

Tony Abbott:

Mississauga MP faces constituents with pleasure

By TINA IVANY
A personal viewpoint.

There's nothing like contact with your constituents!

Such contact between Tony Abbott, MP, and his Mississauga constituents came hot and heavy last Tuesday night at a public meeting at Port Credit Library.

Preconceived fears that the meeting would be ill-attended or would not generate an interesting exchange of ideas and complaints were immediately crushed following Mr. Abbott's opening remarks.

Voters packed the room and even the Standing Room Only crowd shifted legs until the meeting was over.

Before he opened the floor to questions, Mr. Abbott spoke briefly on the airport issue, expressing his pleasure with the plan to build on the Pickering site instead of expanding facilities at Malton.

He also expressed his concern with the state of the Canadian economy, in particular with the labor unrest. Pointing out that Canada is second only to Italy in the number of days at work lost through absenteeism, he maintained that, in his opinion, it is "a mistake to allow those who perform vital services to strike."

He suggested that applicants for jobs in vital services should, as part of their contract, agree that they give up their right to strike. If they disagree with such a restriction, they can "then look elsewhere for employment."

DISSATISFACTION

He expressed his dissatisfaction with emergency legislation forcing workers back to work.

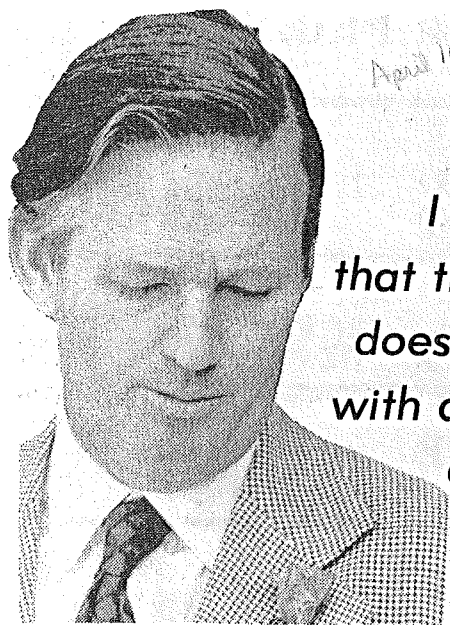
"I fear," he said, "that one day the order will come down to return to work and the workers will refuse to obey."

Arbitration, he said, often offers a better solution and a better agreement. His opinion was opposed by one member of the audience who rose to point out that Metro Police were handed an arbitrated agreement one-and-a-half years ago which included a two-man per cruiser clause, a clause which was not implemented for one-and-a-quarter years.

Arbitration led to the closely related subject of



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