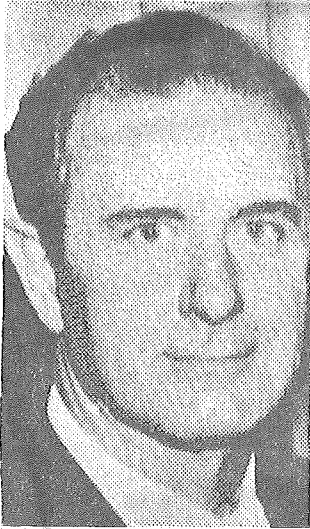


Nov. 23/66

Grits Facing Puzzle

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CHARLES TEMPLETON

At press time this week, the situation regarding leadership of the Ontario Liberal party was a confused and wide open source of speculation - - on the heels of Monday's declaration of Clarkson resident Charles Templeton that he was declining the leadership.

Prior to the dramatic announcement, it had appeared likely that Mr. Templeton would accept the leadership, based primarily on the fact that he was the leading - - and perhaps the only - - candidate for leadership of the party.

Questioned by The Weekly following his announcement, Mr. Templeton had only this to say: "I have nothing further to add to my prepared statement."

The post had been vacated by incumbent leader Andrew Thompson because of ill health.

THREE REASONS

In making his announcement, Mr. Templeton, 51, said he had three basic reasons:

1. He is still paying off his debts for an unsuccessful run in the provincial riding of Riverdale and since he has no seat in the Legislature he would not be paid as leader of the opposition. He said that following that campaign he had ended up \$20,000 in debt and that he had refused to accept financial help. "I don't want to be in anyone's pocket," he said.

2. His family had influenced his decision. He and his wife, Sylvia Murphy, who live at 1493 Elite in Clarkson, have four children. "Right now, while they are growing up, is when they need their father," he added.

SOME OPPOSED

3. He referred at some length to apparent opposition to himself as leader in the provincial Liberal caucus and hierarchy. "It has become quite clear in recent days that, for reasons which would seem sufficient to them, I would face active opposition from a number of members of the provincial caucus and from some others in responsible positions in the party."

He said it was his considered opinion that it would not be possible to mount an effective campaign to form the government with this kind of division at the head of the party.

The former evangelist said he is deeply involved in his business enterprises, including Technamation Canada Ltd. which produces simulated-motion displays for teaching and advertising, of which he is president, and Hathaway Templeton Ltd., an office furnishings firm for which he is director of special projects.

He also has contract commitments on radio and television.