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Real meaning of Middlesex South

If the recent provincial by-election in Middlesex South meant anything, the government of John Robarts is headed for serious trouble when it next decides to seek a new mandate from the people. The vote, which was widely hailed in advance as a critical test of confidence, and the Conservative loss — after 26 years of unbroken support in the riding — can only be taken as a repudiation of government policies in general, and its handling of medicare in particular.

"We won because of medicare," summed up NDP strategist Stephen Lewis. And even though his party's Kenneth Bolton was the victor, the medicare issue was pressed with equal determination by David McDonald, the Liberal candidate. He charged that the government reneged on an undertaking to offset medicare costs with the \$176-million federal contribution to the provincial plan. For proof, he cited the following exchange in Hansard of June 23 between Dr. Matthew Dymond, then health minister, and Liberal health critic George Ben:

Mr. Ben: Before the minister goes any further . . . When he speaks of the payments from Ottawa going solely toward medical services, does he in that phrase include hospitals, nurses' training facilities, or only simply basic services that are supplied by medicare?

Dr. Dymond: Just the services supplied by . . .

Mr. Ben: No ancillary services whatsoever?

Dr. Dymond: We cannot use any

of those moneys for it. No that is right.

The meaning was clear enough. Ottawa gave Ontario the \$176-million so that it could be applied to medicare costs, and Ontario intended to live up to its part of the bargain. It was on this understanding that the Health Insurance Services bill was passed and medicare became law.

It didn't turn out that way, of course. The government handily plunked the \$176-million into its general revenues and proceeded to earmark it for a wide range of purposes that have little or nothing to do with medical insurance — hospital building, doctor train-

ing, even the county school board program. The money was lost to medicare subscribers, along with a further \$218-million lost because of Ontario's late entry into medicare, and the people of this province were left with the highest premiums in Canada.

In campaign speeches, Mr. McDonald called this a "betrayal," and the word is none too strong. The people of Ontario have been taken. They know it, and the results of the Middlesex South byelection indicate that they're not likely to forge it.

The Toronto Star



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Rubbertalk.. hands from the computer

By WAYNE SMITH
 The Chevron

On Aug. 15, I played in an olympiad fund game that was held at bridge clubs throughout North America. The hands for the game were pre-dealt by a computer and played simultaneously at all the clubs participating. The funds raised by this game were used to send teams representing Canada

and the United States to the world bridge competition.

At the end of the game, a printed sheet showing the hands with an analysis was given out. The analysis was prepared by a panel of experts who commented on the bidding and the playing of each hand. The players could then compare their results to those given and thereby determine where they had made mistakes.

West	S 8, 6, 4, 3, 2	East	S 10, 9, 6, 5
	H 7		H A
	D K, 6, 4, 2		D Q, 8, 5
	C 10, 6, 5		C Q, 9, 7, 3, 2
South			
	S A, K, Q		
	H K, J, 4, 3, 2		
	D 8, 6, 2		
	C A, 4		

The following was one of the interesting hands.

West dealt with neither vulnerable:

North	W	N	E	S
S J	P	1H	P	2S
H Q, 10, 9, 8, 6, 5	P	3H	P	4C
D A, J, 3	P	4D	P	4NT
C K, J, 8	P	5D	P	6H
	P	P	P	

The experts' analysis on this hand was:

"Six hearts is 'off the top' on the N-S cards, but the bidding offers more of a test than the play. North faces the first pitfall; he is off to a good start if he opens 1H (his side will have little chance to reach 6H if he passes).

"After North opens, South, with 17 points and a superb trump fit, would like to jump shift; his problem is that he has no convenient suit to jump in. The possible choices of 2S or 3C could lead to the above action or N-1H, S-3C, N-3H, S-3S, N-3NT, S-4NT, N-5D, S-6H. In this auction, North shows a Diamond stopper for his 3NT bid and South bids that he has the Ace or King."

This type of game is held four times a year and is an excellent opportunity to compare your playing with that of some experts.

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