

Canadian self-determination lacking: Hellyer

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Tribune Staff

Banks, bond traders and multinational corporations run Canada. That was the message presented by Paul Hellyer, leader of the Canadian Action Party, at a rally for York Region candidates Thursday night in Markham.

Hellyer, who served in the Liberal governments of Louis St. Laurent, Lester Pearson and Pierre Trudeau, delivered an impassioned speech in defence of Canadian self-determination, to about 35 people at Markville Secondary School.

"The government now runs the country in the interests of banks and bond dealers," he said in his speech. "We've become their puppets. We make budgets that are more concerned about the banks' feelings than the feelings of Canadians."

Thursday night's audience was a mixture of the curious and the committed, and featured local CAP candidates Jeff Baulch of Markham Riding and Dean Force of Oak Ridges.

Hellyer pointed out that CAP is running 58 candidates across Canada, 38 in Ontario. He said the party was formed by a group of concerned Canadians who voted for different parties in the 1993 federal election. They were united into CAP by their unhappiness with the four major parties.

"The traditional parties don't have the answers to problems affecting the majority of Canadians," he said. "We believe in people empowerment, ask them what their concerns are."

Hellyer said the fact that private banks are creating 90 per cent of the money in the Canadian economy is a problem. Free trade, which opened the door to unregulated foreign investment is also a major concern, he said.

"We have created a country for multinationals to invest in, but not a Canada for Canadians," said Hellyer.

"NAFTA (North American Free Trade Act) is about investment, not free trade. They are given corporate citizen status, and now any outsider can buy our institu-

tions... This may be a bit of exaggeration, but eventually they'll run up their flag and pull ours down."

He said more investment in Canada by Canadians is what's needed, and he said the Bank of Canada should be leading the charge on this issue. Hellyer said that if Canadians don't start trying get control of the country's

money back, we're going to be in big trouble.

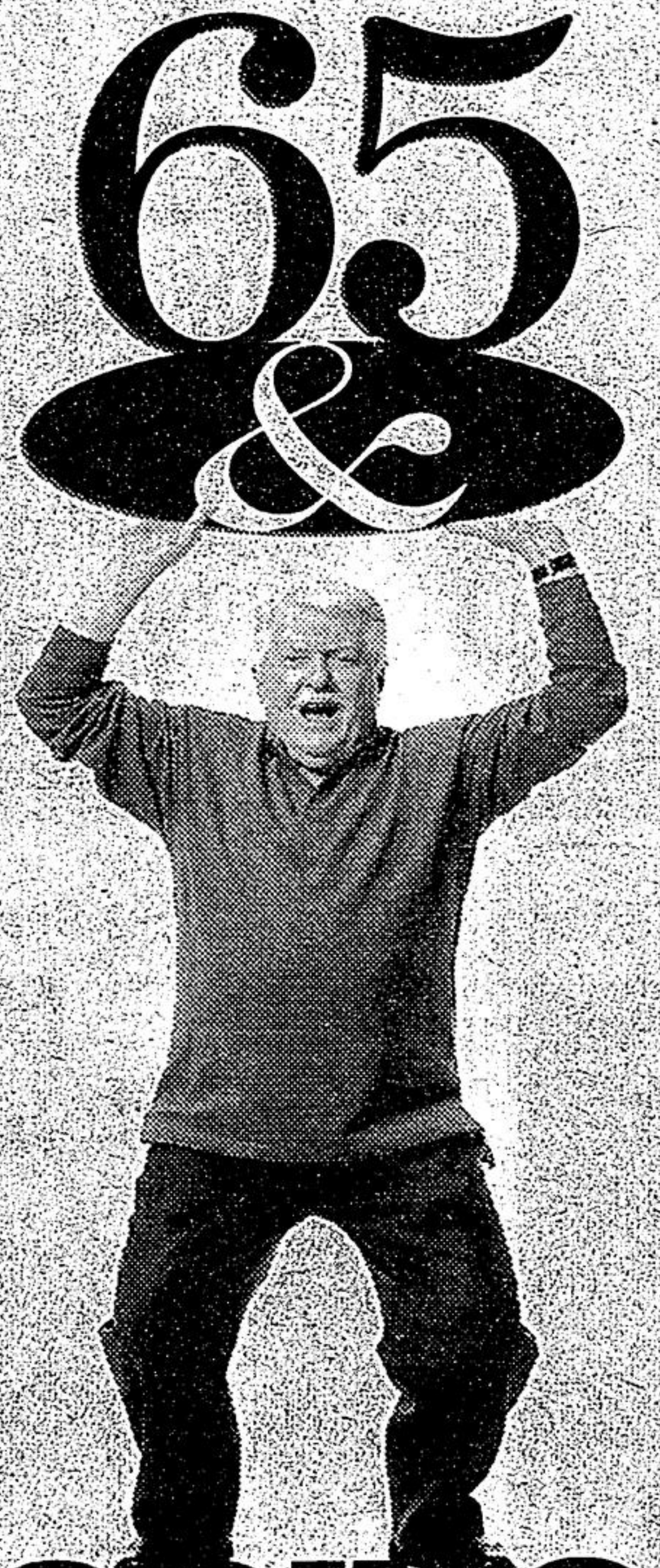
"It's like a train that's starting to run out of control, and we need to say 'stop.' If we don't, the financial lions are going to eat everything else."

Hellyer's message seemed to be well-received by the audience.

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