

Opinions Found Diverse On Davie Fulton Action

By KEN KELLY
 OTTAWA (CP)—Is Davie Fulton committing political suicide by embarking on a courageous and daring crusade? Opinions could be found on both sides of this question following Mr. Fulton's announcement last week that he is over the Columbia River development available if British Columbia Conservatives want him as their provincial leader.

The 46-year-old works minister, member of Parliament for the British Columbia constituency of Kamloops since 1945 and a federal cabinet minister since 1957, indicated he regards his decision as a great crusade. He spoke at a press conference of the "desperate need" of the people of B.C. for government whose integrity and stability they could respect.

By implication, he was suggesting lack of those qualities in the Social Credit administration of Premier Bennett, long a thorn in Mr. Fulton's side at the next provincial election.

His view appeared to find some support from a political opponent federally whose party also is breathing down Mr. Bennett's neck provincially.

T. C. Douglas, New Democratic Party leader whose provincial colleagues in B.C. are the official opposition to Mr. Bennett's government, said "If the political right wing in B.C. is going to exist, it might as well have an able and respectable leader."

PAIR AT ODDS

However, Mr. Fulton and Mr. Douglas were at odds as to the effect Fulton leadership of the Conservatives would have at the next provincial election.

New Democrats, Mr. Douglas among them, consider it likely that a vigorous Conservative party under Mr. Fulton would split the small conservative vote with the Bennett Social Credit forces, thus providing the New Democrats with a clear road to power in the province.

But Mr. Fulton says his objective is to form the next government of B.C. And he said

that he will pursue that objective as B.C. Conservative leader only if a convention "representative of Conservative opinion throughout the whole province" asks him to do so.

"There was unanimity that Mr. Fulton showed great courage in offering to give up a \$2,000-a-year cabinet post and federal career marked by outstanding parliamentary ability and a progressive attitude.

In exchange he would be heading a party without a representative in the B.C. legislature, leaderless and conceded by Conservatives to have been at the oblique of its fortunes.

SEEK DISSATISFACTION

Liberal and Social Credit sources regarded his move as evidence of dissatisfaction with the state of Conservative fortunes nationally, which suffered a blow at the June 18 federal election that placed the Conservative government in a minority position.

They see another point of dissatisfaction as well: The fact that Mr. Fulton moved from the justice portfolio—the most prestigious next to that of external affairs and prime minister—to public works last August and was replaced by former finance minister Fleming.

Mr. Fulton made no secret of the fact that he looks back with great pride on his period as justice minister, especially for the progressive program of pe-

CNR Discrimination Said Below Level Of President

QUEBEC (CP)—Jean Marchand, president of the Confederation of National Trade Unions, says discrimination against French-speaking Canadians in the CNR exists in the system, rather than at the level of President Donald Gordon.

Interviewed here before he attended an executive meeting of the 110,000 member CNU here, Mr. Marchand said: "There isn't any doubt that someone with an Anglo-Saxon background will find it easier to get a high position than he would if he came from a French - Canadian background."

He said discrimination exists, but at the moment when a man is named to an important office, but further back, when the system begins to groom potential executives.

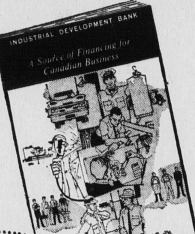
Mr. Gordon has been a centre of controversy in Quebec since Nov. 20, when he told the House of Commons railway committee that there were no French-speaking Canadians on the CNR staff who had been qualified for

the system's 20 top executive posts. He predicted, however, that this situation would change because of the recruiting of French - Canadian university graduates in recent years.

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