

More editor's mail

Candidate endorsement has 'illogical conclusion'

Dear Editor,
You endorse Bill Ballinger for MPP in Durham-York on his record, then jump to a conclusion which bears no logical relationship to the reasons for your endorsement.

You say the Tories aren't in a position to run the province because they have trouble managing their own affairs.

Apart from being wrong, how does this relate to the reasons for your endorsement?

The Ontario Progressive Conservative Party incurred an operating deficit when it lost office. Recall that the federal Liberals found

themselves in the same jam after 1984.

Voluntary donations to losing parties drop sharply and "turnaround" management becomes imperative.

The Ontario PCs have made solid progress in reducing their deficit because 13,000 party members, during the uniquely democratic leadership race this past spring, willingly contributed \$10 each for this purpose.

The party has also brought strong management to bear on the problem.

You give heavy weighting to an incumbent's performance in reach-

ing your political decision. Other people and other editors would choose to stress a party's performance, platform or prospects.

Less relevantly, others might decide on the basis of a leader's strong performance or prospects.

I have no quarrel with anyone who chooses one of these decision-making approaches over another.

The Ontario PC party, for its part, chooses to examine the Liberal government's performance: high-taxing, high-spending performance which distresses not only heavily burdened taxpayers, but also provincial treasurers in other provinces (according to a recent

article in the Globe and Mail) who are troubled by what they see as irresponsibility in Ontario.

We hope that Ontario's voters will not doze through a summer election campaign not seeing what harm has been done to their after-tax standard of living.

They should want to get back to common sense government, reject-

ing one which has tried and failed to spend its way to being all things to all people.

Let's live again within our means and re-order our society's priorities to fit tough new economic realities.

Bill Berry,
Communications Chairman
Jack Houseman Campaign

Women's issues at forefront

Dear Editor,
I am writing in response to the recent political campaign. The Ontario NDP Women's Committee made a report on an issue that affect our lives. They covered issues from pensions to pay equity.

The same questions were given to all three parties. These are the answers given:

Question: On the issue of pensions, women work at home and in the labor force throughout their lives, yet one in four elderly women lives in poverty. What will your party do to insure decent pensions for women?

The Liberals did not expand the public pensions system. They introduced some improvements to private plans, which covers fewer than 30 per cent of employed women, but failed in their promise to protect pension benefits against inflation.

The Conservatives oppose expansion of public pension systems. They expressed reservations on inflation protection for pension benefits.

The NDP support expansion and improvement of public pension systems and advocate the right of any working person to take a family care leave without penalty to future pension benefits.

Another important issue that affects our area directly is child

care, which is essential if women are to participate in the labor force.

There is a critical shortage of licensed child care spaces, especially infant care in our area. The NDP support non-profit, quality child care for everyone that wants it and advocate democratic control with parental involvement in determining policies of child care centres.

The Liberals dropped the child care program "New Directions" after the first cycle.

They recently announced funding cuts which will severely limit the number of new spaces.

The Conservatives criticized the Liberals for not giving more support to privately run child care centres.

On the issue of pay equity the question was asked, "Will your party ensure that all women are covered by the Pay Equity Act?"

The Conservatives supported the original legislation but new leader Mike Harris says he would scrap pay equity in the private sector.

The New Democrats made pay equity legislation a condition of the 1985 accord.

They moved for amendments to the pay equity legislation to include more women.

They have continually protested the exclusion of certain female workers from the legislation, such as child care workers, nursing assistants and library workers.

The Liberals introduced Pay Equity legislation which excludes almost one million women. They have not kept their promise to bring in amendments to cover women with no male counterparts. Many of these women are among the lowest paid workers in the province.

These are only a few issues that relate to women. I urge all women in the area to call their candidates' offices.

Get all the facts and educate yourselves on issues that directly affect us.

Yours truly,
Pamela Ellis

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