental issue of foreign ownership in Ontario, the Liberals are more responsive to what we believe to be the public will than either of the two other parties. Mr. Nixon proposes legislation to preserve Canadian control of the finance industry in Ontario; a Foreign Investment Review Board to screen all investment from abroad; fuller financial disclosure; more trade union autonomy and "last resort" purchase of key industries threatened by takeovers. There are no trumpet charges in this election campaign, no wild clash of personalities, no clatter of issues meeting head on. But there are fundamental differences, nonetheless. The Conservative role is to consolidate, the Liberal role is to innovate. Ontario has had enough emphasis on consolidation in the past few years. It has become inertia disguised as empty action. The Liberal party offers a chance to break out of the restraining circle of classic conservatism. The Star believes that's a chance worth taking.



Robert Nixon

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approved and treasurer's report was given.

A letter was read from the Catholic Womens League asking the Chapter if they were willing to support the Anti-Abortion Project 100,000 and that the address was available if anyone cared to write and express their views on the project.

Following adjournment, a lovely lunch was served by Betty Randa, Minnie Woodruff and Alma Moquin. Pot of Gold was won by Yvonne Vienneau and the raffle was won by Sadie Benko.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 20th.

The spruce budworm, jack-pine budworm and larch sawfly were the major Canada-wide forest insect problems in 1970.