

# Mulroney will exploit huge victory

by Kerry Hoffer

"I have some misgivings about the direction in which the government is moving," says Professor Garth Stevenson in regard to the recent results of Canada's federal election.

Stevenson and Professor F. Engleman spoke Friday at a forum sponsored by the Political Science Undergraduates Association.

"The election campaign held few specifics and the Prime Minister's press conference has not many more," continued Stevenson.

Since the new government has not yet been called to parliament Stevenson says that his views tend to be largely speculative.

The present cabinet of forty ministers is the largest in Canadian history. Stevenson emphasized that in his opinion, "the cabinet should be a small body to serve as a collective action for discussion around the table."

The traditional gradual expansion of the cabinet includes 23 portfolio ministers, 13 ministers, in addition to the Prime Minister and three other House positions

Stevenson continued to say that it is a "fairly moderate cabinet (which is) not likely to implement Reaganite or Thatcherite politics." and that the "news is generally good in terms of portfolios."

In regard to international relations, Stevenson emphasized that "Mr. Mulroney may be guilty of the same naivety as Mr. Clark." He feels that the Mulroney approach, with an "open door to foreign investment", is dangerous to the Canadian Economy.

Also, the government's developing enthusiasm for continental free trade concerns Stevenson. He feels that few people in the cabinet will express concerns about it.

"Canada's silence is a necessary price to pay for foreign investment and to maintain good relations and economic benefits." He says this is a departure from the traditional Canadian policy of governments not hesitating to speak out on these issues.

When questioned about the government's strategy with respect to the federal economic future, Stevenson replied that the "most

serious problem is economic." Engleman agreed and added that "Mulroney is eager to learn a fair amount from economic problems."

Commenting on the partisan aspect of Canadian-American relations, Stevenson concluded that it is difficult to separate economic policy from international relations. "It is uncertain how far this government is likely to go to retrieve the economy," he said.

The social policy of the new government is to continue with the Canadian Health Act despite universal cutbacks on other social programs.

Professor Stevenson continued to comment that the Prime Minister refused to hold a referendum on capital punishment in Parliament as long as the "current level of hysteria remains" surrounding the issue

According to Professor Stevenson, the federal-provincial relations of the new government will be "more conciliatory than its predecessor," as it realizes the necessity promoting harmony within the country. However, Stevenson real-

izes that "one cannot restore harmony just by being nice." He says "Harmony is not easily remedied as at first glance. A certain amount of disagreement is normal and healthy."

Stevenson does not see any dramatic developments at the national federal-provincial meeting on November 13, except in the communication and technology industries.

Professor Engleman spoke after Stevenson. He emphasized that the "Prime Minister is serious about exploiting the huge victory for the good of Canada, but we don't really know what he can do."

Engleman stressed that the support for the Conservative party was remarkably evenly distributed over

the country and that it was the "first truly national government since the days of St. Laurent."

"Of course there is lack of experience," said Engleman. "He does good blarney with Reagan and is a great 'fuzzyfyer' when in doubt, mumble."

The professor commented, "I really doubt that he has the reliability of non-elected officials. That's the big question: who is going to listen? (but there is) no question in my mind that this man has charisma and he's used it n minus one times for good purpose."

Engleman sees no need for "Western bellyaching. The West has the Energy and Transport portfolios

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## Yard Apes

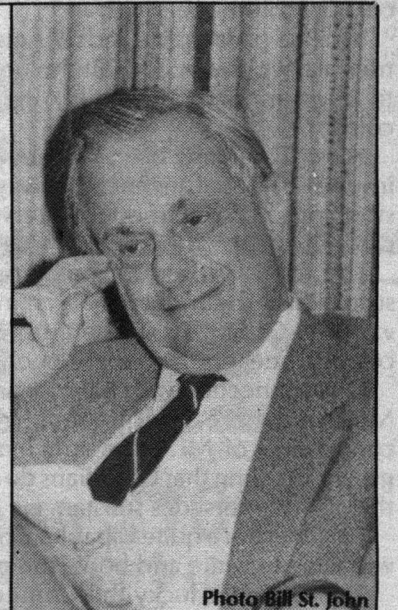
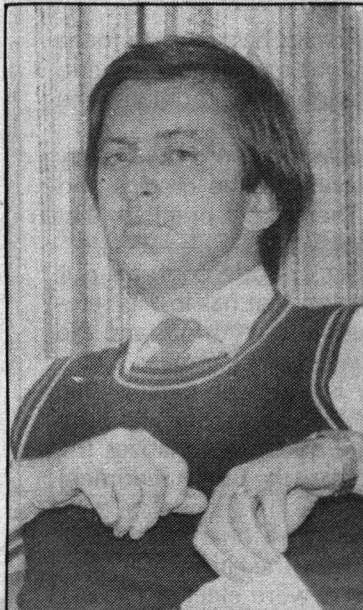
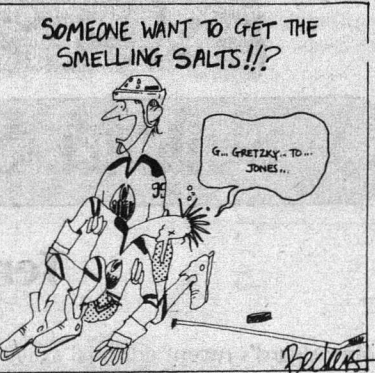
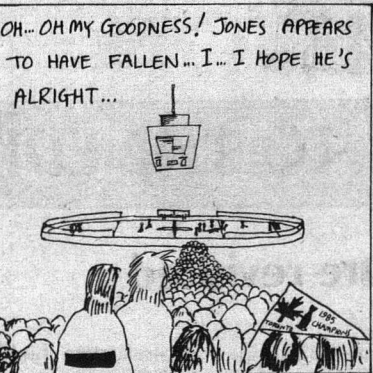
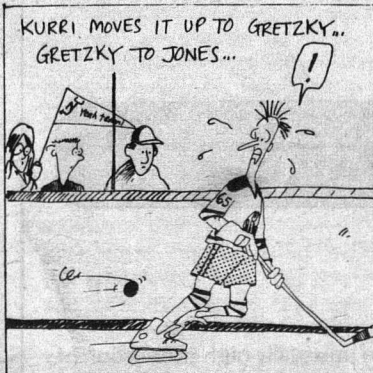


Photo: Bill St. John

Stevenson (left): "New cabinet will not implement Reaganite or Thatcherite politics." Engleman (right): "Mulroney does good blarney with Reagan. When in doubt, mumble."

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