



LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

November 30th, 1981.

Mr. Steven Shrybman,  
Barrister & Solicitor,  
53 Gore Street East,  
Suite 301,  
Perth, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Shrybman:

I have read with interest your letter and the accompanying submission concerning Environmental Assessment Board Hearings and the efforts of the Hydro Consumers Association in Lanark County.

For your information, our Party has always favoured the funding of public interest groups for purposes of intervening at hearings of government-sponsored tribunals. We have particularly and repeatedly emphasized the need to fund citizens' groups who are appearing in front of the Environmental Assessment Board at one level or another.

So far, unfortunately, the government has refused this policy but has usually operated in a different manner. In general, they have been willing to allow citizens' groups to call certain witnesses and they have been willing at times to pay whatever funding is required to allow these witnesses to participate properly. Money for studies so that these witnesses could be better informed has not generally been forthcoming but such has never been officially ruled out of the realm of possibility.

Mr. Steven Shrybman  
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I feel the government regrets the whole hearing process and that is why they so frequently circumvent it for major projects. When they have hearings, they do not go out of their way to make sure that the citizens' groups are well funded and well prepared. That is a very regrettable situation but one which represents the attitude of this Conservative government.

I might suggest that you speak with your own representative, Hon. Mr. Wiseman, in this regard.

I would be grateful to hear of any answer you receive from Hon. Keith Norton. Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Smith

cc: Mr. V. Kerrio M.P.P.  
Mr. J. Reed M.P.P.  
Mr. M. Rudolph