

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Taxes Best Way

Increasing need to expand accommodation in Georgetown and District Hospital brings the problem of financing to the fore.

Originally constructed through government grants, with the assistance of private donations, the hospital board and municipal council must now decide whether the one-third should be again sought from private sources or whether it should become a direct obligation of residents of town and township served by the hospital.

Faced with a multitude of capital expenditures, particularly for schools and, in town, for essential water, sewer and road costs, councillors can be expected to shud-

der at the thought of footing hospital costs in a tax bill.

And yet if we must have a hospital extension, is it not proper that all who may use it should share the cost, rather than only the public-spirited individuals who contribute on their own initiative?

If a major share is to come from the taxpayer, there is, of course, always the possibility of a "special names" campaign, seeking some of the money from those who may wish to make a more personal donation.

But we are of the opinion that, for something so necessary, the entire community should share costs on an equitable basis.

Canada's Dilemma

Canada's unenviable position in world affairs was never more clearly indicated than in a Globe and Mail editorial on Monday.

The writer points out that government leaders are outspoken in advocating a peaceful solution to the Vietnam conflict, and that everyone is urging a halt to the bombing of North Viet Nam.

But at the same time, Canadians are enriching themselves from sales of weapons to be used in the American war effort.

"The problem is both simple and dangerously complex," warns the writer. "Canada cannot pretend to play the roles of peacemaker and the cannon-monger." And only a few major politicians, Eric Kierans and Andrew Brewin, have had the courage to say so.

"More influential voices, led by Prime Minister Pearson and External Affairs Minister Paul Martin" he continues "warn of painful complications. Canada cannot afford to lose the \$370-million in military sales it won last year under its arms-sharing agreement with the United States."

Canadians then rationalize that a Canadian arms ban would not stop the war, but only transfer industry to the States. "Indeed,

said Mr. Martin last fall, Ottawa is 'not aware at all' that Canadian weapons are really being used in Vietnam."

The Globe editorial brands these arguments as "mere apologies, advanced with little conviction, and, in some cases, with little sincerity." And it includes both major political parties in the problem, quoting Opposition Leader Robert Stanfield's warning that an arms embargo would harm our relations with the United States.

The ordinary citizen then, who looks to his political leaders for guidance and wisdom, is getting neither.

Are not enough facts available now for our government to make a clearcut decision? And it must be one or the other. They must say "We believe the Vietnam war should continue until it is won, and we will pledge every assistance possible to our neighbours to make this so." Or they must say, "This war is wrong, and we will have no part in continuing it."

If our Canadian economy depends on arms production for a just war, it is reason enough to be sad. If we continue to say the war is wrong, but hesitate to disrupt our economy, then we are shameful hypocrites.

What's So Different?

Federal minister of agriculture J. J. Greene ruled himself out of our poll for Liberal leadership last week with a shocking statement about budgeting.

Hitting at candidate Hon. Robert Winters, Mr. Greene is quoted as saying anyone calling for an annual balanced federal budget, as Mr. Winters has — "has not advanced beyond corporate financing."

And what's so different between corporations and government, Mr. Greene?

Is there some magic formula where a country can consistently spend more than its income without (a) eventually becoming bankrupt or (b) eventually getting the money back in taxation in some form?

Surely one does not have to have high powered economic training for the simple arithmetic of business, whether it is individual, corporate or government. If one spends a thousand dollars, one must either have it to spend, or use borrowed money

which must be paid back some day with interest.

If one continues to borrow without immediate prospects of repaying the loan, eventual interest charges become so staggering that one is paying more in carrying charges than the original cost of the item.

The Ontario Municipal Board, specifically set up to oversee municipal financing, has laid down a rule that if a town has a capital debt more than 25% of its assessment, it is in trouble. Would not the same rule apply to a country? Or are there two types of municipal financing, one for towns, one for senior governments?

On this point alone, Mr. Greene has proven his inability, beyond question, to lead Canada through what are going to be difficult days ahead. For the Liberal convention is unique, in that, besides choosing a leader for a major political party, delegates will actually be choosing Canada's next prime minister.



SPRINGTIME IN OTTAWA

HARLEY TO HALTON



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

made. At the same time the Board had informal discussions with the Esquimes School Board.

At the end of 1967, there were 250 adult and 600 junior Esquimes members of the Library. This represents a cost of \$3,800 a year, of which only \$1,000 is covered by the increased adult fee. The objection to raising the fee for children has already been mentioned. The Esquimes School Board recognized the problem, and felt the best solution would be for the Township Council to make a grant covering both adult and junior members. The Library Board agrees with this, and if such a grant were made, membership fees for both adults and junior members would be cancelled.

The Library Board has no wish to deprive any Esquimes children of their class visits or their individual access to the Library out of school, but it does not believe this service should be provided at the expense of the Georgetown taxpayer. The Georgetown Council has asked Esquimes for \$3,000 towards the Library operations this year, and this seems very reasonable considering the costs which have been incurred over the last year alone. For technical reasons connected with the Provincial grant structure, it would be desirable for this grant to be paid to the Georgetown Council rather than direct to the Library Board.

The above is a broad outline of the Board's past consideration of the problem. I cannot, of course, speak for the Board on what action it may take for the future. I sincerely hope that some solution may be found so that all Esquimes residents may continue to use the Library on the present or better terms, but the political realities clearly demand that this shall not be at the Georgetown taxpayer's expense.

Yours sincerely,
John R. Bellamy, chairman
Georgetown Public Library Board

Renovations, No, Says Need New Arena

Dear Sir,
I see that again the Georgetown Arena is going to be renovated.

True, it needs a new lobby and front steps but the hockey rink is not in the lobby or on the front steps — the ice surface is where the renovation is needed.

The Legion, All-Star, Tyke and Junior C groups have done a terrific job with hockey and the development of youth in the Georgetown arena. It is a shame that they must put up with the present out-dated facilities.

I suggest that the arena does not need renovating — it needs replacing and the sooner the better.

Paul Ward

DID YOU KNOW?

Ontario's forest industries have spent more than \$50 million building more than 6,000 miles of all-weather roads in forest areas. Built primarily to harvest the forest, the roads also provide access for protection and resource management.

agreed to the Bill in principle but felt that it should be amended in several ways to ensure drug safety. The Government after this under study at the present time and felt that the Bill could more effectively be dealt with at a later date.

THE FEELING in this matter is that, while the Bill does deal with the matter of patents, it should in some way make reference to the question of safety of drugs imported into Canada. After a vote in the House of Commons the Government confirmed that the Drug Bill will not be considered further at the time but will be given final reading when the House resumes its sittings in April.

IT IS EXPECTED that the House will recess sometime next week after the Supplementary Estimates and Interim Supply have passed.

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NEWS ECHOES

From the Heralds of 10 and 20 Years Ago

1958

● The annual meeting of the Georgetown Night School Committee was held on Tuesday at the high school. Elected to office were Mrs. John Glynn, Miss Jean Rud-dell, Miss Dorothy Stone, Alex Hendry, Mrs. Ray Thompson, Mrs. W. C. Reynolds, Harry Savings, Cyril Brand-tord, Wilfred Mino, Al Zeravlev, and Nejd Denton.

● Six Georgetown and district Scout patrol leaders attended a bronze arrowhead course in Milton on the weekend. They were Bob Burke, Alex Kirkwood, Roland Hancock, Wayne Fiebig, Leonard Taylor and Keith Bull.

● Mrs. W. Sloan was elected president of the Chapel Street home and school association at a meeting this week. Other officers are Mrs. Fred Tucker, Mrs. Reg Broom-head, Mrs. Al Currie, Mrs. Henry Helfant, Mrs. Gordon King, Mrs. Joe Emmerson, Vern McCumber, Mrs. John Cummins, Mrs. J. Turnbull, J. McBryde, Mrs. Russ McClore and Mrs. Murray Moley.

1948

● Marking the official opening of the new garage building which houses the local General Motors agency, Mr. and Mrs. Art Scott held open house last Saturday afternoon and evening when over 800 people from the district came to see the modern new auto centre. The garage is built on the site of the former BA station at the corner of Queen and Guelph Streets.

● A Georgetown and District Borough Council has been formed to act as a central local body to promote cooperation and social harmony between the affiliated locals and to discuss and work toward a solution of any problems that may affect the workers in Georgetown.

● At a congregational meeting followed the evening service in Georgetown United Church last Sunday a decision was made to extend a call to Rev. John Smith of Norfolk County.

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

'Tis A Taxing Time

When he smacks us with taxes, The Minister says It's to battle the beast of inflation. It's for our own good, And everyone should Stop roaring with deep indignation.

Pretty rotten doggerel, but I hope I speak for the rest of you serfs when I serve warning to 'all levels of government, here and now, publicly, that we have had enough.

With one more tax hike of any kind, the Fall of the Bastille, and the October revolution of 1917 will look like a couple of Sunday school outings. The gutters will run with blood, and heads will roll.

I've never seen a gutter running with blood, but I don't think it would bother me much. Not this month, at any rate. And how would the head of the Finance Minister look, stuck on the end of a pike? It certainly wouldn't do much for his image in the Liberal leadership race.

Remember what happened to the British when they went too far with taxation! It was a nice cup of tea, with Boston Harbor as the teapot. Shortly afterwards, they had lost half of North America.

Eighteenth-century France had absentee landlords. We have absentee M.P.'s. But the real cause of the French revolution was oppressive taxes. The absentee landlords lost their heads. Some of our absentee M.P.'s may lose their seats. And if you want to be vulgar, there's not that much difference, come to think of it.

Same story in Russia. Inflation and taxation. Ivan was making four kopeck a day. It cost him three to live, one for taxes. The Czar jacked up the tax on vodka by one-kopeck and something had to give. It wasn't Ivan.

Now I'm no George Washington, Robespierre or Lenin. But I do have a shotgun, and when our leader emerges, I'll be there, fully loaded — if I can afford a drug at current prices — and shouting bilgually, "A bas les taxes!"

I don't want to sound unrea-

sonable about taxes. Some are essential. Education taxes, for example. We have got to keep the kids off the streets somehow, and at the same time turn them into potential taxpayers, so that we will be able to draw our old-age pension.

And I don't mind contributing to these same old-age pensions and help for the crippled and the blind and the helpless. Nor do I mind paying for sewers and garbage collection and the street-lighting.

But I do object to subsidizing the freeloaders: the credit card boys who can write off entertainment, drinks, food, travel, the crafty knaves who use unemployment insurance as a private bank, the shiftless dogs who revel in welfare as a way of life.

It irks me to help maintain an armed force, fint chaps all, but one who couldn't defend this country against a determined attack by Iceland.

As a motorist, I am willing to pay heavy gas and car taxes and licence fees so that roads may be built. But I have an abomination for taxes on building materials and clothing and a contempt for taxes on restaurant meals and entertainment.

At the moment, my pet hate is paying taxes for a new municipal snow-blower that throws up on my lawn a filthy mixture of snow, salt and sand. Guaranteed to kill lawn, flowers and probably trees.

The list is endless and arbitrary. But I know I'm not a lone voice crying in the wilderness. I'd be happy to hear from others who are ready to respond when our leader cries: "Aux barricades, all youse who are ground in the mills of the tax gods."

WORD OF THE WEEK

ACERBITY: Sourness, as of unripe fruit; sharpness; also harshness or severity of temper or expression.

Next Week's Word: Acolyte

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Wants Children to Read But Not At Town's Expense

Dear Sir:
There has been considerable publicity and correspondence in your columns about the use of the Library by Esquimes residents. I should appreciate the opportunity to put the Board's point of view.

By law the Board may not charge a membership fee for any resident of the municipality which supports the Library but is free to charge non-residents any fee it considers appropriate. As the Library has approximately 5,000 active members and needs a total of \$20,000 from local tax sources to run for the current year, the cost to local taxes is close to \$4 per member per year. This is the basis on which the Board raised the adult non resident fee to \$1. a quarter instead of \$1. a year in January.

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The Board has been concerned with the problem of non-resident use of the Library for some time. At the end of 1966, it asked the Esquimes Council to consider a grant to cover the costs of Library service given Esquimes residents, but received no acknowledgement or reply. In 1967 the subject was under discussion between the Georgetown and Esquimes Councils, and the Library Board took no independent action in the hope that a satisfactory settlement would be reached.

During 1967 the problem became more acute, as non-resident patronage of the Library increased sharply, partly due to the cancellation of class visits of Limehouse pupils to the Library during school hours. Over the last eighteen months regular class visits from the Stewarttown, Pineview and Limehouse schools have been made once a month, but Pineview now goes to Milton, and with the opening of the Stewarttown Senior pub-

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