

Douglas Fisher quits politics for his family

PORT ARTHUR, Ont. (CP) — Douglas Fisher, deputy leader of the New Democratic Party, announced Wednesday he is retiring from politics and will not be a candidate in the Nov. 8 federal election.

In a 10-minute telecast, Mr. Fisher said his withdrawal from politics was prompted by family considerations and has nothing to do with health or party matters.

"My wife and I have a family of boys, but I've become a stranger to them," the 46-year-old NDP spokesman said. "I've had to ask myself which comes first — your family or politics. The answer had to be family."

Mr. Fisher said he was "not quite sure" what he would do, but indicated a return to high school teaching was likely. In the meantime, he said, he will probably continue a journalism career in which he has become a columnist with the Toronto Telegram and The Winnipeg Tribune.

He plans to write two books during the next year on the Second World War and the history of sports.

Mr. Fisher, who first entered federal politics with an upset victory over Liberal trade minister C. D. Howe in 1957, said he informed the Port Arthur NDP executive and party leader T. C. Douglas of his decision a month and a half ago.

In his Wednesday telecast, Mr. Fisher said he found politics "personally demanding," but did not rule out the possibility he might run again in future years.

"In future, if family circumstances make it reasonable, I would be proud to serve again," he said.

He also said Prime Minister Pearson's election announcement Tuesday is "a pity for Port Arthur riding" because if the election followed redistribution the riding would gain an additional seat in the House of Commons.

Mr. Fisher said the government called the election "in simmering anger at its ineffectual performance, after being thoroughly tarred with the brush of corruption."



FISHER

... family first