

HARLEY...to HALTON

By DR. HARRY HARLEY, M.P.

(Continued from last week)
I am sure that most of the members are aware of the real problems and differences of the House of Commons and the Senate. These problems actually go back to March 6, 1964, when the final supplementary estimates for 1963-64 were introduced in the House of Commons. It is usual for these to pass in a few hours, as they represent final spending for the year which ended 31st March, 1964. The only year they took longer was in

1962, and they took eight days, but at this time no budget had been produced and this was the only method of discussing these matters. This is not necessary at present for the reason that we are discussing the Budget now, having two more days to go in this debate, and already having discussed the budget for four previous days.

Our Easter sittings were to process the final supplementary estimates — we are still discussing them. We are now in the

twelfth day on discussion on this money that has already been spent. All the discussion is being done by the Opposition, mainly the conservatives and the N.D.P.

Senator Objects

Part of these estimates were passed and sent, as two separate Bills to the Senate for approval and Royal Assent. One Senator, that is Senator O'Leary of Ottawa, a conservative and former editor of the Ottawa Journal, refused to give third reading by the Senate on Friday, and thereby deprived some estimated 35,000 unemployed of their unemployment benefits for Monday.

Fortunately, other money was found and the unemployment cheques were delayed over the

weekend and the BHI passed on Monday. It was said this was done as a matter of principle but I would point out that one of these Bills was allowed to pass and the other stopped. The one stopped was the one affecting the unemployed, the one passed did not affect the unemployed and their payment. If it was a matter of principle then why was the passage of the other Bill not stopped instead so that the unemployed would not suffer?

As a result of this, the Bill to abolish the Senate was introduced into the House of Commons. There was an attempt to block the introduction of this Bill by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Diefenbaker. Usually the introduction of a Bill is a

routine matter. There was a vote on this, the Conservatives trying to block it, and everyone else voted for the introduction of the Bill. We do not necessarily agree with the bill but in a democracy we feel every Member has a right to introduce a Private Bill in the House of Commons. It was very surprising to see the originator of the Bill of Rights oppose this fundamental right of a Member of the House of Commons.

Unanimous Consent

The vote was won and the Bill introduced. By unanimous consent it was debated the next day. Debate is a generous description for what went on in a Private Members' Hour between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The hour expired

Alert Auxiliary Studies India

The April meeting of the Alert Evening Auxiliary was held in Knox church classroom. In the theme for mission study entitled "Wheels for Jungle Paths, they

and the Bill now goes to the bottom of a long list, probably never to be seen again this session of Parliament. I must say the unanswerable argument for the abolition of the Senate is the Senate is not answerable for their actions to the electors of Canada as a Member of Parliament.

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were taken on an imaginary trip with the nurses, evangelists and Bible women as they journey in India.

There are two medical units operating as part of the work of the W.M.S. of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Sometimes, a Canadian nurse goes along but the rest of the group are Indian. There is a mission hospital of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in Johat.

Often there are 100 patients for 85 beds, with 25 TB patients as well. This study was presented in the form of a radio broadcast with Mrs. J. Inglis convener, and Miss Marjorie Hull, Mrs. C.

Ashley and Mrs. W. Davidson taking part.

Mrs. Inglis read the Scripture lesson from Corinthians I and Mrs. W. Davidson led in prayer. Where Cross the Crowded Ways for the worship service. When the business had been completed, Miss M. Hall conducted a contest on familiar hymns, with Miss Emma Cole as winner. Everyone adjourned to the basement kitchen, where a delicious lunch was enjoyed.

Agaylans stretched nets in the forest and drove game into them 700 years before Christ was born.

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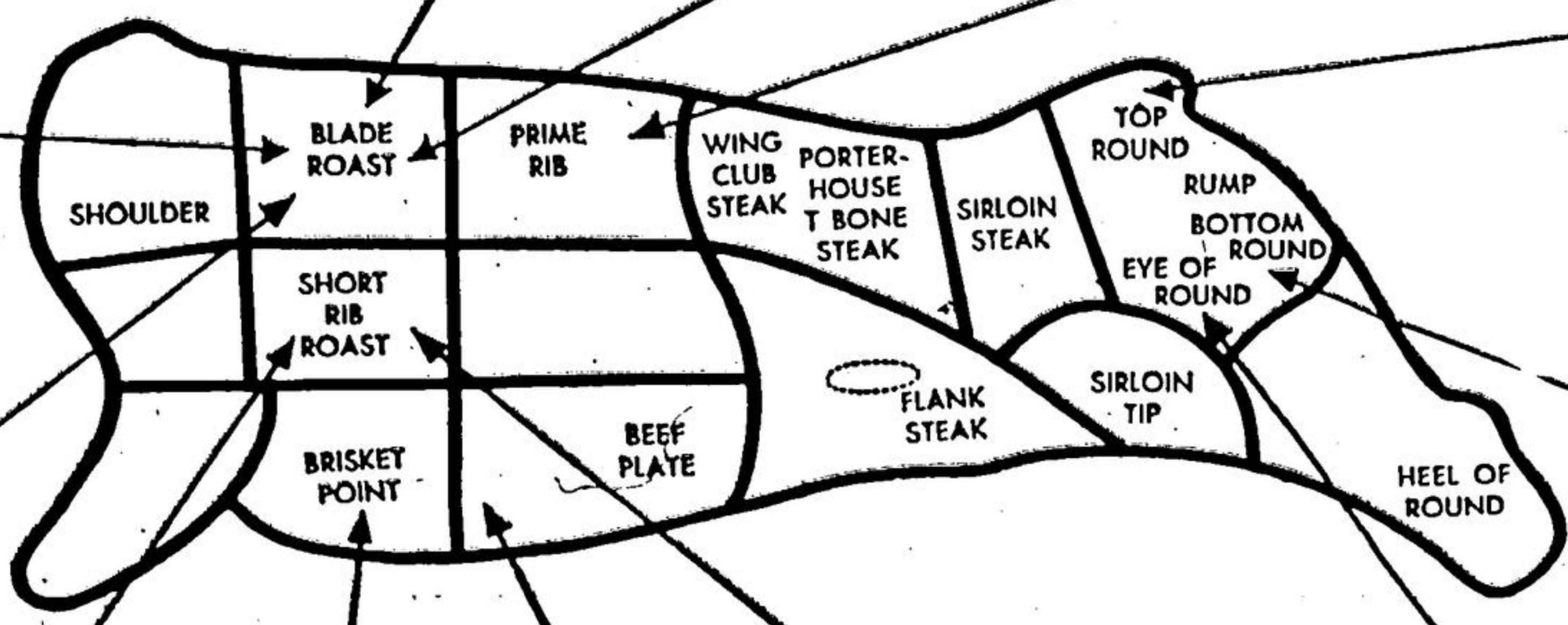
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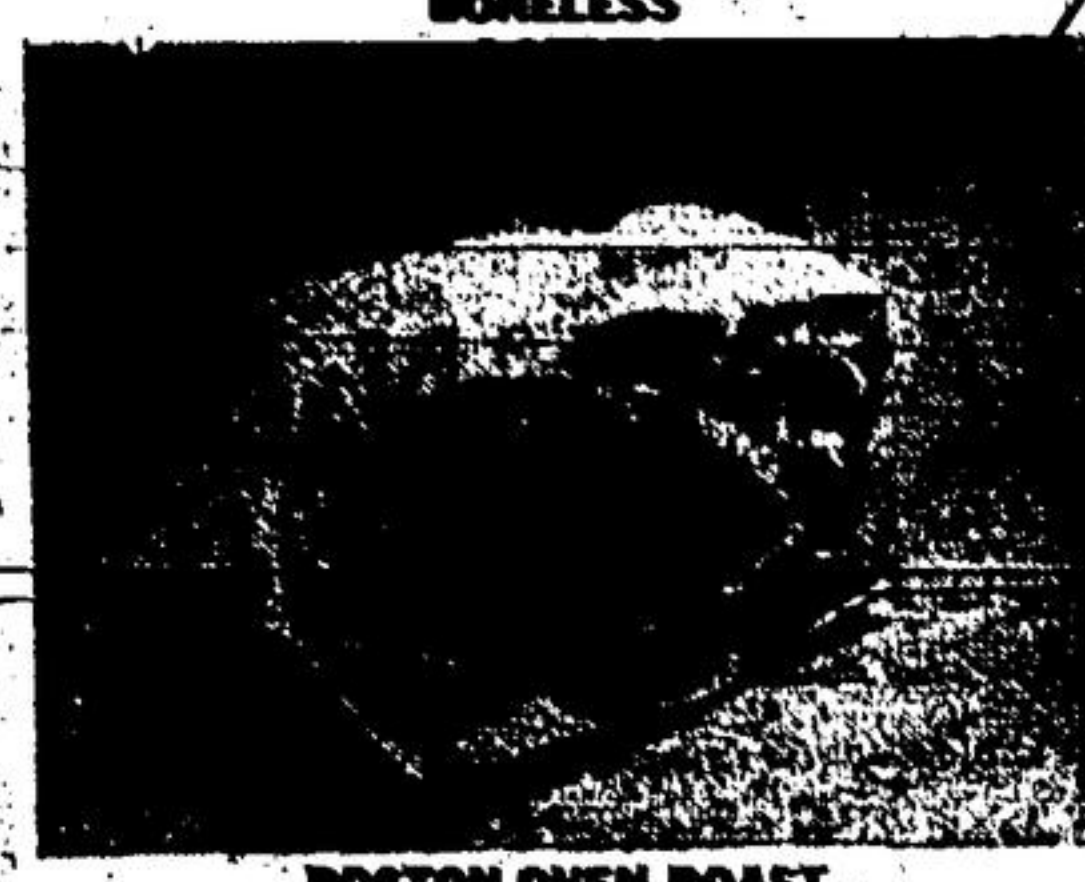
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