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## 1988-11-17-16

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# World-National

## Free trade dominates campaign

### Candidates seek reelection

[Cont'd. from page 11]

worker in Etobicoke Lakeshore was forced to withdraw for health reasons.

In Quebec, Liberal MP Sheila Finestone will once again try to claim Mount Royal as her political turf, going up against Jewish PC candidate Robert Presser, while Multiculturalism Minister Gerry Weiner will seek reelection in Fierrefonds-Dollard. In St. Henri-Westmount Liberal MP David Berger will go up against NDP challenger Ruth Rose, (Berger's Liberal riding was wiped off the electoral map and Weiner's Dollard was split into two.)

In Atlantic Canada, Conservative candidate Abe Schwartz is contesting Gender-Grand Falls in Newfoundland and NDP hopeful Marty Zelenetz is running in Dartmouth, NS.

Who will win the bulk of these ridings is anyone's guess if the polls are to be believed. What first appeared to be a Conservative majority at the outset of the campaign, later shifted to a Tory minority.

Now, if the latest samplings are taken into account, the Liberals also have a chance at forming a minority government. According to a Gallup Poll released just one week before voting day, the Grits and Tories each had 35% of the decided vote and the NDP 26%. Only 8% of those polled remained undecided at the time.

While free trade has dominated the campaign and is believed to be largely responsible for changing Liberal fortunes, other issues have been identified by the three parties during the past weeks.

In a pre-election address, Broadbent outlined his party's multicultural program which would include strengthening the Criminal Code and human rights codes in deal with hate literature; mandatory affirmative action programs for visible minorities in the federal public sector, crown corporations and for federally regulated industries.

The NDP chief pledged to upgrade the multiculturalism sector to departmental status with a full minister and deputy minister.

In dealing with ethnocultural groups, Broadbent also pledged to increase funding to ethnocultural communities and multicultural organizations and institute a general redress policy to make up for discriminatory acts by past governments of Canada by providing individual and community compensation, as well as acknowledgment and education.

are a National Heritage Day.

The Liberal multicultural policy in regard to hate literature would involve deleting the requirement to show intent to promote hatred and eliminating the need for consent by the attorney-general in order to prosecute offenders.

The Liberals also plan to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to allow the co-mission to cope with hate propaganda, as an alternative, less costly means to deal with "hate propaganda peddlers."

At a Tory multicultural meeting in Toronto, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark and Roy McMurtry, chairman of the Conservatives' Ontario multicultural committee, discussed their party's multicultural policy, including the passage of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act and the government's foreign policy.

While Clark did not discuss multiculturalism, a look back over the past four years indicates the Conservative Party has been active in this area. While the Conservatives initially planned on altering the previous Liberal government's multicultural policy from "celebrating differences" to "celebrating common goals," through a "multiculturalism means business policy," by the end of its mandate it was providing increased support to multicultural community organizations to allow them to better address the needs and concerns of their members.

A storefront multicultural office was opened in Toronto under the second multiculturalism minister Olan Jelinek (Jack Murta first held the portfolio under the Tories) and a permanent standing committee on multiculturalism was established.

Finally, Prime Minister Mulroney announced prior to the election that multiculturalism would be elevated into a separate department with Gerry Weiner as a full minister in charge.

At another visit to Toronto, Turner unveiled his party's plan for seniors which includes spending \$225 million a year to create a \$1,200 income investment tax credit for those over 65.

In the area of health care, he said his government would work with provinces and the voluntary sector to provide community based health care and other services to senior citizens.

To assist the 350,000 senior citizens in Canada who Turner claimed are paying more than 30% of their income on rental or housing payments, the Liberal leader said renter and home owner credits would

commodate in smaller centres will be provided.

This would be part of his party's plan to spend \$1.6 million a year to ease the housing crunch through tax breaks for home owners and for tenants who pay more than 30% of their income for rent.

The Liberal program would include assistance for first-time home buyers, and selling of Crown land for affordable housing.

For their part, Broadbent said the NDP would spend \$185 million a year on housing and would tax speculators, bring interest

rates down, boost the supply of non-profit or cooperative dwellings and create a \$10 million fund to help the homeless.

The Conservatives not only failed to outline a housing program during the campaign, but made matters worse when Housing Minister John McDermid said Canada's homeless would not be getting any extra help from Ottawa as they already have enough shelters.

While acknowledging that this problem is getting worse, he added that "a lot of them, as you know, don't want permanent homes."

## Suit launched against deniers

By PAUL LUNGEN

LOS ANGELES —

Holocaust survivor Mel Mermelstein recently launched a law suit for malicious prosecution against a number of U.S.-based Holocaust-deniers, accusing them of missing the legal system to harass him.

Mermelstein alleged that a libel action instituted against him by the Institute for Historical Review, the Legion for the Survival of Freedom and Willa Carto was "completely groundless, frivolous and without probable cause."

He also claimed the suit was filed "to intimidate, harass and attack him because he is Jewish."

Mermelstein vaulted into the public eye when in 1980 he took up a \$50,000 offer of the Holocaust Denying Institute for Historical Review for proof that Jews were gassed in gas chambers in Auschwitz.

Mermelstein, whose mother and two sisters were gassed to death in the death camp, submitted proof Jews were appropriated there. When the IHR failed to comply with its reward offer, Mermelstein sued.

On Oct. 19, 1981, the Los Angeles Superior Court ruled there was no question that Jews had been gassed by the Nazis in Auschwitz. Afterwards, the IHR and the Liberty Lobby, founded by Carto, and the Legion for the Sur-

vival of Freedom paid \$90,000 to Mermelstein in settlement and formally apologized in writing to him and the survivors of Auschwitz.

After the judgment, Mermelstein was interviewed by a New York City radio station following which the IHR, the LSF and Carto sued him, claiming Mermelstein libelled them on the air.

Mermelstein denied the allegations, and launched a defence. On Feb. 29, 1988, the plaintiffs withdrew their suit. And in October, Mermelstein filed his suit for malicious prosecution, including as parties Carto's lawyers, Mark F. Von Each and Robert A. Von Each Jr., who filed the action against Mermelstein.

In addition to claiming the libel suit against him was groundless, Mermelstein also alleges the defendants are anti-semitic and racist and have ties to Nazi and other racist groups.

According to Jeffrey Mansner, Mermelstein's lawyer, "These organizations have been harassing Mermelstein and other Holocaust survivors for years."

"They have been spreading the lie that the Holocaust did not take place. While freedom of speech protects their right to lie, they do not have the right to intimidate and harass Holocaust survivors."

"This lawsuit is meant to put an end to this harassment, once and for all."

## Indian meets Jews in CBC-TV show

MONTREAL —

Culture shock and comedy are promised when an Algonquin Indian from an isolated reserve in northern Quebec hitchhikes to Montreal to meet his Jewish grandfather, on CBC-

fur hat and pots on a yarmulke. "What good is a hat that doesn't have ear flaps, isn't very warm, and doesn't cover your whole head?" he muses.

Grandfather Morris (Alfie Scopp) is busy trying to right the world.



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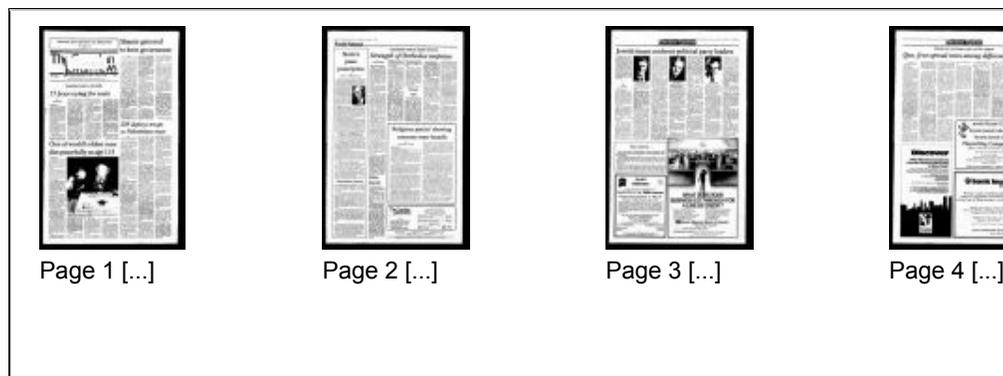


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