

Eight stayed the course. Here are the also-rans in the inverse order of their finish:

Neil Fraser, a former civil servant, ran not against the others but against the government's mandated system of metrication of weights, measures, distances and temperatures. He got five first ballot votes, losing by a kilometer.

John Gamble, a Member of Parliament from York North in Ontario, the most conservative of the Conservatives, said, "I don't trust the government to do anything. I never have, I never will." He got seventeen votes on the first ballot.

Peter Pocklington, the owner of the Edmonton Oilers hockey team and a business tycoon whose empire has lately been in difficulties, campaigned for a flat 20 per cent income tax on earnings over \$12,000. He got 102 votes on the first ballot, dropped out and threw his support to Brian Mulroney.

Michael Wilson, an investment banker and the Minister of International Trade in the Clark government, had a solid core of Ontario backers. He said, "The mothering of government has tended to overpower the self-reliance



Joe Clark and John Crosbie by Aislin.

of individuals." He got 144 votes on the first ballot, then dropped out, also endorsing Mulroney.

David Crombie, who was once Toronto's celebrated and successful Mayor, was (as one writer suggested) a shade too liberal for some Conservative tastes and a touch too Toronto for many Canadian voters. He got 116 votes on the first ballot and 67 on the second and then endorsed John Crosbie.

John Crosbie, Finance Minister in the 1979 Conservative government and a power in Newfoundland politics, said if he were the head of government he would welcome more U.S. investment: "Our economic direction is inextricably woven with that of the U.S." His major liability was that he is not bilingual. He got 639 votes on the first ballot, 781 on the second, and 858 on the third.

Joe Clark, Prime Minister briefly in 1979, was the first Conservative PM in twenty years. Writer Michael Bliss once compared him to William Lyon Mackenzie King. Bliss admired them both and found they had a lot in common.

"The Tories have to decide what to do with a man [Clark] who offers many of the strengths and some of the weaknesses of the leader [King] who kept his party in power longer than anyone in Canadian history."

Mr. Bliss then asked two leading hypothetical questions.

"Do they stick with the superficially unimpressive Joe Clark? Or do they turf him out to get the strong personality and strong views of a good-looking, good-talking outsider?"

The Progressive Conservative delegates did not follow the lead — they said no to the first and yes to the second.

Joe, nevertheless, has had an extraordinary political career. It began while still in college and he has been a full-time politician ever since. When he was building up his own national network in the mid-1970s, he and his inner group of advisers concentrated on issues and delegates.

Clark won the 1976 leadership convention,

The Way It Works

Canada's Parliament has two houses, an appointed Senate and an elected House of Commons. Canada is run by the House, and the leader of the party which controls the House is the Prime Minister.

He and his Ministers are Members of Parliament, almost all from the House — the Prime Minister, as the title suggests, is first among equals. He, like all House Members, is elected by the voters in a single riding. Members are expected to vote with the party leadership except on rare occasions when the leadership tells them they may vote their consciences.

The Prime Minister stays in office as long as his party has control. He must, however, call a general election at least once every five years. Governments rarely serve the full term, choosing to call elections at an opportune time before their mandate is up.

The party which has the second greatest number of House seats is the party of Opposition and its leader is the Leader of the Opposition.