

National

Leadership hopefuls rebuffed by Turner

by JOAN BRYDEN
Southam News
ST. JOHN'S — John Turner reasserted his control over the Liberal party Monday, warning his would-be successors not to get "too jumpy" about the prospect of an imminent leadership race.

Appearing in public for the first time in almost two months, the Liberal leader also slapped leadership hopeful Paul Martin on the wrist, repudiating the rookie Quebec MP's contention that the free-trade debate is over.

As he arrived here for a two-day national caucus retreat, a tanned and healthy-looking Turner acknowledged that potential leadership contenders have been jockeying for position while he's been recovering from back surgery and vacationing in Jamaica. "They're all coming up to the starting line," he told reporters. "But I don't see any timer, I don't see any judge, I don't see any finish line and I don't see any (starting) gun."

Later, after a briefing session with Newfoundland Liberal Leader Clyde Wells, Turner reminded reporters that only he can start the race. And he advised potential leadership candidates not to "get too jumpy."

Turner, who faces an automatic leadership review in October if he doesn't step down beforehand, said he'll announce his decision on his future "at a time that I believe appropriate and in the best interests of the party and in a fashion that I believe to be in the best interests of the party."

Despite Turner's efforts to dampen speculation about his leadership, the issue was on the minds of the 83 Liberal MPs and about 20 senators as they arrived for the retreat. A number were annoyed with Martin for jumping the gun with pronouncements last week that contradict the party's free-trade policy.

Martin said the free-trade debate is over and that the recent spate of corporate takeovers, mergers and plant closures can't be blamed on the pact with the United States.

Although he refused to directly criticize Martin, Turner made it clear he speaks for the party on the trade issue and that Martin was out of line.

"We are against the deal," Turner said emphatically, adding it will cost "thousands of jobs" and has already prompted corporate mergers and takeovers.

Turner said the party will closely watch negotiations during the next five to seven years on the definition of allowable subsidies under the deal. He has repeatedly predicted that the negotiations could lead to the elimination of Canada's social and regional development programs.

Martin once again stressed his loyalty to Turner and denied he's at odds with the party's trade policy. However, he reiterated his belief that layoffs, mergers and takeovers are not necessarily the result of the free-trade deal.

Manitoba to open casino

WINNIPEG (CP) — Canada's first year-round casino, complete with slot machines, gaming tables and a dress code, will open in a Winnipeg hotel this October, the Manitoba government announced Monday.

Revenue from the casino — which the government hopes will earn \$10 million a year — will fund special health projects in the province, said Bonnie Mitchelson, minister responsible for the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation.

Since 1984, Manitoba has run numerous small, part-time casinos across the province to provide funds for local projects. These casinos will apparently be phased out and all funding they provided will now come out of the larger provincial lottery pie, which Mitchelson said has a \$4-million surplus.

The new casino will operate each weekday evening from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. and from noon until 2 a.m. on Saturdays. It will employ about 100 full-time staff from its location on the seventh floor of the Fort Garry Hotel, owned by Quebec hotelier Raymond Malenfant.

Mitchelson said the hotel's only interest in the venture will be rental for casino space.

Mitchelson denied the government was seeking to make the province Canada's gambling mecca.

"It's not going to be the Casino of the North," she said, "It's not going to be a Las Vegas-type casino that is open 24 hours a day."

Gold price

TORONTO (CP) - Gold was quoted at \$456 bid Cdn (\$383 US) and \$457 asked Cdn (\$384 US) in mid-morning trading today by Deak International, a major d and foreign exchange dealer.

WIFE-BEATING JOKE CRITICIZED

Getty starts race with apology

EDMONTON (CP) — Alberta Premier Don Getty, who says he plans to emphasize family values in his bid for re-election, spent the first day of the campaign apologizing for joking about family violence.

The ink was barely dry on the writ for a March 20 election when Getty was forced to call reporters back to his office Monday to clarify and apologize for his remarks.

At the news conference where he announced the election, the Conservative premier pointed his finger at an Edmonton newspaper columnist and said: "I maybe whack my kids, beat my wife, but I've never abused a seat belt in my life."

Don Wanagas of the Edmonton Sun had recently called Getty a "closet seat-belt abuser" who is sometimes reluctant to buckle up.

Getty later said he was joking. But he may have dug himself in deeper by adding, "Maybe I can balance it out by hitting a guy."

Getty's political opponents, facing almost certain defeat as the 28-day campaign began, were quick to jump on the gaffe as a needed boost for their chances.

"To say the least, it's in poor taste," said NDP Leader Ray Martin. "If that's the level of the campaign, then all of a sudden my confidence level has gone up a lot."

Liberal Leader Laurence Decore was equally critical. "The premier above all should know this is one thing that you never joke about," he said.

The election, which will cost taxpayers \$4 million, comes two years and 10 months after Getty won a comfortable majority government. It was called three days after he introduced a throne speech opening the spring session of the 21st legislature, which will go down as the shortest in Alberta history.

The throne speech turned out to be the Tories' election blueprint, with its promises of a war on drugs, more spending on social programs and battles with Ottawa over high interest rates, a proposed federal sales tax and an elected Senate.

Realistically, there seems little chance of either opposition party

pulling off an upset. Heading into the election the Tories had more money, more high-profile candidates — and three times as many seats as the other two parties combined.

Getty, a 55-year-old former quarterback with the Edmonton Eskimos, became premier in November 1985 after succeeding Peter Lougheed as Conservative leader. He

had served eight years in Lougheed's cabinet before leaving politics in 1979.

Getty adopted the war on drugs as a personal cause after his eldest son was arrested last summer on cocaine trafficking charges.

Martin, 47, low-key and earnest, began his campaign on the offensive, calling Getty a coward for refusing to debate his two opponents.

"He may be able to run around the province but will not be able to hide," he said.

Decore, 48, a former Edmonton mayor, accused Getty of manufacturing issues so he can avoid facing problems like the \$1.4-billion provincial deficit and an inquiry into the collapse of two Principal Group investment companies.

The last election, May 8, 1986, produced the fifth consecutive Conservative majority. At dissolution, there were 60 Conservatives, 16 New Democrats, four Liberals, two from the now-defunct Representative party and one vacancy.

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Massive teacher shortage predicted

TORONTO (CP) — Canada will need at least 30,000 new elementary and secondary teachers by the turn of the century, says a report by the Canadian Teachers Federation.

The report, a copy of which was obtained by The Globe and Mail, says the projected demand is due to increased enrolment and immigration and the trend toward smaller classes.

There now are 148,000 full-time elementary teachers and 106,000 full-time secondary teachers in

Canada, the report says.

By the year 2001, the figures are projected to rise by a total of 30,000 to 165,000 elementary teachers and 119,000 secondary teachers, the report says.

But the demand will be much higher because the report did not take into account the number of teachers retiring — a trend expected to peak at the turn of the century.

Stirling McDowell, secretary general of the Canadian Teachers Federation, said if educators want

to continue to offer quality teachers, they should take steps to avert a teacher shortage.

He said educators must work to "provide conditions that make it attractive to spend a life-long career in teaching."

Many teachers who earned teaching certificates in the last 10 years went on to other careers, rather than wait for a teaching position, McDowell said.

British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and the Yukon would likely be the fastest and hardest hit if there

is a shortage, the report suggests.

But Lorraine Flaherty, executive director of the Canadian School Trustees Association, said the report should not cause alarm.

"I haven't heard school trustees talking about this as a crisis on a national basis."

The report says that in the past decade the number of full-time elementary teachers decreased by 4,500, and the number of full-time secondary school teachers decreased by 14,000.

WAREHOUSE FIRE INQUIRY

Chemical inspections sporadic

LONGUEUIL, Que. (CP) — A fire commissioner's inquiry Monday into last summer's fire at a PCB warehouse in St-Basile-le-Grand southeast of Montreal heard a series of stories of ineptitude and neglect.

The Aug. 23 blaze caused a toxic cloud which forced more than 3,000 people out of their homes.

But the last recorded inspection by environment officials of the warehouse, which was unguarded and unfenced, was more than a year earlier on May 15, 1987.

And it wasn't until June 1988, that warehouse owner Marc Levy was told to post a sign indicating the presence of toxic substances.

One witness told Fire Commissioner Cyrille Delage that Quebec Environment Department inspectors visited the building only twice in three years.

Each visit lasted just three or four minutes, said Robert Marcouillier, one of Levy's employees. The inspectors never had time to even count the number of barrels full of dangerous PCBs stored in the warehouse.

Polychlorinated biphenyls, or

PCBs, were formerly used in electrical transformers. The chemicals have been linked to cancer.

Another of Levy's employees, Stephan Deslauriers, 21, said that although the name and phone number of the owner were on a sign at the St-Basile warehouse, no government or police official tried to reach Levy the night of the fire.

Levy has since left Canada and residents say they haven't seen him since. Quebec Environment Department officials have said that because no charges have been laid against Levy, they cannot force him to return to Canada.

Deslauriers said Levy spent Aug. 23 working with him at his oil-recycling plant in St-Lazare, west of Montreal.

At 6 a.m. Aug. 24, Deslauriers said Levy phoned him and asked him to return to the plant. The two met there and started to drive towards St-Basile in Levy's jeep but heard on the radio that the roads were blocked.

At about 6:30 a.m., Deslauriers said Levy suggested renting a helicopter to fly over the scene of the fire.



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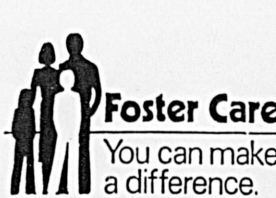
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