

Penner unhappy with Conservative government

By Conrad Felber

Keith Penner, MP for the Cochrane-Superior federal riding, said in an exclusive interview with the *News* last week that the current Progressive Conservative government in Ottawa seems to be directionless, with no clear policies on any issues.

Penner, who represents the Terrace Bay-Schreiber area, made the statement in a telephone interview from his office in Ottawa.

"The new government has been in office for two years, so it is fair now to judge their performance," the Liberal MP explained.

He accused the PCs and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of just coasting along and not doing anything concrete.

"Mulroney said 'jobs, jobs, jobs' during the election, and lately the unemployment rate did seem to come down, but if you examine that more closely, you'll find that even the brief improvement was due to the boom in Southern Ontario," Penner said.

He pointed out that the job situation has gone from bad to worse in many areas in the country, including Alberta, Atlantic Canada, and both Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec.

"So far the Prime Minister has not delivered," Penner said. "Unemployment continues to be a most serious problem, particularly in the resources industry."

He said Mulroney has been challenged to state what programs the government has, and so far "he has come up with nothing. The programs they do have have less money in them now." Meanwhile, Penner noted, the situation for unemployed young people is now extremely difficult.

"What I would advocate and what we've talked about in the (Liberal) caucus is a national program," the MP explained. "It would give us access to the work force, including the youth work force."

He said that the current unemployment problem has created a whole generation of people who feel they have no place in Canada.

The government's lack of direction on the issue of jobs is different when it comes to the issue of free trade for the country with the United States, Penner said. "This free trade issue is an effort by Mulroney to give his government some direction," he said.

"The Conservatives desperately wanted power, but they had no real clear policies that they communicated to the people, so when the free trade report came out, that became an issue for them," Penner pointed out.

The government has still not settled on a firm decision as far as free trade is concerned either. "Is it free trade, freer trade, protect or expand?" Penner asked. "It's become a lit-

tle bit of a joke, really."

He complained that even before the free trade talks began with the Americans, the PCs gave away the National Energy Program because the American negotiators "didn't like some aspects of it."

The Prime Minister also dispensed with the Foreign Investment Review Program, Penner pointed out.

"That seems pretty silly to me, to give away your high cards even before the poker game begins," he added. "We seem to be giving everything away."

Penner admitted Canada is a trading nation and can't survive without it, but what is needed now is a national trade strategy instead.

"The USA has its own market," the MP said. "I think we should realize that we have a lot of trade opportunities in the rest of the world...the Asians are wondering why we aren't more active in seeking trade with them."

He said Canada really needs the government to get around the world and "sell Canadian" and not get locked into the North American market.

"I'm not downgrading our American market, but we need to be more independent," Penner added. He said international trade would create jobs in the information sector.

The current Mulroney government has had its share of problems with other issues as well, including the national debt, Penner said.

"They've had the highest spending of any government," he pointed out, adding that the national debt has gone up 21 per cent since the PCs took power.

"They are cutting back, but they are spending elsewhere," Penner said. "It took them \$1 billion to bail out two Western banks, for example, while many social programs and job creation programs have been cut back."

Penner felt the Mulroney government have, perhaps unfortunately, created a bad image for themselves.

"People are saying Mulroney (and the PCs) don't know how to govern and that they can't be trusted," Penner explained, adding that this is mainly due to the many scandals the government has stumbled into, ranging from the tuna fish affair to the Sinclair Stevens controversy.

On the other hand, the Liberal Official Opposition has come back "from a long ways behind" to overtake the Conservatives in recent polls, he noted.

"We are convinced we can form a government in 1988," Penner added. That is the earliest year the next federal election can be held.

He admitted that the Liberals still need a comprehensive, appealing pro-

gram to offer to Canadian voters.

"We must show we can reduce the deficit, and we will need significant tax reform, as the present system is unjust," he said.

As for the John Turner, the Liberal leader, Penner said he believes Turner would be a "good manager" of the future Liberal government. Penner supported Jean Chretien in the Liberal leadership race, but he said at the Liberal's upcoming November convention in Ottawa, the question of leadership will be put to rest.

The MP confessed that there were some things about the Liberal Opposition which disturbed him, especially the "unrestrained" performance of the so-called Rat Pack, lead by MPs Sheila Copps and John Nunziata.

"It wouldn't have been so bad without that," he said. "In my own performance, I have respect for Parliament...you can ask tough questions without these dramatics."

Speaker of the House John Bosley recently confirmed this, and selected Penner as one of just a few MPs who seem to be able to ask hard questions of the government without getting into the histrionics of

some other Members of Parliament.

Besides representing the Cochrane-Superior riding, Penner also serves as the Liberal Party's Indian and Northern Affairs Critic, which he said is a "tough job" but, on occasion, also rewarding.

Up until a few weeks ago, David Crombie was the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and Penner said he didn't have too many disagreements with Crombie.

"He talked a really good game, but if you went and spoke to the Indian leaders, you found that he didn't accomplish that much," Penner said.

Crombie was recently replaced as Minister by William McKnight, who Penner said has already made a "couple of blunders" in the House.

"I think my job will be a little more interesting now," Penner said with a chuckle.

The MP recently chaired a committee which

brought in a new Indian policy, he explained.

"As long as Indians live in utter dependence of the government, there will be no progress," Penner said. "We are calling for emancipation...the Indian Act should be done away with and there should be Indian self-government in which they would take care of their own affairs, much like Terrace Bay and Schreiber take care of their own affairs."

Such self-government would give the Canadian Indian bands autonomy within the confines of Confederation, Penner said.

"Crombie had agreed with this, but so far we are only just starting on it," Penner added. "We are ready to get going with it."

Penner added that even though the next election may be two years away, he has already decided to run again in the Cochrane-Superior riding.

"I'm feeling good, the Liberals are feeling good," he explained.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Upon returning home from the "Big City," I had the privilege of reading your column of August 13.

Conrad, allow me to let you in on a secret: that style of journalism died in the 60's. Fascist pigs! Come on, grow up.

The constable sees a car with a group of young men "driving around during an evening of fun and games in the city." How is this mortal to know what type of fun and games you have in mind? This is not Terrace Bay, where the man knows the good from the bad from the ugly! This is the big city, where the crime may come from the "boy next door" or "the sweet girl with the baby blues."

The police are targeted, under-staffed and over-worked, not only in the city, kid, but even in a small town where the innocent-looking vehicle has some one who would like to blow away that "fascist-pig" just because he has that uniform on.

This is the same guy who has a wife, three kids, goes to church, is active in his community, coaches hockey, little league, and protects his kids who are subject to those who do not like the job their father has and at the same time prays they do not become a police officer as he is, and abused because he does the job he has been hired to do! A job he took because he wanted to right the wrong—to separate the good from the evil.

Conrad, your car was not searched because of the constable's discretion. The constable did not subject you to a breath test because he believed you not to be impaired. No Conrad, you

were pulled over because you were a group of guys cruising, innocent as you say, but your car could have represented a hold-up, rape, reckless driving—any number of not so nice possibilities where these things happen over and over again.

You think the police should not spot check—what about the impaired driver who gets taken off the road; the kidnapped child who is found, quite by accident; the weapons that could have taken a life or lives; the drugs that could meet the grade school child. Conrad, this is in many cases how the "real criminal" is found. I don't know which world you live in, but it certainly can't be this one.

I'm sorry Conrad, but I really disagree with this particular column, and since this is Canada, I can make this comment in my letter to the editor. Thank you.

Patricia A. Callaghan
Terrace Bay, Ontario



HEART
AND STROKE
FOUNDATION
OF ONTARIO

TENIUK - Mr. John Teniuk age 61 years of Terrace Bay passed away in hospital on Monday, August 18, 1986. He was employed by Kimberly-Clarke for the past thirty-four years. Member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Moose Lodge and Mason's. Survived by his wife Mary, sons Don of Yorkton, Saskatchewan and Roy of Terrace Bay. Also survived by two grandchildren and two sisters in the Ukraine. Funeral Mass was held on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. from St. Martin's Roman Catholic Church, Terrace Bay. Interment at Terrace Bay Cemetery. If friends so desire memorials to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

St. Andrews United Church Schreiber is holding its **16th Annual Mini Fall Fair September 5th & 6th in the Legion Banquet Hall.** Doors open between **7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Friday.**

Friday: Sales of new and used items, Friday: home produce, food booth, kiddies korner, and raffles.

Saturday: Starting at **1:30 p.m.** Sale of knitted goods and crafts. Homebaking and fresh vegetables.

5 - 6 p.m. - smorgasbord supper
\$6. - adult
\$3. - children under 12
Seven Penny Auction & draws.

OPEN TO ALL

The C.N.I.B. Mobile Eye Care Unit

will be at the McCausland Hospital in Terrace Bay the week of **September 22 - 26.**

If you would like an appointment to see our Ophthalmologist

Please Call
824-2413

Sponsored by the
Terrace Bay Schreiber Kinsmen

Schreiber Minor Hockey needs

Coaches, Managers & Trainers

for the upcoming 1986-87 Season.

Send Applications to:

Ian Fummerton
Box 693
Schreiber, Ontario
POT 2S0

Terrace Bay Minor Hockey Association

Applications will be received for Coaches, Managers & Trainers. Contact or phone

Roger at 825-9315
Archie at 825-3873
by September 8th/86.

Registration will be held September 14/86.
From 12 - 9 p.m. at the Fall Fair.

Skate Exchange
September 18/86
6 - 9 p.m.
at the Recreation Conference Room



3 WAYS TO MOVE INTO A BRIGHTER FUTURE IN MECHANICAL TRADES

Welding Techniques
Industrial Mechanical Maintenance Techniques (Millwright)
Motive Power Techniques — Heavy Equipment

Vacancies exist in the above 38-week Trades Certificate Programs scheduled to commence September 2, 1986. High school graduates or interested candidates 19 years of age or over without a Secondary School Graduation Diploma may be admitted to these Trades Certificate Programs.



For further information contact:
The Registrar's Office
Confederation College of Applied Arts & Technology
P.O. Box 398
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 4W1
(807) 475-6365

Northwestern Ontario residents may call Toll Free:
1 - 800 - 465 - 6961

Registration for Fall/Winter Off-Campus Courses

Terrace Bay/Schreiber

TIME:
5:00 p.m.

DATE:
Wednesday, September 10th

PLACE:
Schreiber Public School

For further information, please contact our off-campus representative in your area:

Mrs. Barbara Spadoni
Tel. 824-2761

Lakehead University