

# Georgetown Herald

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Politics Takes Nerve

Re-entry of Walter Gordon into the federal cabinet leaves us somewhat aghast about the nerve it takes to be a politician.

Only a few years ago, when Mr. Gordon was finance minister, he was caught in a situation which proved him either an inept financier or an inept politician, or both.

He brought out a budget so unpopular that radical charges were made within days, leaving one with the conclusion that either he didn't know what he was talking about, or if he did, he let political pressure overcome his better judgment.

Anyway, in time, Mr. Gordon resigned his post and, by all normal reasoning should have retired to private life or to that great refuge of those who have given their all for the current party — the Senate.

Instead, he sat quietly on the back benches, until the pendulum swung his way again and now is basking in the limelight, welcomed back as a great Canadian, an expert on foreign affairs, finance and what have you.

Perhaps not so inept a politician after all.

At the same time another political figure is proving that Canadians like their drama with Hollywood overtones.

Fresh out of a minor scandal, a side effect of the notorious Gerda affair, George Hees is not only being wooed by adjoining P.C. ridings to be their federal candidate, but is being given prominent mention as a possible leader of the P.C. Party.

### '1894 Had Worries Too

Today isn't the first time people have been concerned about the cost of schooling.

In 1894, the Herald reported that the annual cost of the high school to the corporation was \$1,000.

"This will be a surprise to many," the article says, "as it was feared that the addition of a fourth teacher would run the expense up at least a few hundred dollars."

The item concludes with some flatter-

ing remarks: "The high school is certainly one of the best investments the town has made in the last ten years. It has done well and is doing better. Let nothing be done to impair its efficiency and it will continue to prosper."

The clipping, submitted to us by Thomas Melanson, 12 George St. was found in a partition during remodelling of the house and is of value because Herald files of that date are not in existence.

### Swing of the Pendulum

Ontario communities are reaping a bitter harvest these days.

Up until fifteen years ago, school teachers reaped most of their rewards in reflected glory of successful students they had taught. Their pay was small in relationship to other jobs requiring the same education, although there was some compensation in longer holidays, job security and a small pension plan.

The pendulum began to swing after the war when school boards began on their own to realize that teachers should command larger salaries. Those that didn't soon found themselves dealing with an increasingly powerful teachers' federation which today has reached epic proportions.

Boostered by the fact that there is a continuing shortage of personnel, particularly at the high school level, and with an apparently insatiable hunger for more and more money, teachers are in the news every year as they ask, and receive, larger and larger increases.

Metro Toronto is the focal point each year for a rash of demands which would make even the most aggressive union leader blanch. Teachers demand more money immediately, larger yearly increments, more and more fringe benefits. They make odious comparisons with engineers and doctors,

ory to the heavens that they are not as well paid, while school boards scurry to make the best deal they can, before plunging into next year's round.

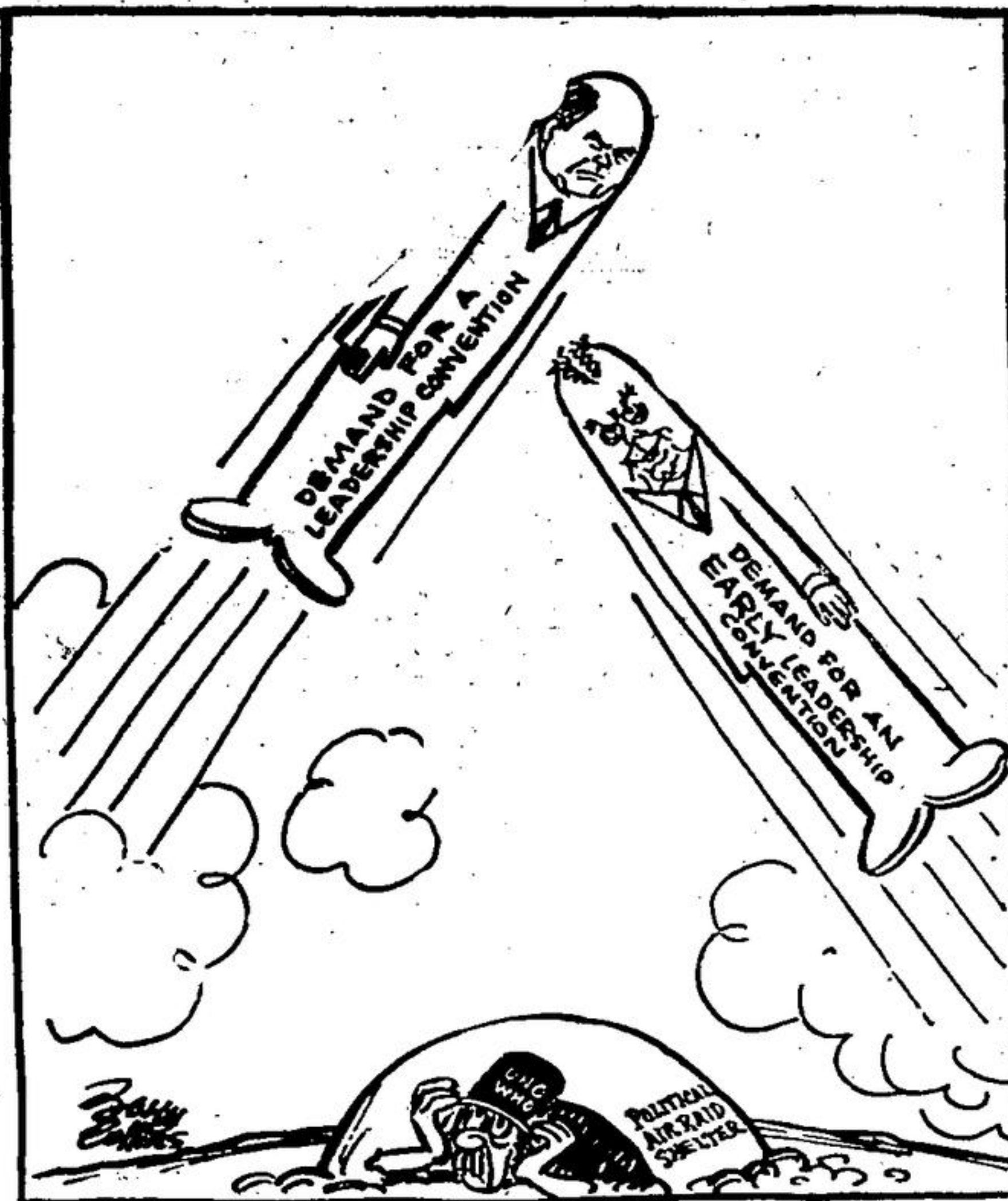
Never once does it seem to occur to anyone today that engineers and doctors may average better wages, but have no assurance of lifetime employment, no two months in summer, week or so at Easter, at Christmas, no guarantee that each year they will have a higher income.

Vacations, bosh, teachers will say, we spend them going to summer school — but this means more money too, for salary schedules provide bonuses for those extra stages.

And in the background, the equally powerful union of elementary teachers prepares a future campaign for equality of pay with their senior brothers.

In many ways we deserve what we're getting. For too many years, penny pinching school boards exacted the last pound of flesh from teachers who had to be dedicated or they would never have chosen the profession.

But there has to be a stop and surely today the pendulum has swung far enough. The public treasury cannot survive an endless spiral of pay increases to one segment of society without a breaking point being reached.



ANTI-MISSILE MISSILE

## SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

### JUST A STARTER

In recent years, there has been a great deal of criticism of education in this country, from both outside and inside the system. It doesn't take a Ph.D. to realize that a whole lot of it is justified. And I speak as a parent, taxpayer and teacher.

Only by frantic efforts and vast infusions of money have we managed to keep our system a mere couple of decades behind the times.

I know it's easy to indulge in hindsight. But my old jumpin' Jupiter, surely there could have been a little foresight somewhere along the line. Look what we have: shortage of buildings, shortage of teachers, shortage of just about everything — except pupils. And a vast surplus of them. This didn't happen overnight. They weren't all born last summer. It was all there 20 years ago, perfectly obvious to anyone who could add and multiply. The only people doing any multiplying were the parents.

And the crazy part of it is that we keep urging the kids to stay in schools that haven't enough room for the new crop arriving. "Drop-out" has become almost synonymous with "delinquent." It doesn't matter whether they're doing any work, or learning anything, or are just being bored silly. They're told to stay in school until, through sheer old age and the tidal wave pushing from behind, they get a magic piece of paper that will open golden doors to success.

Chiefly to blame are parents. They have my sympathy. Many

of them remember the great depression. Many others honestly believe material security means happiness. But far, far too many of them delude themselves. They insist that Jack, who wants nothing more than to get out of school become useful and happy as a salesman or a policeman, has the makings of a great surgeon, because he has always got more than 60 marks in science. Or that Jill, a born wife and mother, who wants nothing more than to get married, should struggle through a course in psychology, because she's always been a first class baby sitter.

Almost equally to blame are the big industries and institutions from oil companies to banks. They are too lazy, or too cheap, or both, to interview young people and hire them on what they are. It's much easier, and a lot cheaper, just to say, "We don't want anybody unless he has at least a Grade 12 certificate," even if all they want him to do is stick square pegs in round holes.

Another thing vastly wrong with education is the way it's financed. Let's take a couple of examples. Here's an elderly couple on a small, fixed income. After years of struggling, they own their own home. They pay \$400 a year in municipal taxes. About half of that is for education, even though they've paid taxes for years to educate their own children or, if childless, somebody else's.

This system makes a mockery of the concept that every child has the same opportunities. Don't try to tell me that the kid

### IN THE MAIL BAG

## Who's the Rotten Apple? Writer's Query to Mayor

January 28, 1967

Dear Mr. Editor:  
Re your news item: "Mayor takes swing at Library Board."  
Did I read right?

Our good mayor in this good town of Georgetown is in a huff because some people did not submit to his charms and did not vote for him? Worse, they did actually dare to campaign against him. This sorry state of affairs can be easily changed. Since his administration already gave us an anti-littering law, we might soon have an anti-campaigning law!

But at present ours is STILL a democratic country. The mayor of a town is STILL supposed to be the servant of the people. Since the library is one of the most widely used public services in this town (almost 8,000 people use its facilities from a population of around 12,000), the people can demand that the mayor and council look at the needs of this public service with an unprejudiced eye. If the mayor thinks he can deal flippancy with these real needs, he must not be surprised if the election results give him the

answer he deserves.  
His worship is using very strong language indeed, and I think we can demand that he will tell us now who this "rotten apple" is.

If he is unable to do so, we should tell him once and for all that it is not his business to hand out marks, but to run this town with the help of the council in an efficient and dignified manner.  
Yours Sincerely,  
—JOHN SOMMER

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In a poor bush town in the north has the same facilities, options and quality of teaching as the kid in a rich suburb. He simply does not. Money makes the difference.

And speaking of inequalities, isn't there something quite ridiculous in a country of 20 million having 10 separate and distinct educational systems? Much larger countries have one system, and opportunity within that one than we have with our 10 rigid and separate ones. It is provincialism, literally and figuratively.

Rigidity is another thing that sticks in my craw. We have rigid curriculums, rigid timetables, rigid divisions of the school year, and anything else rigid that avoids difficulty and keeps the vast Victorian vehicle shambling along somehow.

But you know what? I'm getting a little worked up about this. But you can't keep a good belief down, and I've been developing indignation over the whole business for some time.

So rather than galloping off in all directions, let's say this is the first of a series of articles on education by a plain, ordinary layman. I'll bet you can hardly wait for next week's thrilling instalment.

## KERR'S COLUMN

M.P.P. Reports to Georgetown from Queen's Park

The Fifth Session of the 27th Parliament of the Ontario Legislature opened last week in Toronto. The details of the Speech from the Throne have been reported extensively in all daily newspapers. However, there are a few matters in the document which may be of more interest to the people of Halton than others.

A new housing program to be known as "Home Ownership Made Easy" which through the use of the first letter of each word will be called "The Home Program". Briefly, the program provides the assembly and servicing of residential land and disposal of lots by outright sale and lease. The Provincial Government hopes to increase the supply of lots and thus reduce market prices generally.

The leasing feature will mean that a home buyer will have to have a down payment on the house component alone, which could be about \$2,000, on a dwelling valued at \$15,000.

The intent of this program is to put home ownership back within the reach of lower and middle income families. It is hoped that if this program is a success it could have a sharp deflationary effect on the home market.

Other important matters in the speech include a statement that the Ontario Government plans to take over control of the battle against Air Pollution in the Province.

### IN THE MAIL BAG

## Denies Library Used For Election Campaign

39 Market Street,  
January 27, 1967.

Dear Sir:

I wish to deny the Mayor's allegation that the Library was used as a campaign headquarters for any rival to Mr. Gibbons' position as Mayor.

One electioneering postcard was delivered to the Library and it certainly was not thrown into the waste paper basket. We anticipated that all candidates for positions on the

ince. The idea is to divide the Province into areas and relieve municipalities of the responsibility of enforcement of regulations so that there will be one agency applying uniform legislation with the funds, facilities and technical help needed to win this battle.

The government announced two other important steps — A public Enquiry into problems relating to Divorce Laws, and compensation for people injured going to the aid of police. Amen.

Reference was made to the Securities Act recently proclaimed, which will help avoid loss of savings of people who invest with finance and trust companies, and who do not investigate thoroughly the companies they are dealing with, and the paper they are buying.

The Throne Speech said that in the field of Agriculture we have a two-fold responsibility: To insure that the farmer shares in our prosperity, and to insure that adequate food is available for our growing population at a price the consumer can afford.

An expanded program of capital grants will be made available to farmers, and the proposal is to extend the existing program of grants to include wells, farm drainage and the construction of certain types of farm buildings.

In my next column I hope to deal with other aspects of the Throne Speech, particularly the new Mental Health Act and legislation dealing with child welfare.

Yours sincerely,  
Marjorie Nazer.

## HARLEY TO HALTON

Weekly Observations by  
Dr. Harry Harley,  
M.P. for Halton

**THE RETURN OF** Walter Gordon to the Cabinet as Minister without Portfolio has been an occasion for many newspaper and news media to underline the differences between Mr. Gordon and his successor as Finance Minister, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, in their approaches to foreign investment in Canada. These differences are dealt on exaggerated and are very newsworthy. In addition recently we hear reports of the comments of the minister of Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Robert Winters, on attracting American money into Canada.

**CANADIANS CANNOT** close their eyes to the problems which exist regarding foreign ownership. These problems will continue to be with us as long as we have to rely on large amounts of imported money which is necessary to develop our country to its full potential. Walter Gordon represents a segment of Canadian thinking and feeling on this subject and his presence in the Cabinet keeps this problem before us and this is necessary.

**IF CANADA IS** to maintain its political and economic independence it is essential that foreign investment be encouraged on the one hand, and at the same time, the complete takeover of Canadian industry by non-Canadian capital must be prevented. As an example, foreign interests now control 46% of Canada's manufacturing industries and over 60% of petroleum and natural gas.

**TO ACHIEVE** this, Mr. Gordon would probably like to see legislation to make it more difficult for foreigners to take over Canadian industries, and to assume Canadian control of new industries. Mr. Sharp approaches the same goal by means of giving encouragement to increased Canadian ownership by tax incentives and other legislative means. Both men support the Canadian Development Corporation, which will be set up by the Federal Government to allow Canadians to invest their money to purchase Canadian industries.

## St. George's to Host Women's Day of Prayer

Women from a number of Georgetown churches will participate in a service in St. George's Anglican Church on Friday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m. to mark the World Day of Prayer. Mrs. Thomas Parry is chairman of the planning committee which is arranging the service, which is held each year in a different Georgetown church.

They will be joining women in more than 3500 communities from Newfoundland to the Yukon. They will use a service prepared by the late Queen Sale of Tonga, a dedicated Christian who for many years led her own people in this annual observance.

There is "And of His Kingdom there shall be no end." While intercession is the central idea of the World Day of Prayer, offerings are also substantial. In Canada gifts amounting to more than \$75,000 in 1966. This money was used for publication and distribution of Christian literature and refugee work.

Canada was composed for the occasion of a banquet attended by the then Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne, and HRH Princess Louise on June 24, 1880, in Quebec's Skater's Pavilion.

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