

Joey Seen In Last Election

By DAL WARRINGTON
ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—Is Premier Joseph Smallwood fighting his last Newfoundland election campaign? Signs seem to point that way but political observers aren't betting on it. The indefatigable premier has proved them wrong too many times in the past.

During his 1962 campaign, he said he expected to be in his last days as premier in five years time "if not before." That gives him something more than a year to go.

Now approaching his 66th birthday, he has been in office 17 years, longer than any government leader in Newfoundland history. He said recently he would step down as soon as he finishes a few more things he wants to do for Newfoundland.

SIGNS GIVE HINT

Here are some signs that may indicate he means it this time:

1. The premier's infusion of young blood in his dominant Liberal party. He named 19 new candidates for the current campaign, brought in five new cabinet ministers and ousted several veterans.
2. Completion of the Trans-Canada Highway across the island, an event he celebrated by leading a cavalcade of motorists over the road.
3. His whirlwind series of sod-turning ceremonies last week at sites for multi-million-dollar new paper mills and chemical plants, construction well ahead on the 600,000-horsepower Bay d'Espoir power development and a province-wide transmission grid.
4. Memorial University of Newfoundland on the way to becoming one of Canada's largest and most modern institutions.
5. His designation of 1966 as Come Home Year with former Newfoundlanders invited to come back and see the progress made since joining Canada in 1949.
6. His evident drive to make next Thursday's voting a Liberal sweep.

SWITCHES RIDING

On the last point, the Progressive Conservatives accuse the premier of trying to wipe out all opposition. They cite Mr. Smallwood's move to run personally in Humber West, a West Coast riding.

The PCs made significant western gains in 1962 to win a total of seven seats. Liberals took all but one of the remaining 35, but before that they had never lost a seat outside the St. John's area.

Dr. Noel Murphy, the 51-year-old Conservative leader, acknowledges that Confederation has been a good thing for Newfoundland. But he says the premier, who led the fight for union 17 years ago, has assumed the power of a dictator.

"The big issue now is the preservation by the people of Newfoundland of their right of freedom," he says. "There is a real fear throughout the province for our democratic system."

DUBS MOVES AN ILLNESS

As for the premier's flourish of sod-turning performances—"it's an illness. It's sodomania."

He describes Mr. Smallwood's "unmitigated liar" blast last week at former Quebec premier Jean Lesage last week as evidence of "a sickness that is driving away free enterprise... squeezing out the smaller concerns."

"Too few people are reaping the benefits and the profits are going into too few pockets."

From the premier's point of view his greatest unfinished business is the Churchill Falls power project in Labrador.

Lack of agreement with Quebec for sale of Churchill power is the stumbling block. Mr. Smallwood says it is only a matter of time before cheap power will pour into Newfoundland and with it millions of dollars and thousands of new jobs.

Observers think a start on Churchill is what the premier wants most before he steps down.

Memorial U Withdraws From CUS

HALIFAX (CP)—Memorial University of St. John's Monday informed the 30th congress of the Canadian Union of Students that it is withdrawing from the organization.

In a speech before a plenary session of the congress, Rex Murphy said Memorial had been dissatisfied for the last four years with the performance of the national union.

Mr. Murphy referred to CUS inefficiency and said Memorial had made repeated efforts to reform the organization in previous years. The failure of these attempts had finally convinced its delegation that reform was impossible, either because it was unwanted or because the necessity for it was still unrecognized, he said.

The Memorial delegation expressed regret at the situation that made its decision to withdraw unavoidable.

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