

Politics

Rookie MP Jag Bhaduria sets up shop in Ottawa

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Correspondent

Newly-elected Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville Liberal MP Jag Bhaduria will be among a sea of new faces trying to find their way around the

parliament buildings over the next few weeks.

But as with every new crop of MPs, the road will be made a little clearer with the help of the orientation program made available to all first-time mem-

bers. According to Marie Leitch of the House of Commons administrator's office, Bhaduria is one of a total of 201 first-time members elected in the Oct. 25 federal mandate.

This is a record, said Leitch, who said there were 126 new MPs sworn in after the 1988 election, and 150 in 1984.

"It certainly makes for a little more work moving people around," admitted Leitch in a Tribune telephone interview Wednesday.

"My own duties are heavy at a time like this, but it will sort itself out."

Leitch said that Bhaduria, along with all the other new MPs, received a binder that was "chalk full of information" the day after the election.

"It included a booklet on benefits and privileges, a map of

the area, a video on the parliament buildings, and a preliminary orientation."

Bhaduria, who spent some time in the capital earlier this week, will be invited to an administrative orientation day at the parliament building's west block this coming Tuesday, Nov. 9.

The day-long program, which is also open to MPs' spouses, is to include presentations on organizational structure of parliament, allowances and services available to MPs under the Parliament of Canada Act, and the establishment of MPs' offices. It will also deal with time demands on members combining work and family life, and coping with stress.

Leitch said Tuesday's session will address the question of setting up offices both on Parli-



BHADURIA

ment Hill and in the MP's constituency, along with hiring staff and setting up budgets.

A bus tour of Ottawa-Hull will be offered MPs' spouses the morning of the administrative orientation.

A procedural orientation involving such issues as House procedures and committees will be held closer to the time parliament reconvenes later on this fall.

Like the other government MPs, the actual location of Bhaduria's Ottawa parliamentary office will be decided by the Liberal party whip, said Leitch.

"Defeated MPs have 17 days from the date of the election to vacate their offices," said Leitch.

"After that happens, the party whips look at the spaces available and allocate them."


In the meantime, Bhaduria and the other rookie members will pool office space, telephones, and a secretarial staff.

"The new MPs will be given temporary cubicles in a large meeting room in the West Block," Leitch said.


Sources close to Bhaduria told *The Tribune* Wednesday that the MP hasn't yet decided where he will locate his constituency office.

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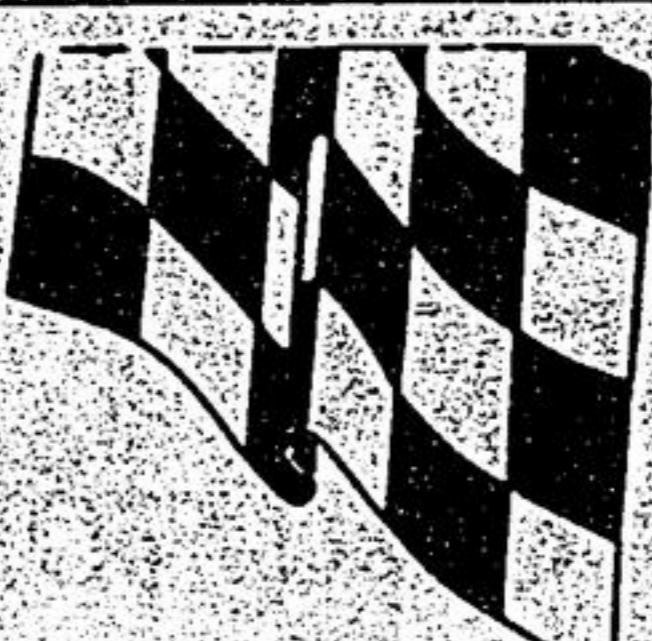


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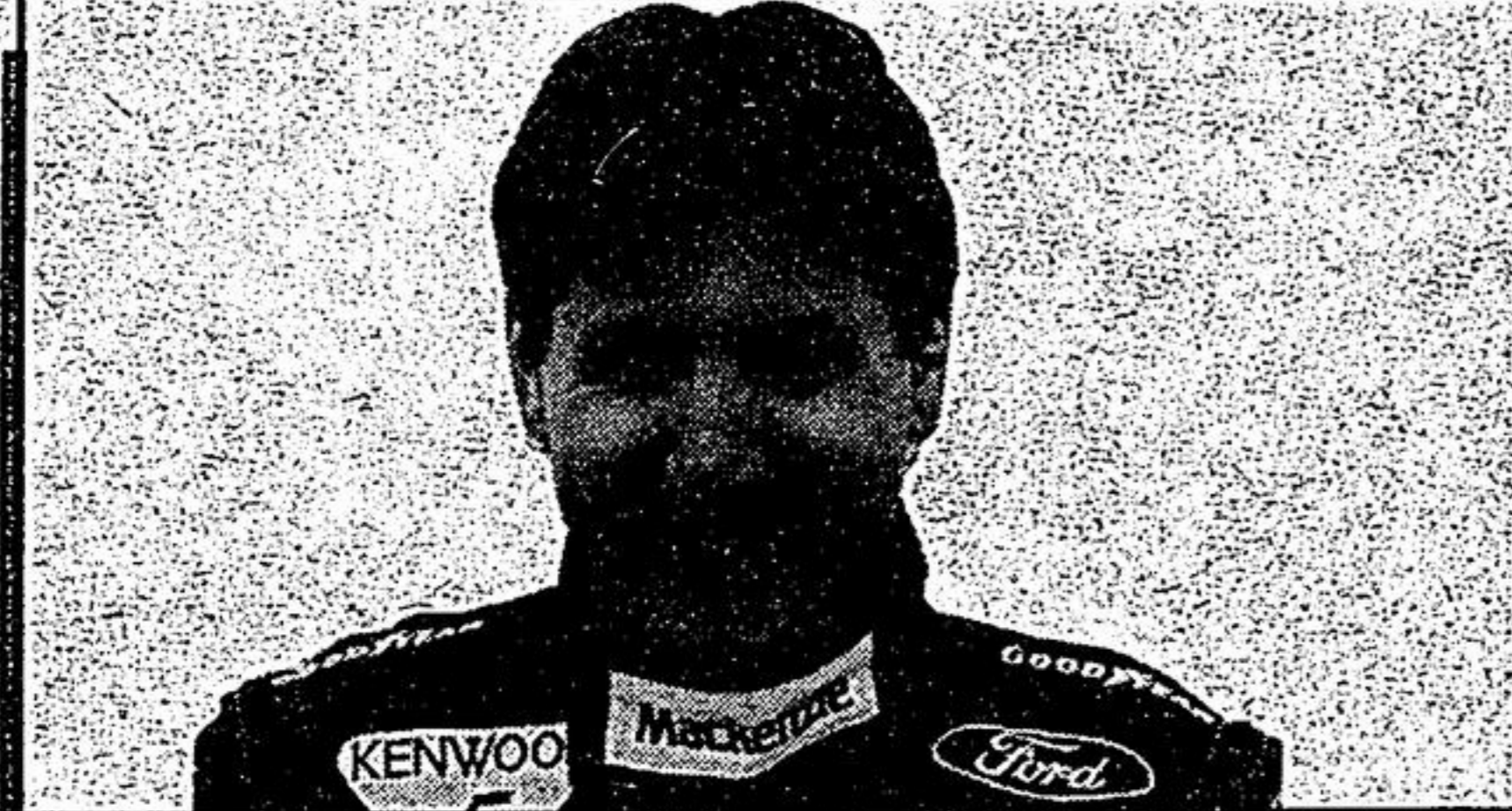
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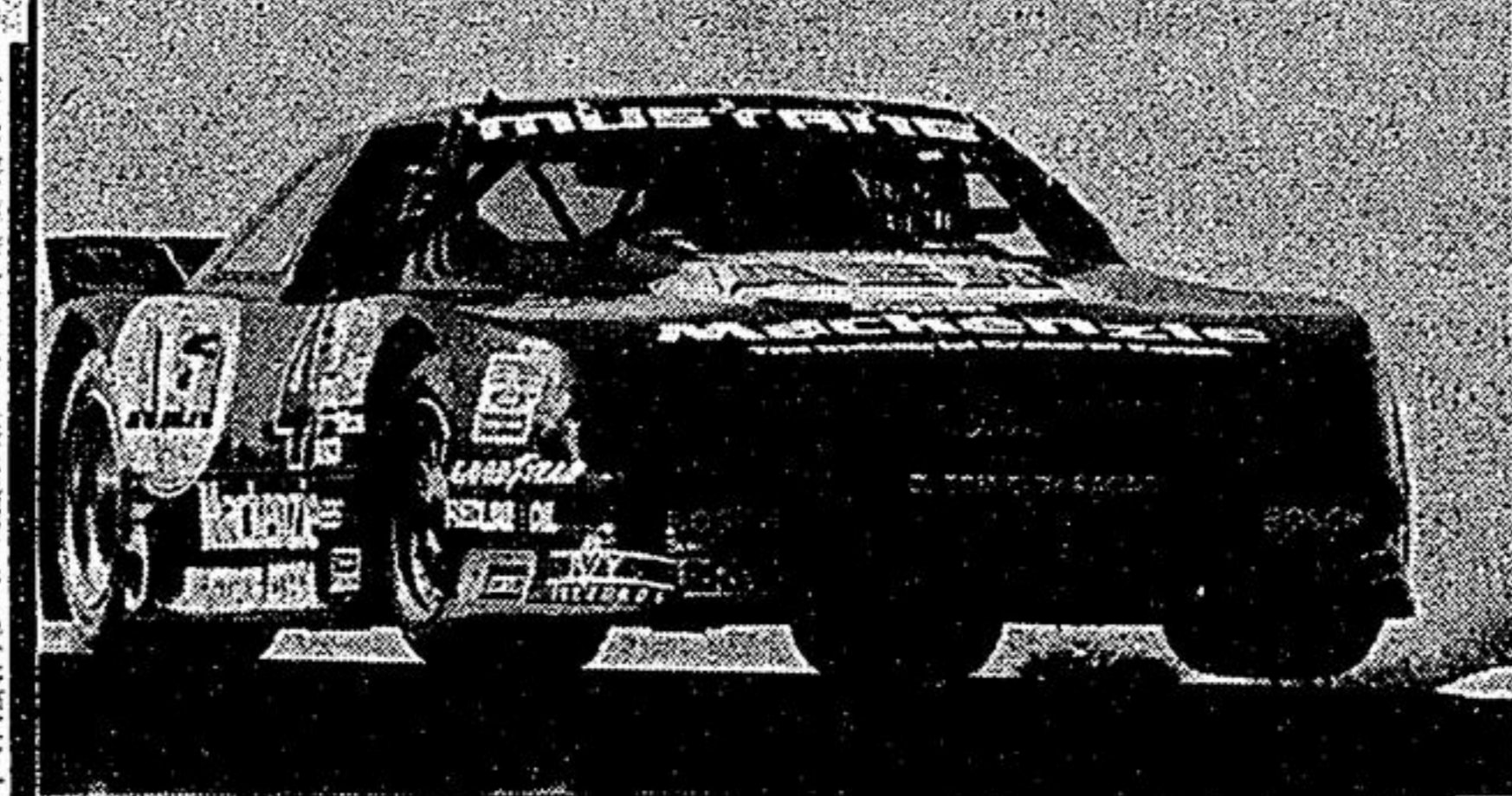
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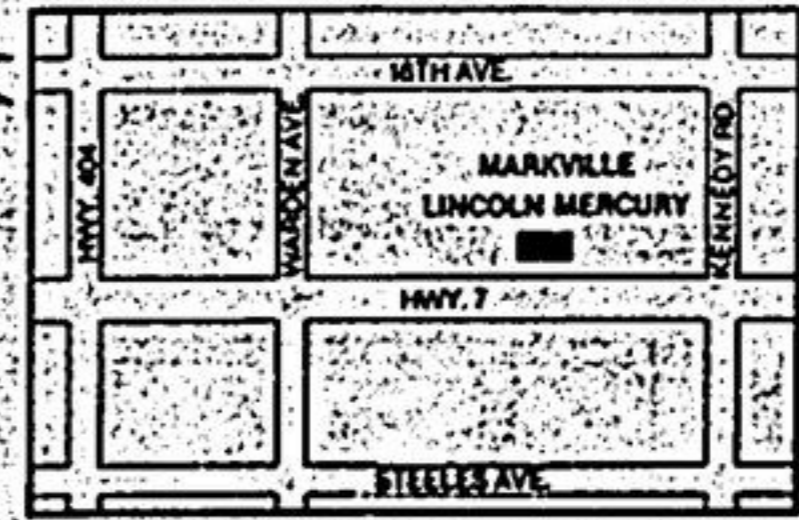
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