

Blenkarn the big spender in lost bid at re-election

Real Bioy - BLENKARN, Don

Miss News April 6, 1994

The Reformers collected the most money, but the Conservatives spent the most in the last federal election in Mississauga South.

Returns filed by election candidates, as required by federal law, showed the Reform Party raised by far the most money during the election campaign that culminated in the election of a new Liberal government Oct. 25.

Reform Party candidate John Veenstra collected just over \$47,600 in contributions, mostly in small amounts from individual donors, during the campaign. Records show he spent \$34,397, considerably less than the spending limit of \$55,699.77.

As usual, the Conservatives spent the most money. Incumbent Don Blenkarn, who finished a distant third in the balloting as his party was all but wiped out in federal voting, spent \$52,159, while collecting \$36,905. One of Blenkarn's donors was Paul Fromm, a former federal candidate for the Confederation of Regions Party and a teacher who was removed from his regular post by the Peel Board of Education

after complaints about his right-wing activities.

The election winner, Liberal Paul Szabo, collected and spent almost the same amount of money. The accountant, now serving his first term in Ottawa, collected just over \$34,000 and spent just over \$35,000.

NDP candidate Lili Weemen has some expenses that aren't often seen on candidates' returns, including public transportation costs to travel to the electoral district. Since she lived in St. Catharines, Weemen spent \$1,370 traveling to Mississauga South. She also had to spend some money to stay in local hotels during the campaign. Weemen collected \$5,652 and spent \$3,202.

Independent Michael Charette collected \$3,620 and spent \$2,181 while almost all the other candidate spent almost exactly what they were able to collect. That includes National Party candidate Albina Burello (who spent \$777); Libertarian Richard Barrett (\$3,704), and Communist Dagmar Sullivan (\$132).

Jeffrey Dods of the Natural Law Party, which promoted the benefits of yogic flying during the campaign, collected \$500 but didn't list a single election expense.