Georgetown Herald

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... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

Inauspicious Start....

When the federal Liberals were elected and Walter Gordon became finance minister we jokingly said that he would never be so popular as at that moment.

And a scant two months later it has proven all too true.

Mr. Gordon brought down a budget. And like all budgets it came in for immediate criticism by the opposition. That's politics.

But a few days later he made the unpardonable error of reversing opinion on one of the most important budget features, a 30 per cent sales tax on a business which is sold to foreign investors.

We do not pretend to be even an amateur economist, and we cannot rule on the right or wrong of the legislation.

What worries us is an opinion change such a short time later, which would indicate either that Mr. Gordon is somewhat muddled in his thinking, or that powerful interests persuaded him to change his mind. Whichever the case, it has done irreparable damage to his image as the bright mind of the government.

Newspapers which had been supporting him have been outspoken in their condemnation. Several have called for his resignation.

While we would not go that far, we do say that the public is entitled to an explanation for the about-face other than the 'administrative difficulties' which Mr. Gordon said was the reason for the reversal.

If it's only administrative difficulties Mr. Gordon knows that he could easily check with those who set up the Ontario sales tax. We guarantee there are more confusing regulations there than any federal party could dream up in a century in office.

Double Responsibility....

We're getting perturbed about the growing tendency to condone flagrant departures from our moral codes in today's world.

While much blame can be paid on ourselves for gobbling up the sordid details of the Profumo scandal and the day-to-day activities of Elizabeth Taylor and her latest swain, the daily press must shoulder the greater responsibility for magnifying these goings on way out of proportion.

We have no corner today on promiscuity.

The ancient Egyptians, the Roman and Grecian empires, Elizabethan England, royal France went through periods of immorality unparalleled today.

We are not so naive as to believe that humans are suddenly going to conform to one pattern, that every marriage will be a happy one and every man live an exemplary life.

But we have hope that out of past transgressions, man may evolve from the animal world of sex and differentiate himself from lower species of life by adherence to moral standards.

The press, radio and television can play a large part in this evolution. But when pages of copy are devoted to such matters, when Christine, Liz and company are paid by the press to further publicize their indiscretions, we do not believe this is responsible journalism.

Parents and churches can do a good job preaching to their teen-agers about the wages of sin. Periodicals, by paying fancy sums for the sinners to tell their stories, poses a crimp in such preaching.

Growing Local Culture....

Starting with the formation of the Arts & Crafts by Mrs. M. H. Moyer, Georgetown district has been increasingly known as a centre for the arts.

And John Sommer, with his House Sol on Charles St., is doing a magnificent job, not only by giving artists and sculptors a place to display their wares, but by creating an interest in creative art among local people.

His home, which is also his studio, abounds with art in all its forms. One finds traditional paintings intermingled with extremes in abstracts. And he is fortunate in having support from a growing number of recognized artists who show works locally which normally could be expected only in a city gallery.

His present showing, which opened Saturday, will continue for several weeks.

We urge readers to attend. The setting is informal and there is absolutely no obligation to purchase. Mr. Sommer is a man who appreciates art in all its forms, but who also realizes that an untrained observer can be as confused about an abstract as a non-musician about a Bach concerto.

He enjoys explaining paintings and sculptures. He is interested in selling, naturally, but there is no pressuring, no badgering. His idea is to foster an appreciation of art on a wide scale, while providing a clearing house for artists to show their product.

Georgetown may well have a future in this specialized field.

Perhaps we set our sights too much on more industry without realizing that a community can prosper in more ways than acquiring new factories.

Art galleries, specialty restaurants, gift shops, craft groups can publicize an area. More power to people like Mrs. Moyer and Mr. Sommer for pioneering this in the Geogetown district.

GETTING A BIT THREADBARE

SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

Dominion Day is on the way
Let's have a celebration
It may be our last chance
They say
To mark it as a nation

• • •

Yep, according to the gloom-pots, this may be our last opportunity to celebrate with our customary fervour that glorious national holiday revered by all Canadians: The First of July.

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Such eminent hysterians as Pierre Berton are sounding the tocsin, raising the storm signals and making like Cassandra. Quebec, they sob, is gonna pull outa the confederation. All will be lost. Canada will become a banana republic.

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It is rather a paradox that the groans of anguish emerge, for the most part, from the very people who devote a great deal of time, and a vast number of words, towards convincing everybody that Canada is already little more than a banana republic.

• • •

They are the people who have unselfishly volunteered to act as the conscience of this country. They are the people who blat endlessly that we are the people who hang with embarrassing obsequiousness on the every word of every foreigner who speaks of this country, its habits and its people.

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They are the people who via Dawson City or Glace Bay or Hayfork Centre, descend upon our cities and set themselves up as arbiters of our taste, our opinions, our morals, our manners. Armed with incredible gall and a facility with words, they are happiest when they are revealing their ineffable scorn for Canadian custom, cooking and culture.

• • •

A plague upon them all. In the face of their insults and insinuations, their sneers and their sniping, I remain a cool, happy reactionary. I still believe that the twentieth century belongs to Canada, even with an 11 per cent sales tax on building materials. And for thermore, I fearlessly predict that Quebec will never leave the confederation.

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There are a number of good reasons for my opinions. They are not just a lot of off-the-cuff ideas based on a pile of statistical evidence. Nossir, they have a solid base of pure emotion and prejudice.

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First of all, our politicians, while comparatively speaking compared to those of older nations, are internationally recognized as masters of the compromise. Canada, as a nation has a reputation for horse-trading. She is not one to let any foolish ideals stand in the way of an honest buck. And this, I fear, will present the greatest obstacle to the secessionists of Quebec.

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Second, our French-Canadian friends, bomb-planting to the contrary, simply are not wild-eyed Latins, forever cherishing cobblestones to hurl at authority. They are a little more volatile than our British elements, perhaps, but don't forget that they're descended from the shrewd, tough, logical, phlegmatic folk of northern France, for the most part. They are practically stoics compared to some of the exotic strains in our population. The Irish, for example.

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Third, they already have as much independence as they can possibly use. Don't tell me that a fellow in Riviere du Loup for example has any less freedom than I have. Especially if he's married. And I'll never forget a Canadienne I took out in Montreal one night. Boy, was she independent!

• • •

Fourth, the people of Quebec, should they pull out of confederation would have to give up one of their primary pleasures in life: blaming everything from the last two wars to the low pensions on the sacred Anglais.

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As for my other opinion that the twentieth century belongs to Canada, this too is based on a bedrock of hope not a lot of silly facts and figures. The main reason for my hope is that the twentieth century is becoming more and more expensive. Pretty soon nobody will want it, at any price. But Canadians will buy anything if the down payment is low enough.

• • •

Leaving you with these comforting predictions, I wish you a happy First of July, serene in the knowledge that you will spend it as usual: Reverently explaining to your children the meaning of confederation; listening to fiery orations about our great Canadian mystique; dancing in the streets with your neighbors to express your joy; and decking out your house or store with flags.

• • •

And if you have to die, at least you can tell your kids for the reverent explanations do they worry. It's the only thing that's really important. Let's face it, you can't take it with you. It's a cinch you can't take it with you. If your neighbors have all bailed out to the beach don't worry. It's the only place you can find a decent cup of Union Jacks and an old Red Ensign and a tattered Stars and Stripes don't worry. It will be a good wake, typical Canadian celebration of the birth of our glorious nation.

NEWS ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald, 1953 and 1938

10 YEARS AGO

- "A hundred years ago today the first County Council of Halton met in Thompson's Inn and laid the foundation on which the county's present prosperity rests," writes Halton MPP Stanley Hall this week. "Great as our progress has been this past century I am sure that brighter days lie ahead."
- Summer Social and Personals: Mr. and Mrs. Denney Wright and Floria Alcott have returned from vacationing at Valley View Cabins, Huntsville. Mr. and Mrs. William Burtenshaw with a party of eight friends have motored to Atlantic City... Mr. and Mrs. William Dwyer are vacationing this week in New York City. Mrs. Alex Fraser and Brian returned home to Niagara Falls after a holiday with her mother Mrs. James McDougall.

25 YEARS AGO

- 1938 Humour: A gentleman met an old bent farm labourer. "Sandy," he said, "why are you walking with your back so bent? Keep it as straight as mine." Sandy: "Tak a look o' that field o' corn. It's the empty headed stalks that are standin' stracht up."
- 1938 Wisdom: "Our forefathers were those quaint, old fashioned people, who, if they couldn't earn enough to get along on got along on what they earned," says The Herald editor.

— FROM THE MAIL BAG —

Scores Immoral Books As Decadent Morals

R.R.1, Limehouse,
June 15th, 1963

Dear Sirs

I have often thought of writing a few lines regarding the immoral books and magazines flooding the news stands, drug stores and candy stores. Like so many others, I usually give them a passing glance, but recently I have come in contact with them, and so that is a different story.

I often wonder if the people who display those so loudly have any children of their own or would they be satisfied to see them read this trash?

The callous reader who buys these books and returns them to be more readily available to youth at a reduced price is doing us all a great disfavour.

We are bombarded from all ends through press, radio, television and books with this one end in mind, a general lessening of moral standards. Our high schools and libraries should be a little more concerned with the type of books children can get their hands on.

The great empires from the Roman on down through the ages topplet not from lack of greed or efficiency, but partly through their lack of morals.

Human beings still appreciate and admire goodness and simplicity. We witnessed that in the life and death of Pope John XIII. Therefore I think we could do very nicely without this filth.

There are all kinds of good *educational* and enjoyable books and papers to be found everywhere. I hope the day comes when we see no more of these.

Thanking you, I am Dear Sirs,

Sincerely yours
Catherine Graham

Georgetown Herald

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OTTAWA REPORT

BI-MONTHLY OBSERVATIONS BY DR. HARRY HARLEY, M.P. FOR HALTON

The House of Commons has been in heated debate and antagonistic question periods since the presentation of the Budget last Thursday and the events that have followed it.

First I would like to discuss the removal of the exemption of the 11% Federal Sales Tax to building materials. The best estimates of revenue and expenditure that can be made at this time indicate that without tax increases the deficit for 1963-64 would exceed $700 million and the deficit for 1964-65 might be even greater.

The Minister felt that it was imperative that some action be taken to make a beginning towards reducing these very large deficits. In considering the tax changes that might be made, the conclusion was reached that a move to increase the revenue from the sales tax would have far less adverse effects than other tax increases such as an increase in the rate of personal or corporation income tax. It is for this reason that the sales tax exemptions for building materials and production machinery were withdrawn.

In the Budget Resolution covering this tax, full protection has been given to persons who had signed fixed price contracts prior to June 14th, 1963, and who will complete these contracts by June 14th, 1964. When the enabling legislation is passed, any tax paid in the course of fulfilling such contracts will be subject to rebate. While sale prices of homes will be higher purchases should be easier because of new lower down payment, and lower NHA interest rates. I understand also that longer mortgages will also be proposed by the Government.

As far as the three outside consultants working on the Budget are concerned, I see nothing wrong with that. Finances are very complex, as evidenced by the withdrawal of 30 per cent tax on foreign purchase of Canadian industries, and certainly specialists should be called in. As a practicing physician I often referred people to a consultant and not infrequently the consultant would ask for referral to another consultant for further opinion.

The proposed 30 per cent tax on foreign takeover of Canadian interests was found to be administratively impossible and was withdrawn. I feel it is much better to withdraw it rapidly than persist in an impossible situation.

The 60 days of decision are over. Most of the legislation promised during the election campaign is now on the Order Paper awaiting Government action. We fully expect that the House of Commons will sit during the summer until this legislation is passed and then a summer recess will be called. In particular I know the constituents of Halton will be pleased to know that the Pension Plan will be debated in the near future. It will include Pension at age 65 years for those wishing it at a lower amount, pensions at age 65 for surviving spouses, and an increase of present Old Age Pension by $10 a month as well as other features.

The Special Committee on Food and Drugs will be set up to include safety of all drugs . . . not just new drugs.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Harmonious Reception For County Equalization

Halton County's revenue comes mainly from Burlington and Oakville the equalized assessment by law again showed County Council this week.

The seven municipalities share as follows:

Oakville 44.15, Burlington 38.7, Georgetown 6.12, Esquesing 3.65, Milton 3.35 and Acton 2.77 per cent.

The total county assessment is $252,468,036, of which Georgetown's assessment is $15,441,966.

When the equalization by law passed with no comment Halton Warden Carl Martin opined "It speaks well for the harmony of the County, and the cooperation between municipal assessors."

There was a matinee at Halton County Council Tuesday, with only the popcorn missing. EMO Coordinator Bruce McGregor showed a film entitled 'Colonial Williamsburg' showing the restoration and recreation of the early Virginia town.

Deputy Reeve H. Merry of Burlington was instrumental in acquiring the film to show the the Halton Museum Board, then decided County Council should also see it.

Mr. Merry, chairman of the Museum Board, hopes to interest Haltonites in a small scale restoration of a pioneer type village near the Museum.

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