

# editorial 'HELLO AGAIN, PIERRE', AND 'SO LONG, JOE'

By John Cairns

So now we know. Canadians have made their wishes clear by electing a majority Liberal government. It's "Hello again, Pierre" and "So long, Joe".

Actually, in many ways we are back where we started in 1974. We have Pierre Trudeau again at the nation's helm after a brief lapse in his power. We have a government which, if it continues its past record, will spend Canada straight to bankruptcy and let unemployment and inflation run wild. On the positive side, we do have to admit that Monsieur Trudeau is a much better man to handle Quebec separatism than Mr. Clark ever could have been.

The key regions in Tuesday's election were the Atlantic Provinces and Ontario. It was in the Atlantic Area that the tide toward the Liberals began to swell and Ontario was where the issue was once and for all decided. In both regions the Liberal-Conservative seat count was virtually reversed from what it had been after the May '79 election. No one can convince me that the voters in either area are in any way consistent.

Why did the Liberals rise and the Tories fall? Believe me, it is not because of anything Trudeau or anyone in his party did. The Conservatives managed to turn the tables all by themselves. In fact, they clumsily upset the table on top of themselves, and they did so essentially in two ways. The first problem was the John Crosbie budget, a document the Clark government said was tough. Canadians, however, may talk about biting the bullet, but clearly they aren't prepared to do it, not if it means paying an extra 18¢ per gallon of gasoline. Sooner than we think we may all be sorry for our own penny pinching natures.

The second Tory flaw was the Joe Clark image. Mr. Clark has never cut a dashing figure in the public eye, and try as he might to impress us, all he managed to do was confirm our suspicions that he is a bungler. True, rescuing the six Americans from Iran made us feel good, but that was the work of Flora Macdonald and Ambassador Taylor, and Mr. Clark stood only at the periphery. Had he been any closer surely the whole incident would have turned into a complete fiasco.

Joe Clark's basic problem was revealed to me just a few days ago by a friend of mine who is a student at West Kent Elementary School here in Charlottetown. My friend declared that among his colleagues there is strong feeling that Joe Clark's ears are just too big for the head of a politician. The result is that voting for Clark is like voting for Walt Disney's Dumbo the elephant.

On the local scene the election was frankly a shock. I was sure the Island would once again go Tory blue from tip to tip. And imagine, David Macdonald was actually defeated in Egmont by a man who had never set foot in federal politics before. Evidently even the seemingly invincible must fall some time. Mr. Henderson undoubtedly worked hard for his victory, but Joe Clark and John Crosbie

were the real undoing of Mr. Dave Macdonald. The same can perhaps be said for Wilbur Macdonald, although his defeat was much less unexpected. In Malpeque, Mel Gass was simply the superior candidate, while in Hillsborough Tom McMillan was the most outstanding of three outstanding politicians.

In conclusion, let me simply say this. We may think we have settled the nation's future by electing a majority government, but really we haven't. Neither Mr. Trudeau nor Mr. Clark will be around to lead their parties in the 1984 election. Hence, we can't be sure what is going to happen between now and then, and we definitely can't visualize anything that is to come after that. Only time can unveil the full implications of what Canadians did last Monday.

**"In response to one of our editorials?"**



## UPEI SUN

The UPEI SUN is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) with exclusive national advertising rights held by Youthstream, 310 Davenport Road, Toronto, Ontario.

The UPEI SUN aims to be an independent newspaper published weekly throughout the academic year by the UPEI Student Union, printed by the Journal-Pioneer in Summerside and distributed throughout the campus.

Contents are the responsibility of the editor. Opinions are those of the persons expressing them. All letters and articles must be signed even if the name is to be withheld from publication.

Deadline for all submissions is Monday noon.

The staff meeting is every Monday at 7 PM in The SUN's office, fourth floor Main, East end.

A sincere thank you and a helluva lot of gratitude to:

- RICHARD LEE
- DERWIN BANKS
- TODD MACLAUGHLAN
- KIM THISTLE
- MAUREEN HARTMAN
- CATHERINE WILSON
- JOHN CAIRNS

for all the work they did on this week's issue.

## the staff

- Editor - John Cairns
- Layout Manager - Maureen Hartman
- Photographers - Derwin Banks  
Todd MacLaughlan  
Richard Lee
- Advertising Manager - Kevin Gauthier
- Typist - Catherine Wilson



**NORTON JEWELLERS**

*Your Charlottetown Family Jeweller  
Growing to Serve Islanders Better*

117 Kent

Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Phone 894-3922