

I enjoyed the door-knocking and talking to people at their doors the best of anything during the campaign. The first time you do it you're very afraid; you walk up to the door and you think, "What am I doing here?" Then after a while you get into the swing of it and you go right along and enjoy every bit of it.

ME: Has your spending so much time away from home been much of a problem for you and your family?

MR. BLENKARN: Oh, I suppose it has, but I think my family has adjusted surprisingly well to it. I am just delighted the way they have adjusted to things. Sometimes I take a day or so off and spend it with my family; we do this in short bursts, but not that infrequently, so this helps. It's a different approach to things. I suspect my kids see as much of me as most kids see of their fathers who are travelling salesmen and the like. And the time we spend together is well spent and well organized.

ME: Where is your farm located?

MR. BLENKARN: Hockley Valley — we have a 100 acres there, and we have a bit of a farm operation in terms of growing lea trefoil. Trefoil is a forage type crop and we grow seed for this crop on 10 acres. It is a type of permanent alfalfa and it is used by people who want pasture for cattle or for hay crops. It is a very high-protein plant and it makes good hay and the cattle just love it. We grow the seed and it sells for about \$1.50 a pound. David Johnson, who was a former Rover Scout of mine has a place of his own; he is a Guelph graduate. We got talking one day and thought this would be a good thing to get into, and we did and it's been quite successful.

ME: Tell me about your association with the Boy Scout movement?

MR. BLENKARN: Well, I've been involved with the Boy Scout movement since I was eight years old as a Cub. I've been a Cubmaster, a Scoutmaster, a venture leader, and a Rover skipper. I've been District Commissioner for South Peel before it became Mississauga District. I was very heavily involved in that before I decided to get into politics at all, and I am still involved. I was just up to the camporee they had at Camp Ravasac, the camp my brother and I organized up in Hockley Valley on the north 50 acres of our farm. We let the Scouts have the land for 21 years lease for a dollar a year type of thing.

ME: How pleasurable has this involvement been for you?

MR. BLENKARN: Very — it's most satisfying. I've got a number of young men whom I worked with when they were youngsters who are now married and have families and every once in a while drop in to see me. It's been interesting and worthwhile and rewarding; and I've enjoyed it.

ME: What recreational endeavor do you find relaxes you most?

MR. BLENKARN: The most relaxing thing I can do in a recreational endeavor is a canoe trip, and I haven't had one for two years. I missed one this year because the darn House of Commons sat right through to the end of July, and I had to clean up messes and I couldn't get organized and then the House of Commons was called back on the 30th of August. And the year before we were in the middle of a ruddy election and I couldn't go on one then, so all I got was a few days away camping in the bush. I like getting away out in the back part of Canada in the wilderness where not too many people get. I love shooting the rapids and getting out into the bush; there are many things I like to do, but this is what I like most of all.

ME: Will you comment on the upcoming Federal election?

MR. BLENKARN: There may be an election and there may not. We have a situation in the House of Commons where the New Democratic Party has been supporting the Liberal Party pretty well. And whether the New Democratic Party will elect to force an election by voting against the Government is in my opinion rather doubtful. If they do, it will probably be some time in February or March, at which time the Government would be defeated and an election would take place in either April, May or June. But I am not at all that convinced that the Government will be defeated. I think the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party in Government have a pretty good working arrangement. I suspect that the working arrangement is such that they may talk a lot about the Government and what they want the Government to do, but I doubt if they will, certainly not this fall, take such action as will defeat the Government. If and when there is an election, I will certainly be running again because there is a lot I want to do yet, and I really only got to know my way around. At another election, I will be able to present myself better to the people with some record of accomplishment.

ME: What is Don Blenkarn the man, like?

MR. BLENKARN: Terrible fellow! (He laughed heartily.) That's a toughy. I am very satisfied with myself as a person. I have a pretty strong belief in God, and I have had a great deal of help from God in what I've been doing. I think what I'm doing is the thing I was sent to earth to do, and so I am happy in that sense. The direction I have set for myself is the direction I am supposed to take, and I am told what to do and how to do it. So what am I like as a man? A person of the earth, I guess, just trying to do the job I'm here to do.