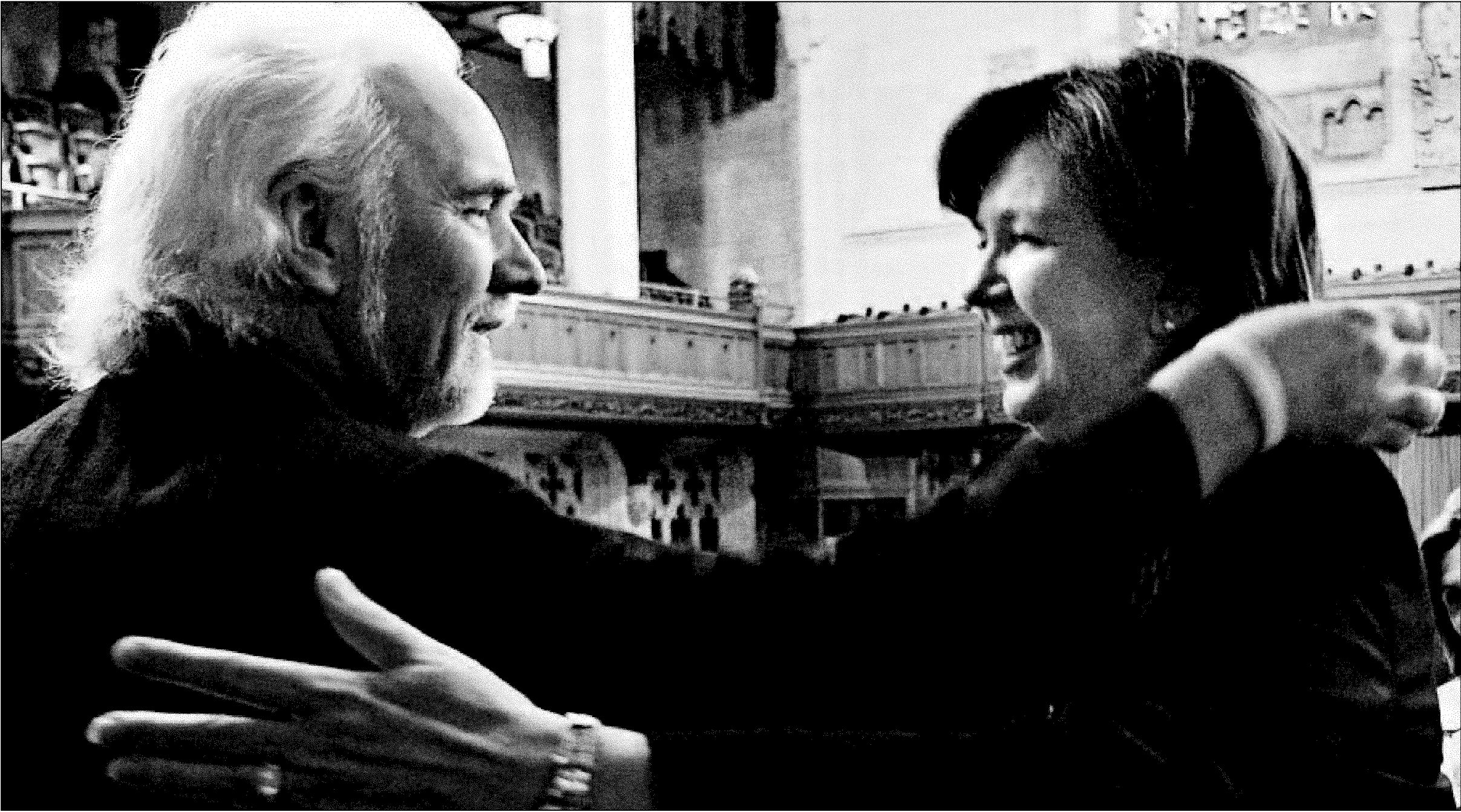


The Liberals survive

Unlikely allies Chuck Cadman and Carolyn Parrish keep government from falling in a 153-152 vote



JIM YOUNG/CANADIAN PRESS

Independent MP Carolyn Parrish, right, hugs fellow independent MP Chuck Cadman yesterday afternoon after they both voted in favour of the government during a confidence vote in the House of Commons in Ottawa.

The Vote

Martin calls for new co-operative spirit in divided House

BY CAMPBELL CLARK
AND GLORIA GALLOWAY, OTTAWA

Prime Minister Paul Martin retained power in a historic tie-breaker confidence vote last night that cancelled summer election plans and deferred the public's verdict on the sponsorship scandal.

Liberal MPs burst to their feet in applause and threw bits of paper in the air as independent MP Chuck Cadman, a former Conservative who lost a party nomination battle last year, stood to support the government's budget bill and tied the vote.

That set the stage for Liberal Speaker Peter Milliken to break a tie on a confidence vote for the first time in Canadian history, keeping the Liberals in government by 153-152.

Mr. Martin immediately called for a new spirit of co-operation in the Commons, but heard talk of war in reply.

"The government accepts the fact that the margin of tonight's vote was very narrow. Indeed that is an understatement. And so we must move forward now in a spirit of co-operation," the Prime Minister said in the Commons.

"In turn, Mr. Speaker, we ask the opposition to join with us in a renewed effort to make this Parliament work for the people of Canada."

Mr. Harper, who had a grim smile on his face when it became clear he had lost, ignored that call. He later told his MPs that they had lost a battle to win a war.

"Tonight, the Liberals bought a Pyrrhic victory, one that will sow the seeds of its own destruction," Mr. Harper said. Deals made by the Liberals to win the vote showed "the very lack of principle and integrity that underlies their corruption scandal."

Mr. Harper provided no indication of whether, or when, the Conservatives might try to topple the government again, but his party appeared to back away from any immediate plans.

After last night's caucus meeting, some Conservative MPs, including deputy leader Peter MacKay, indicated it is now a safe bet there will be no attempts to force an election before the fall — but other MPs insisted that are no guarantees.

See MARTIN on page A10

Tories, Bloc vow to keep fighting

MARTIN from page A1

"I don't think there's any push for that now. I think the country's had enough drama for the short term," said Conservative transport critic James Moore.

Like the Bloc Québécois, the Tories said there would be no more obstruction tactics but did not promise to help the Liberals steer their legislation through Parliament. Two Tory MPs said they may attempt to amend the **budget** bills in committee, including trying to split the government's main **budget** bill so that the Atlantic accord can be separated and passed more quickly — which could lead to another tussle.

The government owes its survival in large part to newly minted Liberal cabinet minister Belinda Stronach, who defected from the Tories to the Liberals on Tuesday.

But the close **Commons** vote hinged on an unlikely group of three independent MPs: Mr. Cadman, an ousted Conservative who voted Liberal; Carolyn Parrish, an expelled Liberal who supported a prime minister she has savaged in the past; and David Kilgour a former Liberal minister who voted to topple the government.

Both Ms. Parrish and Mr. Kilgour had indicated their intentions before the vote, with Ms. Parrish saying she would support the government, and Mr. Kilgour vowing to vote against.

That left the outcome squarely in the hands of Mr. Cadman, who is seriously ill with cancer.

"I honestly didn't make up my mind until about a half-hour before," he said after the vote. He said his constituents in Surrey, B.C., just did not want an election now, and that swayed him although he is a Conservative at heart. "I am, but I also represent people," he said.

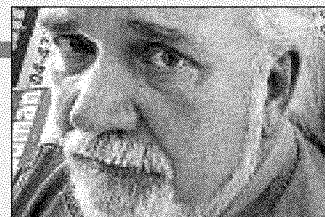
Canadians can still expect an election campaign within a year, as Mr. Martin has promised to call an election within 30 days of Mr. Justice John Gomery's final report on the sponsorship scandal, scheduled for release in December. And the opposition could move to force an election in the fall, when the New

How the vote played out



David Kilgour

The former Liberal, who chose to leave the party last month, signalled earlier yesterday that he could not support the government. Mr. Kilgour said this week that he is "not impressed" with either Prime Minister Paul Martin or newly minted cabinet minister Belinda Stronach.



Chuck Cadman

Independent MP Chuck Cadman saved the Liberals yesterday with his tying vote, but explained after the vote that he would have let them sink if his constituents had wanted that. He warned that his vote on future confidence motions could not be counted on. "I'm bound as an independent, especially, to represent my constituents."

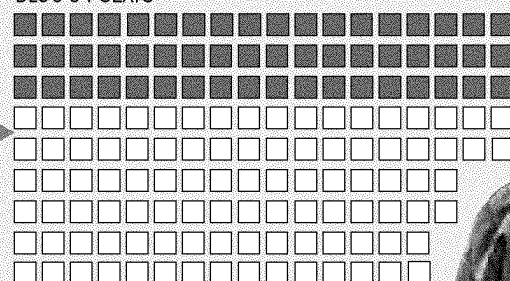


Carolyn Parrish

She rose in the **House** yesterday to support the party that ejected her from its caucus six months ago for embarrassing the government by insulting U.S. President George Bush. Ms. Parrish insisted on voting despite health problems.

Votes to defeat the **budget** 152

BLOC 54 SEATS



CONSERVATIVE 98 SEATS



Darrel Stinson

The health of British Columbia MP Darrel Stinson, who knew he would be unable to attend yesterday's vote, provoked bitter accusations. Conservatives charged that the Liberals had deliberately scheduled the vote to conflict with Mr. Stinson's cancer surgery.

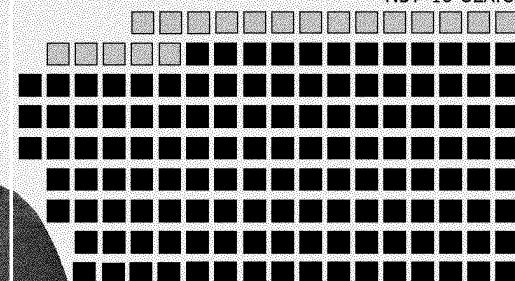


House of Commons Speaker Peter Milliken

In keeping with his trademark wit, Peter Milliken chided parliamentarians as he rose to cast the tie-breaking vote. "I don't know why the honourable members keep doing this to me," he jested as he began to explain the reasons he would back the government. Citing the precedent that the speaker always votes to continue debate, Mr. Milliken cast his ballot as expected.

Votes to pass the **budget** 153

NDP 19 SEATS



LIBERAL 132 SEATS



Peter Adams

The veteran Liberal from Peterborough Ont., sat out the vote as part of a traditional parliamentary procedure known as "pairing." His abstention meant that the government would not take advantage of Mr. Stinson's absence.

PHOTOS: CANADIAN PRESS

COMPILED BY: OLIVER MOORE; GRAPHIC BY: BERNARD BENNELL / THE GLOBE AND I

'I think the country's had enough drama for the short term.'

Tory MP James Moore

Democrats will no longer be bound by its **budget** deal to support the government.

But NDP Leader Jack Layton was calling for the **Commons** to get back to normal last night. "Let's hope that the game playing stops," he said.

Mr. Martin must still steer his agenda through a divided Commons. But he was in a triumphant mood when he met his cheering caucus after the vote.

"Tonight we saw the value of co-operation over conflict. Tomorrow

we begin to put tonight's vote into effect," he said, vowing to press forward with a national daycare plan, funding for cities and a summit with aboriginal leaders.

Neither Mr. Harper nor Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe showed any indication they want to ease the Liberal agenda through the Commons, however.

Mr. Duceppe said his party will not do the Liberals any favours, and will vote against government bills, including **budget** bills, as they see fit. "This government is corrupt. They don't deserve to be there," he said.

Mr. Harper echoed that tone when he spoke to a room of cheering Tory MPs and staffers — and took a thinly veiled swipe at Ms. Stronach, who became a cabinet

minister upon crossing the floor.

"Those in this room have stuck by the plan that we all agreed to and refused to be shaken by the polls. You have resisted every opportunity to take unethical payoffs and rewards and you've stuck by your principles."

The Conservative Leader promised that the defeat would ultimately make the party stronger, and shows the need for a federalist alternative in Quebec. In French, he said that as an English-Canadian, he was embarrassed.

"In creating a parliamentary environment where the only Quebec MPs to vote against corruption are separatists, the Liberal Party has created an enormous need for a new federal champion in the province of Quebec," he said.

Last night's razor-thin vote came on the government's second **budget** bill, to implement the \$4.7-billion NDP-Liberal deal which won the left-wing party's support for the confidence vote.

The main **budget** implementation bill had already passed handily 250-54, after the Conservatives moved to back it in support of the Atlantic accord, which provides oil revenues to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Two members were absent — Conservative MP Darrel Stinson who is recuperating from cancer surgery, and Liberal MP Peter Adams, who had been held back to cancel out Mr. Stinson's absence.

With reports from Jeff Sallot, Bill Curry and Daniel Leblanc