

Race to decide trade bill's future

TORONTO — Supporters and opponents of the U.S.-Canada free trade agreement combined last-minute electioneering Sunday with a final advertising blitz on the eve of national elections.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, buoyed by recent polls that showed his Progressive Conservative Party back in the lead, toured his native Quebec while his leading rival, Liberal Party leader John Turner, campaigned in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Both have focused on the trade deal - the major issue in Monday's race.

Mulroney told a Saturday news conference in Quebec that he would

call Parliament back into session quickly to proceed with final passage of the pact, which Turner has vowed to reject.

In an interview with this week's Maclean's magazine, Mulroney was quoted as saying he would try to pursue the trade agreement even if his party can only form a minority government.

"The trade deal is a must for Canada's future," he was quoted as saying. "It's a visionary instrument of job creation and new wealth and it is clearly something that is on the right side of history."

But Turner has revived his campaign by saying the pact threatened to make Canada a U.S. colony.

Speaking at a Saturday campaign rally, Turner repeated his call to "keep Canada Canadian for Canadians" and cancel the pact with a vote for his party.

In this week's Maclean's, Turner was quoted as saying the pact "would radically change the direction of our country. It yields the economic levers of sovereignty: our energy, our investment policy, our capital markets, supply-management of agriculture."

The socialist New Democratic Party also opposes the agreement that President Reagan and Mulroney signed in January, so only a majority Conservative government ensures that it will proceed as scheduled.

The 10-year agreement would start phasing out all remaining tariffs between Canada and the United States on Jan. 1. It has passed the U.S. Congress but still needs Canadian parliamentary approval.

Mulroney spent the campaign's last weekend in his native French-speaking Quebec, where he is counting on support for the free trade agreement to come through with a solid showing for the province's 75 seats.

Turner hopes the Liberals will come through best in the 99 seats of predominantly English-speaking Ontario, where opposition to the agreement is strongest.

Economic problems crippling South Africa, report says

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Severe economic problems aggravated by the costs of apartheid are causing a spread of hunger, disease and unemployment in South Africa, a prominent research organization reported Sunday.

The South African Institute of Race Relations, an independent group with a reputation for impartial research, said in its annual survey that "the effects of economic decline pervade the picture of South African society."

Housing experts estimate that 7 million of the nation's 26 million blacks live in shacks, the report said.

It quoted the National Tuberculosis Association as reporting that the disease, although preventable, was killing 10 people a day.

The institute cited a university study forecasting that South Africa could have a surplus of 9 million unskilled workers without jobs by the year 2000 unless the economy is revitalized.

Unemployment estimates among blacks range from 20 percent to 50 percent, though reliable figures are not available.

"Economic problems continue to be exacerbated by expenditure on segregated structures, and by the government's failure to meet black political demands," the report said.

It referred to a recent speech by President P.W. Botha in which he said the government's plans to eliminate inequalities in social services were being disrupted by foreign sanctions and embargoes in protest of apartheid, under

which the black majority has no voice in national affairs.

Botha said the "campaign of economic war being waged against us" could deprive the government of \$400 million for social programs over the next five years and delay their implementation by 10 to 15 years.

The race relations institute cited estimates that the government wasted \$400 million each year operating racially segregated health services.

Government health officials reported widespread malnutrition problems, and Operation Hunger, a private group, said it was feeding 1.2 million South Africans a day, according to the institute's report.

The report said economic problems had sidetracked a long-standing government promise to equalize per-pupil spending at black and white schools. This initiative has been stalled because the country's annual economic growth rate is now 2.5 percent, instead of the projected 4.1 percent rate on which the plan was based, the report said.

Of government spending on education, 41 percent went to white schools, although only 11 percent of the students were white, the report said. It said the government acknowledged that white school facilities were underutilized but was reluctant to let them be used to alleviate serious overcrowding in black schools.

In addition, the country faces a foreign debt that is expected to reach almost \$12 billion in 1990-91 and is equivalent to about half its export earnings.

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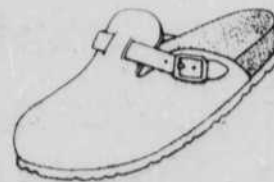


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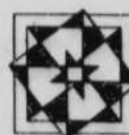
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