THIS TIME Ottawa-Carleton is "going Conservative"

with **STROME GALLOWAY**

"HE IS NOT AFRAID TO BE EITHER FOR OR AGAINST"

He is for – an 'incentive society' which encourages honest effort, reduces unemployment, results in social stability and gives Youth a challenge and a decent chance to meet it.

He is for – a sensible bilingual policy that will encourage friendly communication between French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians.

He is for – a fair deal for Senior Citizens, older War Veterans and other Fixed Income Citizens, those who have worked, fought and suffered through hard times to help build Canada.

He is for – our Parliamentary heritage with its century-old traditions, its dignity and its democratic processes.

He is for – a Canada which accepts its role in the World as a trustworthy member of NATO and the UN

He is against – Trudeau's 'welfare society, which lives off the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars, accepts unemployment and breeds social unrest.

He is against – Trudeau's misoriented bilingual policy, which is dividing the country and polarizing our two Founding Peoples.



STROME GALLOWAY

He is against – Wasting the taxpayers' money on crazy programs in aid of Communist agitators, homosexuals, drug addicts, U.S. Army deserters and draft-dodgers, as the Trudeau government is now doing.

He is against – the "creeping republicanism" and "Presidential tendencies" which are evident in the Trudeau administration, and completely un-Canadian.

Strome Galloway was big on discipline up in Ottawa Carleton

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the concept of a regional development policy, but it was criticism nevertheless and Jean Marchand, the minister responsible for the program, didn't like it.

By mid-1972 one of Marchand's most effective critics, the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, had toned down, fearing its attacks might help kill the scheme entirely. But there was another phenomenon to reckon with: several corporations shut down their Ontario plants and moved to the Maritimes, to escape high wages and troublesome unions — and collect a government regional development grant. That didn't help the government much with the difficult task of selling its plan in Ontario. It was the two rich provinces of Ontario and British Columbia that were to cost Trudeau his majority.

The regional development program, and the Trudeau government in general, also had the misfortune to be around at a time when the economic boom of the sixties was coming to an end. Liberal governments, prepared to use only a limited range of measures, can have only a partial effect on the state of the economy in the best of circumstances. In Canada, tied to the United States so that its economy is at least as sensitive to changes in American policy as it is to anything Ottawa does, the government is almost totally at the whim of circumstances beyond its control.

Still, what the Trudeau government actually did only aggravated the situation. It perceived inflation as the principal problem, and in order to fight it took measures to slow down the economy, with the inevitable consequence of increased unemployment.

The result, after three years of the policy, was high inflation *and* unemployment. The United States, without the benefit of Trudeaunomics, had roughly the same thing, but voters have always held their governments responsible for the state of the economy and Trudeau's burden was a heavy one.

As it became clear that the presence of Pierre Elliott Trudeau in the Prime Minister's Office would not lead to miracles, the perception of him as a man changed too.

The streak of arrogance and aloofness in his personality that had been overlooked in 1968 was noticed with increasing frequency. He was the man who asked western farmers why he should sell their wheat, who said opposition MPs were nobodies a hundred yards from the House of Commons, who told the Lapalme Guys to eat shit and Newfoundland Conservative MPs Jim McGrath and John Lundrigan to fuck off.

The piddling questions

His four years were running out. He wanted to wait until the economic situation improved before calling an election, but the economic situation didn't improve. He tried to patch things up with business, usually Liberal but now reported looking longingly toward the Conservatives.

Finance Minister Benson had displeased business with his talk of tax reform (which didn't amount to much when it finally assumed the form of legislation): he was replaced. Labour Minister Mackasey had displeased business with his reform of the labour code: he was replaced. Corporate Affairs Minister Basford had displeased business with his competition act: he, too, was replaced. A May budget included substantial tax concessions for business; the long-awaited foreign-ownership policy turned out to have all the power of a popgun.

First the election was going to be in April, then in June; Trudeau played on the developing anticipation, but always chickened out before it was too late. There was still little sign that defections from the Liberals would be massive (perhaps only because of the weakness of the opposition), but the 1972 election would clearly not be another 1968. When Trudeau finally bit the bullet as August turned into September he did not walk, in the immortal words of Peter C. Newman, "into the future, burdened with hope." He was scared to death.

He put on a brave front, told Peter Desbarats of the Toronto *Star* that he hoped people would listen to him this time, presumably not just adore him. He also mentioned that he saw the election as "a catharsis, as a bath of fire in which you're purified, and you settle all the piddling questions of whether this little thing was right or wrong."

And so he went among the masses. "The Land Is Strong," he sloganized. He said that "the onslaught of dissatisfaction and disbelief that Canada could even stay together four years ago has been dissipated." He said that "Canada now weighs in the world with the full weight of its potentialities." In Summerside, PEI, he asked for a mandate to continue the "social journey." In Vancouver, B.C., he told a man pestering him about Vietnam to "fuck off." Trudeau went from coast to coast speaking to Canadians, but always the "piddling questions" came up.

Throughout the campaign, Statistics Canada kept issuing reports citing the jobless increase and the increase in the cost of living. The so-called battle against inflation had been lost although more than seven per cent of the work force were thrown into the breech. As prices rose, Trudeau expressed his joy that the farmer was getting a better price — he wasn't, but that was just another piddling question.

There was a continuing shortage of jobs, but that was because there were too many kids born after the war. Regional disparity grew, but then that was yet another piddling question. And so the Trudeau procession rolled along.

With the exception of David Lewis, who took a leaf from George McGovern's campaign book and launched out at "corporate welfare bums" and other things that go bump in the night during the later stages of People's Capitalism, the campaign seemed to be programmed well enough.

Yet things began to go wrong. Trudeau seemed (at least to the Toronto *Globe and Mail*) to swagger, and if the Canadian people didn't want a prime minister who swaggered then Trudeau had had it. Simple.

And Trudeau was vulnerable. He was locked into a set of policies which were centred on his brand of federalism, and the centre was not holding. Time was growing short.

A bitter Bryce Mackasey, with an obvious allusion to his Ontario cabinet colleagues, blamed the Liberal loss on a lack of courage to defend government policies. But what was there to defend? The essential attack on the government came from the right, while it was itself moving toward the right.

Thus the problem is not so much that Trudeau deserved to be defeated and in fact was, the problem is how, why and by whom. True enough, the Liberals deserved everything they got. But in the debacle we seem to have gotten Stanfield. And what did we do to deserve that?

RAY GUY'S ADVICE

The best vote in this election is no vote at all.
No matter how you look at it.

They might, if they see there's no votes coming in from Newfoundland, get excited and send us down bigger parcels of money.

Better still, they might go about their business and leave us alone.

For what little entertainment we got out of this election none of these birds deserves a vote. That's the only thing you get out of elections in the long run — a few laughs while these nut cases are dashing about cutting each other's throats.

You may feel it's worth the effort just to get at least seven of these jokers out of Newfoundland and settled away in a nice house in Ottawa.

But they won't guarantee us they'll stay away.

Chances are that in a few years' time they'll be back here inflicting themselves on us again.

Don't vote — it only encourages them.

— Ray Guy, St. John's *Evening Telegram*

LAST POST

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