

# HARLEY TO HALTON

WEEKLY OBSERVATIONS BY DR. HARRY HARLEY, M.P. FOR HALTON

THE FLAG DEBATE continues although it is not a debate. A debate is a two-sided discussion and this is completely one-sided. The Conservatives

continue to filibuster this to prevent a vote but are running out of speakers on this particular amendment. No other party is participating to any extent.

felt it was necessary to move that the previous question be put or to move closure. It would be preferable not to do this but it may be necessary as the only way to bring this matter to a democratic conclusion. Two attempts by the Opposition, one by the Conservatives and the other by the NDP to shelve the debate have been defeated. THERE NOW APPEARS to be some doubt in the mind of the Premier of Ontario regarding the Canada Pension Plan, and whether Ontario should participate in this plan. There are three alternatives open to

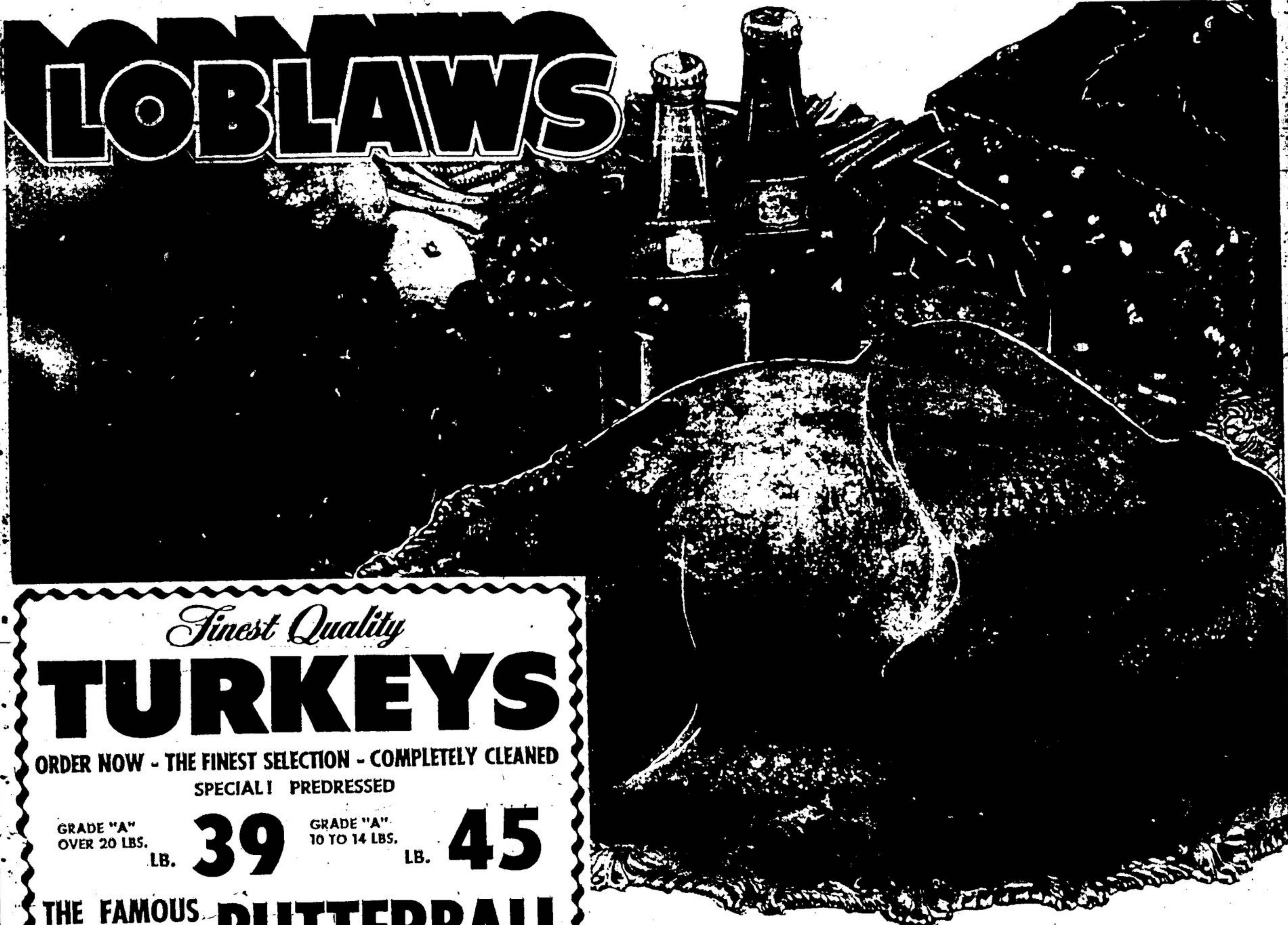
them at this stage. (1) To participate fully in the Canada Pension Plan. (2) To have their own Pension Plan, in the same terms as the Canada Pension Plan, similar to Quebec, which would mean fundamentally they would be within the federal pension plan. (3) To have their own Pension Plan, their own provisions, scale of contributions and scale of benefits. EITHER OF THE first two would be fine. The third alternative would present problems, the major one being it could destroy the portability

feature of the Canada Pension Plan. It would mean the Ontario Government would have to set up their own income tax departments to collect pension contributions at source. THE FEDERAL government introduced the Canada Pension Plan and regardless of the decision of the Ontario Government, without this push from the federal government, these pensions would not be under discussion now. It should be remembered that the Canada Pension Plan was changed to suit the Provinces, including Ontario. They wanted a funded plan, and the original Canada

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Pension Plan was non-funded, pay as you go. The Plan is now partially funded at the request of the Provinces and I now understand the Premier of Ontario is considering a non-funded plan for Ontario as the Canada Pension Plan first proposed. I hope the Premier will consider all these factors, particularly portability and put these considerations for the citizens of Ontario, of which I am one, ahead of all other considerations.

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