

Press conference

Jim Snow predicts two-thirds of tax reforms will be adopted

About two-thirds of the recommendations in the Ontario Legislature's Select Committee on Taxation report will be implemented by parliament, Halton East M.P.P. James W. Snow predicted at a press conference Monday afternoon.

The 350-page white paper on taxation—result of a three-month study of the 347 recommendations by the Smith Committee on Taxation—was unveiled to the public Monday morning. The Halton East member held a press conference in his Oakville office Monday afternoon to review the weighty report with the riding's press.

"This represents a great deal of work on the part of the committee," he said. There were 111 personal appearances made before the committee, and 318 groups and individuals submitted written briefs—some of them as large as the committee's final report. "It took us a week to write the report."

"Equitable taxation for the Province of Ontario is the main purpose of the report," Snow said. "Its aim is to direct money from the provincial tax base to the municipalities, to decrease the residential tax rates to the individual."

Major items affecting Halton in the report include a definition of a working farm and a solution to the thorny tax problem which land speculation is causing; direct property taxation of government institutions, universities, hospitals, and private schools; and a call for regionalized government in

Ontario by 1971, Mr. Snow said. "This is the first time anybody has had the guts to come out and define a working farm," Snow said. He chaired the sub-committee on agriculture for the Select Committee and suggested the working farm definition would have 50,000 farmers either happy with him or mad at him.

The definition is based on gross annual sales of agricultural products—if a farmer can prove he sold \$30 worth per acre, with a minimum total of \$3,000, he will enjoy a farm tax rate. A

land speculator must farm the land and sell the produce to enjoy the same rates. The recommendations will "help the bona fide farmer and help keep farming land in a farming use," he predicted.

On taxation of institutions, Snow predicted there could be \$50,000,000 worth of new assessment adding taxes to riding municipalities in the next five years. Sheridan College in Oakville and the Maplehurst Detention Centre at Milton could total close to \$30,000,000, he said. In 1967

Halton County contained \$45,000,000 worth of institutions and government buildings exempted from taxation, and \$362,000,000 in taxable properties, indicating the county could right away add over 10 per cent to its assessable total if the proposal is adopted.

"The county system should pay taxes to the town of Milton," he added. While the county government benefits every citizen of Halton, most of the buildings are presently housed in Milton and Milton is applying services without taxation.

He praised the committee's approach to regional government, and noted the

option of one-tier or two-tier regional governments was being left to the municipalities. "The municipalities are ready, they're eager for regional government," he noted. "I personally don't agree with the Plunkett study recommendations, and I don't care if it's one-tier or two-tier government in Halton."

Church taxation was another recommendation the committee dealt with. The committee said churches should pay property taxes for municipal services but only about one-third the level applied to residences.

"The churches are basically

paying nothing," Snow said. "They do receive municipal services so they should pay something to offset these costs. This is not really going to create a burden on the churches, and many of them feel they should be paying their way in the community," he added.

The Select Committee also had ideas on municipal debentures. They suggested in future the province will borrow and put up its share of municipal debenture issues, leaving the municipality with just its own share (often half the total) to borrow.

Regional government:

Implement mergers after '71

The Select Committee on Taxation has proposed a four-step program to implement regional government, and called on the province to take the initiative.

Committee Chairman John White, outlining the proposals to a press conference in Toronto Monday, noted the committee had rejected Smith Report recommendations for new names for regions. He observed Halton might be one regional government while in Grey and Bruce it might be a combination of the counties.

The Select Committee said a system of regional government must be established as soon as possible to undertake reforms in municipal finance.

The Committee proposes a special branch of the Prime Minister's Department to "initiate, supervise and co-ordinate" a four-step plan toward regional government.

First, there would be local meetings within existing municipalities for internal discussions of various aspects of regional government, to be completed by the end of 1969.

Secondly, meetings would be held between municipalities in local areas. This stage would be carried out by the end of 1970. Thirdly, provincial-municipal meetings would be scheduled for each potential region. Decisions would be made regarding regional boundaries and

responsibilities. This stage should be undertaken during 1971. The final step would be implementation.

The best boundaries for regional government, the Select Committee believed, are those which co-ordinate the urban, suburban and rural functions of an area to the greatest possible degree. The Committee agreed with Smith that the new regions should have common geographical, economic and sociological characteristics so that some sense of community exists. It disagreed with the Smith proposal that regions be separated into urban, urbanizing and county areas.

Property tax:

Hospitals, province to pay

Hospitals and all provincial buildings should pay full property taxes, a Select Committee of the Legislature said in a report on taxation released Monday during a press conference at Queen's Park.

At present universities, colleges, public hospitals, private schools and provincial properties are exempt from property taxation which increases the property taxes of other taxpayers in the municipalities where these exemptions are found.

While Milton Council was considering the proposal to establish a correctional

institution in the new limits of the town, members were concerned with the loss to taxation of the 85 acre site.

Supporting the recommendation of the previous Smith report, calling for hospitals to pay full municipal and where applicable business taxes, the Select Committee suggests it would "remove the burden of providing services to public hospitals from the municipality in which the hospital is situated and would redistribute the burden more equitably over the taxpayers of the whole province."

It was noted public hospitals would be authorized to include the tax costs as part of their costs under the Hospital Care Insurance Plan.

The Committee had more difficulty with the subject of taxing places of worship. A majority of the committee, however, accepted the principle but reduced the Smith proposals for the level of taxation by suggesting the maximum percentage of taxable assessment should be 20 per cent. It also proposed the tax be introduced over a period of 10 years at two per cent a year.

Not "cheap" houses

Remarks at the last council meeting concerning new houses built along No. 7 Highway were misinterpreted as they came out in last week's Free Press.

Reeve H. Hinton complaining that highway access for the houses created a safety hazard referred also to the houses being cheaper to build since foundations were filled around with dirt.

The contractor, concerned with the reeve's remarks, felt he was calling the houses "cheap" but this was not the substance of Mr. Hinton's remark. Hinton thought the fill helped to keep construction costs down and agreed the houses were of good quality.

O.P.P. report

Two vehicle accidents

Occurrences in the town requiring Police investigation were not great during the week of September 8 to September 14, 1968.

In all there were seven occurrences, two of which were traffic accidents. One theft was reported, one disturbance and three other minor complaints were received.

Traffic activities encountered in the same time period saw 188 man hours worked and 682 miles patrolled in the Acton cruiser. Eight traffic charges and six traffic warnings were issued.

The two motor vehicle accidents reported during the week were both property damage accidents. Nobody was injured. The four vehicles involved received approximately \$545 damage.

Magistrates' court at Milton saw three persons convicted of various offences, with fines totalling \$195.

Very few drivers will object to strong traffic law enforcement when they understand the reason for it on a certain stretch of highway, or on a municipal traffic artery, or at an intersection. This enforcement sometimes is in the form of a traffic ticket, sometimes just a warning, but the reason is always the same, to prevent accidents.

As your Provincial Department of Transport points out, when the accident rate increases in a location, concentrated enforcement brings it down again. Enforcement of the traffic laws really does prevent accidents, and when we're forced to observe the law, or do so voluntarily, we're all a lot safer.

Remember this as you drive, and help our Police prevent accidents by observing all the traffic laws, all the time.

FALL FAIR NIGHT DANCE

AT
Acton Legion

MUSIC BY
"THE GAY NOTES"
Reservations Held Only Until 9:30 p.m.
Admission — \$2.00 Per Couple

FOR
GAS APPLIANCES
SEE...
Richardson's TV & Appliances
201 MAIN ST. E. MILTON 878-6949

SCRAPBOOK COMPETITION
SPONSORED BY
Acton Public Library Board
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
"BOOK WEEK"
— RULES FOR CONTEST —

- Open Topic for Scrap Book
- Books Judged on Originality and Content
- Books to be Handed in to Librarians During Book Week (Second Week in November)
- One Prize for Each Division — Primary — Junior and Intermediate

Books to be Judged November 16
ACTON LIBRARY BOARD

Ontario's Select Committee report

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO HEAR

The Well-Known Radio and TV Personality

Father Matthew G. Meehan



at the Second Annual

INTERDENOMINATIONAL RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Acton Community Centre

ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 22, 1968 AT 3 P.M.

- Music by Acton Citizens' Band
- Mixed Choirs from Acton Churches
- Acton Legion Choraliers will sing

Sponsors:

Acton Fall Fair Board and Acton Clergy Association

MILTON 878-3272
Show Times
Sun. thru Thurs. 8 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 7 & 9 p.m.
Sat. Matinee at 2 p.m.

Roxy THEATRE

THURS.-FRI.-SAT. SEPT. 19-20-21
"HOW TO SAVE A MARRIAGE" — Color
DEAN MARTIN
"BLADES AND BRASS"
"SNOOPY LOOPY" — Cartoon

SUN.-MON.-TUES.-WED. SEPT. 22-23-24-25
"HORROR CASTLE" — Adult — Color
CHRISTOPHER LEE
"THE GHOST" — Color
BARBARA STEELE

THURS.-FRI.-SAT. SEPT. 26-27-28
"COOL HAND LUKE" — Adult — Color
PAUL NEWMAN
"SNOW EXCUSE" — Cartoon

BIG Savings At RED & WHITE

CANADA GRADE "A" EVISCERATED FRESH KILLED TENDER YOUNG
TURKEYS 45¢ lb.
BROILER SIZE 6 to 10 Lb. Average

MAPLE LEAF Bologna By the Piece 39¢ lb	MAPLE LEAF SAUSAGE PORK & BEEF 59¢ lb	MAPLE LEAF Cooked Ham 6-Oz. Pkg. 65¢ lb	SWIFT'S HINDLEB BACON LAZY MAPLE 39¢ lb
--	---	---	---

ALWAYS TENDER — FOR ROASTING — Lean Boston Style
PORK BUTT Roast 59¢ lb

Maple Leaf — Pork Shoulders
PICNICS 1½-lb. Tin \$1.29

Hostess — 11-oz. Twin Pack — (Save 10c)
Potato CHIPS 59¢

Save 18c — Vegetable or Tomato — Aylmer
SOUPS 10-oz. Tins 6 FOR 69¢

Save 13c — Beef or Irish — Clark's
STEWES 14-oz. Tins 2 FOR 69¢

Paramount — Sockeye — ½'s Tins
SALMON 58¢
Domestic — 1-lb. Pkg.

Shortening 39¢
Sunlight — 24-oz. Size — Pre-Priced 49¢
LIQUID For Dishes 39¢

THIS WEEK ONLY!

"Countryside" ENGLISH DINNERWARE
Unlimited Quantities at this Special Price!
Only **29¢** Each
ONE WITH EVERY \$5 PURCHASE NO LIMITS • NO COUPONS
SAUCERS

Save 18c — Nestle's — Bonus Pack
QUICK 2-lb. Tin 79¢
Ass't'd. Flavors — Duncan Hines
Cake Mixes 2:85¢