

## ... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

### Traffic Lights Now

The need for traffic lights at the John Street highway corner has been sadly pointed out by the death of a young town resident.

On one or two occasions in the past, lights have been discussed. The highways department is understandably shy at adding too many traffic lights on major highways. But Georgetown has a strong case here for action.

Our town is sharply divided by No. 7. And not only does the bulk of pedestrian and vehicle traffic from the two sections use John Street as its main crossing, but the arena and swimming pool provide constant crossing by youngsters.

Young people are unpredictable. They forget their traffic rules and are inclined to dart across a highway, jostle each other as they stand on the shoulder. Local motorists are sometimes anxious to get home from work, forget for a moment the dangers of the corner. And highway travellers are completely unaware of the traffic stream which they may find as they approach John St.

We suggest immediately that large warning signs, pointing to a busy crossing supplement the flasher light at the corner. And we hope town council will move with speed in persuading the highways department that this is one crossing which should have the protection of traffic lights.

### Coalition One Answer

Canada's bilingual, bicultural question is fast becoming a laughing matter.

As a Globe and Mail editorial this week points out, it is not the extremists, be they French or English Canadian, which they worry us. It is the vast majority of middle-of-the-roads who have no pre-conceived prejudices who, once aroused, could shatter Canada's national unity to the point of no return.

The bicultural commission, now meeting in Toronto, will receive a majority of briefs which will be anti-French, just as the briefs it studied in Montreal tended to be pro-French. What it hasn't received, and won't, is an expression of opinion from the large majority of Canadians who feel they live in a united country, with one province which clings to the language and customs of its French ancestors, but which is nonetheless an integral part of Canada's economy.

The French-English differences have too long been kicked back and forth by a political system which caters to the worst

in both races. Both of our major political parties have fostered a latent racism designed to get or hold the votes of Quebec province. And both have been guilty, on occasion of playing up to the English Canadian vote, if it will put a party in office.

Canada has lived quite successfully for generations with a system which allows Quebec a fair measure of autonomy in language. We can recall no campaigns to have all Quebec residents become bilingual. The current focus on separatism, however, is leading to demands that other provinces adopt a double standard, make education available to French Canadians in their own language, and that our central civil service and our dominion parliament convert to a completely bilingual basis.

What is the answer? One newspaper columnist could divorce a coalition government which could divorce the issue from politics, deal with it sensibly, and overcome the bungling, the inertia, the overpowering which is pushing Canada to the brink of self-destruction.

### A Sorry Situation

Plight of typesetters on the three Toronto dailies was graphically portrayed in a CBC documentary Sunday night.

The strike, which began last July, has caught men in a union-management-automation squeeze with little hope that they will ever get back to work now. The typesetters union counted heavily on support from other unions in the trade, to shut down production on the dailies. Instead, other unions have renewed contracts, the firms have engaged sufficient help to continue operating, and the typesetters are out on a limb.

They are getting substantial weekly payments from union headquarters plus unemployment insurance pay which, as long as it lasts, guarantees them a fair standard of living. But despite this, it is not in the makeup of a skilled tradesman to trade his craft for carrying a placard back and forth, and the strikers are drifting off to other jobs one by one.

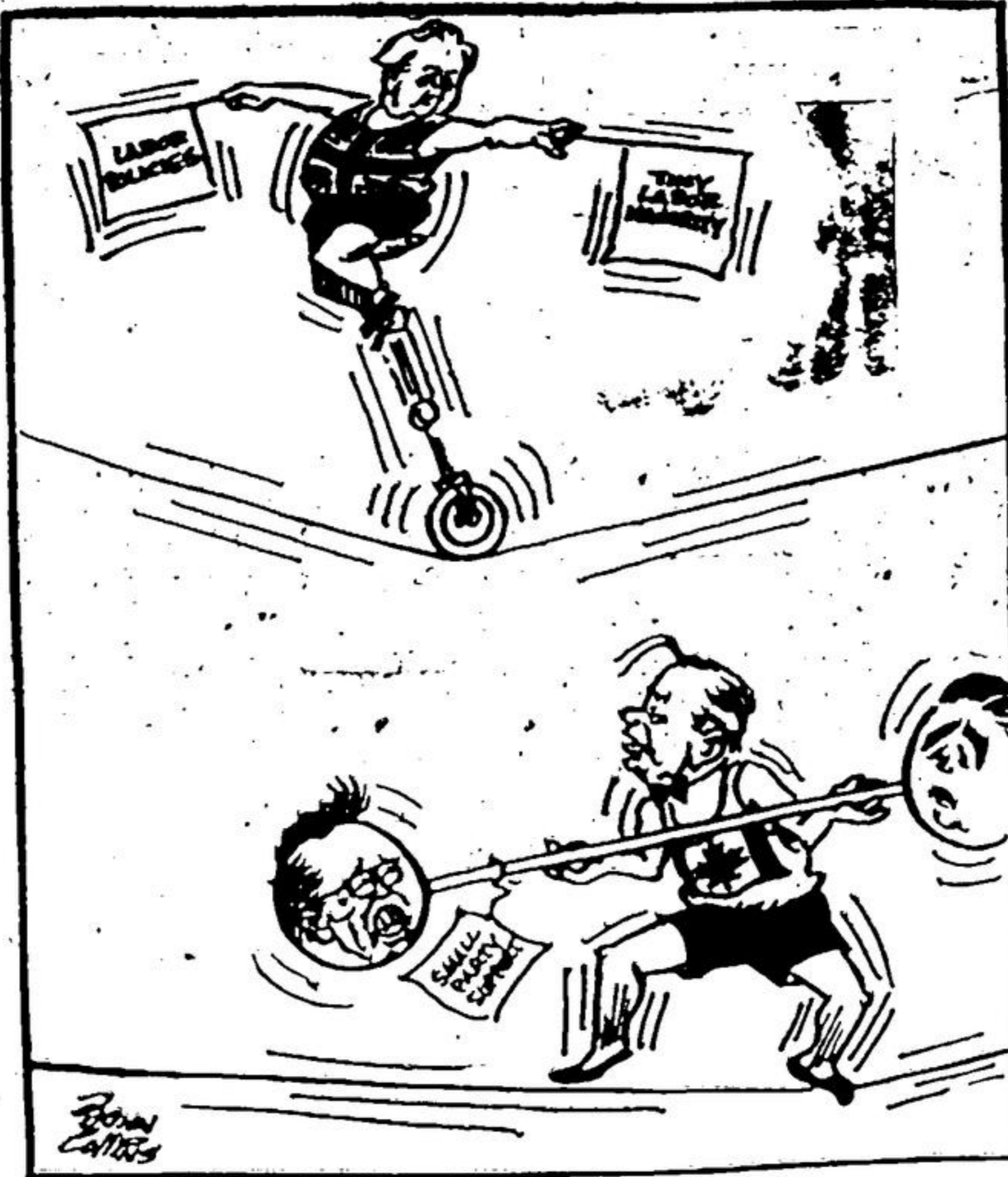
The matter under dispute is similar to that of the railway firemen who, when

diesels came into use, fought tooth and nail to retain their jobs as firemen, even though no jobs existed any more.

It would seem that the original offer of the newspapers to guarantee lifetime employment to those dispossessed of their trade by automated equipment is as fair as could be expected.

One ray of hope which the railway firemen didn't have — the automation of typesetting equipment will be a gradual process. There are thousands of other printing businesses, weekly newspapers, commercial shops, small dailies, where the linotype will be in use for the working life of this generation. Such firms are crying for skilled operators while hundreds of men march on the Toronto picket line.

A changing world creates hardship. Each new invention affects someone. Automobiles pushed the horse and buggy into a museum. Television closed movie theatres. Made-to-measure suits reduced the number of tailors. The construction industry uses machines for jobs which used to be done by hand.



THE TIGHTROPE TWINS

## NEWS DESK EXTRAS

By Terry Harley

Those people pressing for the abolition of capital punishment may have a longer wait than they think before they see their cause fulfilled. Ontario Police Chiefs recently endorsed retention of the death penalty as a deterrent, and last week Pea County Lawyers split 50-50 in a vote on the subject.

We think the prohibitionists have over-simplified the problem with their blanket contention that none and no authority has the right to take a life. The issue is far too complex to expect an imminent change in the policy of dealing with convicted murderers.

One of the stumbling blocks in our parole system, which makes life-imprisonment a hollow term. Surely the pro-abolitionists must know the sentence will be reduced to something like 13 years, and the killer would be free again, to take another life. It's easier the second time. And with nothing but another ten years hanging over his head it would take less reasons to murder to outweigh reasons not to.

And you can't close your eyes to prison escapes. Ask the relatives and buddies of a victim murdered by a convicted killer who has gone over the wall what they think of life imprisonment replacing capital punishment.

We agree with the three members of the press corps who expressed regret on the Saturday Hockey Night in Canada program that the sports fans sense of values are so warped as to place greater emphasis on the winning of the Stanley Cup than the winning of the NHL league championship.

The league titlists, winners of the 1955-56 season, were the Montreal Canadiens.

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## NEWS ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald 1955 and 1945

### 10 YEARS AGO

- Georgetown's 1955 tax rate held its own with 1954. Council struck a rate of 49 mills when the budget meeting was held last Wednesday. It is an increase of 4 mills over the 1954 rate.
- An 8 house subdivision may be built on the property owned by Fred Erwin it was learned Monday at council. Four of the proposed homes would be on Main St. North and four on Temperance Street.
- Donald Dolson was first prize winner in an Old Time Fiddlers competition which was a special feature of the Friday night show at the Roxy. Second and third prize winners were Mervin McPherson, Orangeville, and Clarence Vasey, Silvercreek. An extra feature was an exhibition of step dancing and playing the bones by a veteran local entertainer Joe Marlin.

### 20 YEARS AGO

- In September four new teachers will be on the staff of the Georgetown High School. Hired by the board are Mr. E. J. Keenan to replace Mr. Walter Carpenter, Miss Rose Piercey of Temiskaming will take the place of Miss A. Fairbairn, Miss Jessie B. Wilson of Brighton will replace Miss E. Penion who has been granted a year's sick leave, and Mr. A. C. Prouse of Claremont has been engaged to replace Mr. H. J. Heldmann. Also leaving the high school staff are Miss Irene Peebles, and Mr. H. L. Matthews. On the public school staff there will be one change next year. Miss G. Young is retiring and Miss Wilma Stull will take her position.

OAKVILLE — Councillor McLean Anderson called on Ontario education authorities to wake up to the fact teachers have the disposal when demanding their wages from a community at last week's council meeting.

PORT CARBIDY — A town official has attributed the foul taste and odour of drinking water which has caused the water works to shut down to water intake pipes which do not go deep or far enough out into Lake Ontario.

STRATTONVILLE — Streetsville Kinetics collected one huge stack of dimes this spring. A report last week said the Streetsville group collected \$1,147.50 in the March of Dimes campaign.

FERRIS — Nobody but nobody would trade problems with the referee of a hockey game in Ferris last week. The game between two 'ladies' teams ended in a brawl with fist fights, hairpulling and clawing matches all over the ice.

FIRE SEASON — More than 1,500 fires needlessly damage Ontario forests each year, most of them during the fire season, from April to October.

No sense of adventure? He'd all wet. One of my students headed across the continent on a bicycle. Others plan to go to Africa or Asia for the Peace Corps. Another swiped his old man's car, picked up two side-kicks, and took off for Mexico. My own son ran away last summer and hitch-hiked to Quebec after I'd expressly forbidden such a jaunt.

From every direction come walls of alarm that students will try anything: hot cars, drinks, drugs, sex. And this man says they've no sense of adventure! What they have is too much of it.

Terribly sheltered, he says. Nonsense. We try to shelter them from the world, the harmful, the evil, as we see them. But the only teenager who is sheltered in this age is a kid who lives in a trapper's shack in the wilderness with two maiden aunts, and is kept shielded to his bed until he's 20. They're a lot less sheltered than I was at that age, and a lot better able to cope with reality, as a result.

Terribly staid, he said. Poppycock. They're conformists, I'll admit, as far as facts and fashion go. But I scarcely think I'd call those writhing, screaming

staid. They're almost as unshaded as their old ladies were, swooning over Sinatra. Or their granules, writing over Big Crosby.

Terribly sad, he says. Baloony. Admitted, they can be deeply touched, because the hearts are not yet hardened. They can be terribly sad, sometimes. But they can be wildly exuberant, too. How long is it since you've been truly joyful, Jack? The kids are much more human, emotionally, than adults. Because they have not learned those grown-up horrors: the control, the stiff upper lip, the smothering of the flame.

And he claims they are empty. Empty of what? Altruism, greed, self-delusion, cruelty, selfishness, ruthlessness? I am afraid he's right. But they are full of a lot of things that have pretty well gone out of style with adults: pity, love, joy, fun, unselfishness, honesty, idealism, loyalty.

Don't worry, I'm not soft on teenagers. I have two of my own, and sometimes they drive me right up the wall, across the ceiling and down the other side. I teach about 140 of them daily, and there are days when I could go into class with a Tommy gun and mow them all down. But they're people. And if I have to associate with people, I think I'd as soon associate with them as with any other class of the species.

## FOREST WEALTH

Ontario's pulp and paper industry, which depends on green forests, employs more people and pays more money than any other manufacturer in the province.

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