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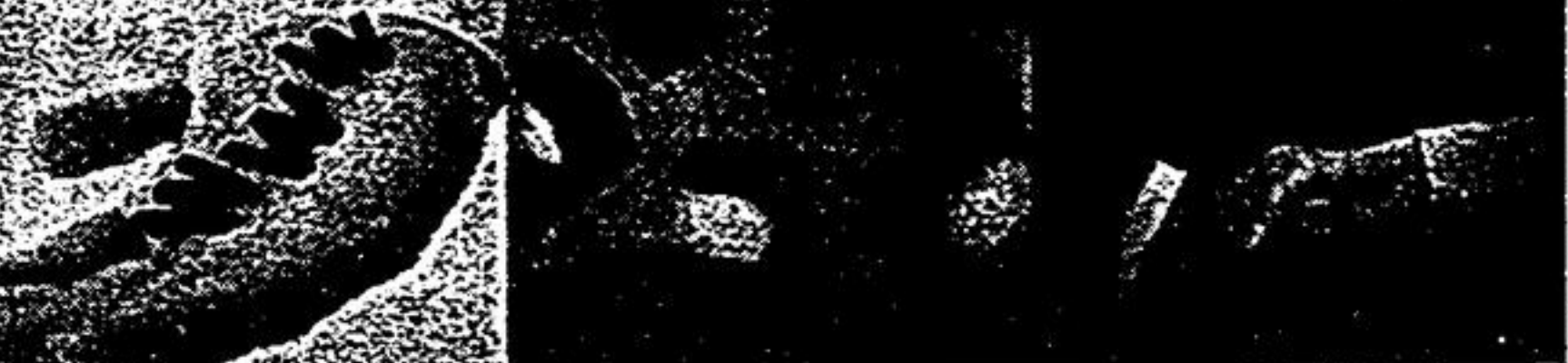
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30	\$180	\$230	\$435	55	\$443	\$860	\$1695
35	\$200	\$230	\$435	60	\$725	\$1425	\$2800
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# Controversy surrounds PC fundraising dinner

BY ROY GREEN  
 Staff Writer

Progressive Conservative party members in Markham are denying reports of a dispute over an upcoming fundraising event featuring former prime minister Brian Mulroney.

A National Post story Thursday quoted unnamed sources saying Tories at national headquarters in Ottawa were bickering with organizers in Markham over who will collect and keep the money from a \$500-a-head golf tournament and luncheon scheduled for Friday at the Angus Glen Golf Club.

Mulroney is keynote speaker and is expected to make his first major political speech in seven years at the luncheon.

"The dispute has been triggered by fear that Jim Jones, the organizer of the event and Ontario's only Conservative MP, is poised to defect from the Tory ranks and join the Canadian Alliance after the golf tournament is held on June 9," states the story.

Jones did not return calls from The Economist & Sun/Tribune, but Wayne Patterson, chairperson of Friday's event, said there's nothing to the story.

*"It's a crock, that's what it is."*

"There's no bickering at all. We always work very closely with the federal PC party, everything's cleared through the PC Canada Fund. But it (the rumours) makes for good press," said Patterson.

D'Arcy Pigott, former president of the Markham federal riding association, went a step further.

"It's a crock, that's what it is. Let's not forget there's a Reform — or Alliance, or whatever, it's called — and they would like to deflate anything, give a kick in the head to (Joe) Clark, (Jim) Jones and the federal PCs," said Pigott.

"This event is already sold out and Alliance doesn't want to see a successful event that will give the PCs a shot in the arm."

The newspaper story said the Conservative party website instructed participants to make cheques payable to the PC Canada Fund, while staff at Jones' riding office directed that cheques be made out to the GTA Golf Classic.

"Some cheques have come in made out to the PC Canada Fund, some to the 2000 GTA Golf Tournament," said Patterson.

"It doesn't matter, they go to the same place."

Jones has angered Tories, including Pigott, because of his view that the Tories are doomed to split their right-of-centre supporters with the Alliance unless each agrees to support one conservative candidate — Alliance or Tory — in each riding for the next election.

"There's a lot of press going around on Jim and I'll let it stand on its own and not cloud it with my own discussion," said Pigott.

"But you know that if this event, with a ticket price as high as this one, turns out to be a success, they can't claim the party is dead."

## Thank You from

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We also thank our volunteers Brooke Casha, Alisha Del Grande, Mindy Watts, Elena Aiello, Frank Gesualdi, Maurizio Aquaviva, Lou Aquaviva, and many thanks to Ricardo Piazza for the music and equipment.

Special thanks to Vince Salerno of Around The Clock Car Rental who proved to be a "master at BBQing"

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