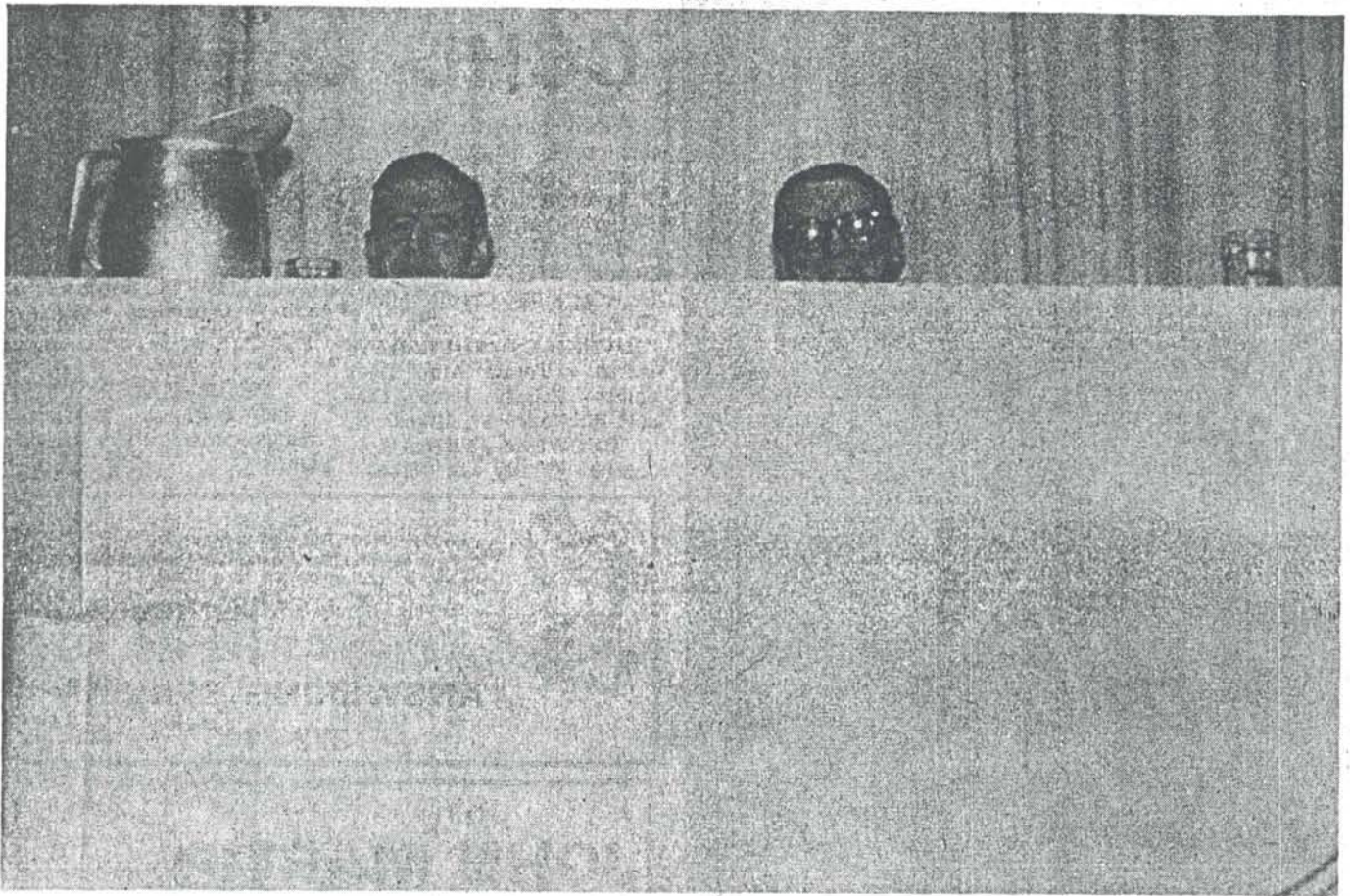


And...

then the peasants were told
from on high what would
be good for the peasants...



Donald Irvine, MPP, Grenville-Dundas, and Chas. MacNaughton,
provincial treasurer, at Oshawa meeting

incredible...
"Stunned..."
"Unbelievable..."
"Doublecross..."
"XXX!!&&&..."

These were comments that greeted the provincial proposal on Monday evening which would link the Cobourg and Port Hope area with a regional government far down the lakeshore to Oshawa, and do away with the names of the two old towns.

Over the years, a great deal of goodwill had been built up in this area toward some form of regional government. The people were prepared to accept anything reasonable. Obviously, now the people have been the victims of one great big snow job.

All of us have made the big mistake of trusting our provincial government. And it has failed us miserably.

That government, on one thoughtless swoop, has rolled over us.

That government has said that the Cobourg-Port Hope area will be part of something that has never even been publicly discussed in any serious form. This is the first time that the public has heard of a link with Oshawa.

That government has said that this area will become part of an Oshawa dominated region in which we will have only a faint voice.

That government has said that the name "Cobourg" must go -- that the old town will be no more. There will be no Port Hope, either. Of all the offensive proposals, we find this one to be the worst and the most stupid. They want to demolish two good old towns, when there was a dozen ways to save and to encourage them. But the civil servants are more at home in a Scarborough or an Ajax.

That government has said that we'd better smarten up, that we have only two months even to dare to speak our minds. And there is no guarantee that anything we might say or think is of the slightest importance.

The government has said that the faith of the people who gave their time and effort to the task force was just so much wasted time. Just part of a great charade.

When Darcy McKeough was minister he had the trust and affection of the people in this area. When he resigned, Charlie MacNaughton, temporarily, stepped into the role. This was the golden opportunity for the civil servants to

assert themselves, and indeed, they have.

Surely this is not the result of any political process!

The civil servants could come up with any dream they pleased -- and we got it. And MacNaughton was left to carry the can. What a farewell to politics!

There is an old proverb that says, "if a man does away with his traditional way of living and throws away his good customs he had better first make certain that he has something of value to replace them."

Monday's proposals are not acceptable. They could have been. If anybody at Queen's Park had bothered to listen.

A-County restructuring (07-01)

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