

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Tax Breaking Point

As politicians vie for election, then raise taxes to fulfill some of their election promises, we often wonder just what the end will be.

Pledged to a national medicare system, along with all the other pet projects of our federal government, it was a foregone conclusion that the 1969 budget would include an income tax increase.

Now the Ontario government can hardly wait to get into the act, and is investigating what they think will be the least painful way to extract more money from the populace. Whether it will be a tax on income — an increased sales tax, or a less obvious means is still anybody's guess.

You could say we have it coming to us, for we are far past the day when most voters think tax money grows on trees. We all know what the outcome will be each time a round of promises starts, yet we go blindly ahead hoping that by some miracle we will be able to at least hold the tax line, if not get a chance to spend a little more of our pay in our own way.

Spending other people's money has become a political disease and the only cure would seem to be a new political party altogether, one which would pledge itself to hire some astute businessmen, stop promising the moon, get down to brass tacks and set a budget which it could follow, and stop the inflationary spiral which is bringing us closer and closer to the dark days of the thirties.

The latest tax increase, particularly for the family man who earns in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year bracket is nothing short of criminal. He is going to be gouged another dollar or two weekly to supposedly make up some of Canada's huge deficit. But already this is being spoken of as a social development tax, undoubtedly for yet another new project which will increase government spending.

A Fine Arena

Georgetown owes a debt of gratitude to a hard working parks board for the fine arena which we boast.

Those who visited the Saturday open house could not help but be proud of such a fine recreational building which most certainly is on a par with any such facility in a town this size in the province.

Several years back, it was nipped and tuck whether the town would have an arena at all. The building had fallen into disrepair, was practically condemned as a fire trap, was supposed to have structural defects which it would not be profitable to correct.

How About Full Houses

Georgetown Little Theatre, which suffered such a bitter blow with loss of all its props in the old town hall fire, is still on the go, and is presenting a top Broadway play this Friday and Saturday in the high school auditorium.

The Little Theatre is professional in every way, and has presented dozens of top calibre plays, well performed and well received during the past few years.

Only one thing has been lacking — full houses for its shows.

Each time we attend we wonder where all those people are who say Georgetown should have a movie theatre. If they won't attend a live performance three or four times a season, how can they hope some

We have commented previously on the outlandish civil service jobs advertised almost daily in the city newspapers. Surely our government could start economizing by putting a ceiling on the number of economists which they seem to be seeking. The more we hire, the less accurate our budget forecasts become.

We could save hundreds of thousands of dollars by combining government departments. Income tax, sales tax, hospital services, unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, all operate at federal or provincial levels with huge departments which could well be consolidated. The saving in auditing alone would be enormous, for each has a staff which must check on businessmen.

Local politicians, despite being several rungs above their senior counterparts in the same use of tax money, are subject at times to the same disease. Witness the current highway bridge project which started with a simple widening idea, and ended with destruction of several houses; the paving of dead-end streets which were quite satisfactory as they were.

Yet when a municipal tax increase is contemplated, it is justified with such platitudes as "everyone expects it, because everything else is going up."

We don't know where the breaking point is. Maybe we have passed it already. What we do know is that, if a man earns \$5,000 and spends \$6,000 he can operate successfully only as long as he can borrow the extra thousand dollars yearly. And each year, he is adding to his expenses with increasing income payments. When the day of reckoning comes, his standard of living must drastically suffer and/or he goes bankrupt.

Is a nation, a province, a town any different?

Through it all the parks board plugged along, improving where it could. The addition of artificial ice was a tremendous boost in facilities, and a sound business move, for it increased revenue to allow further improvements.

Then came new seating, concrete block walls, concrete flooring to add roller skating to the facilities. Last year it was electric heating for skater comfort. And finally a complete new modern lobby, with assistance from the Kinsmen Club.

The town should be grateful to the board, arena manager Don Gosling and his staff, and the Kinsmen for providing such first class facilities.

optimist will put his money into a movie house so they can stay away from it too.

It is an axiom that the more people at a show the better the actors perform, the better the audience reacts, for theatre, particularly when it is live entertainment, depends on a rapport between actors and audience.

Just for once, let's give the Little Theatre performers a boost even better than the money we are donating to put them back on their feet and restore their fire-damaged equipment. Let's give them two sell-out houses for their Friday and Saturday shows.

It will be a dollar and a half well spent, and we guarantee you'll enjoy the evening thoroughly.



"THE ONE WE HAD IN MIND WAS MORE ROSE-COVERED"

We say: "Pretty, ain't it?" An Irishman might say in awe, —

"Dear God, Himself has dumped a rainbow, all but the blue, into your woods. And the blue He has flung entirely, into your water."

But the vast mad artist's palette, thrown across the country, is only part of the October scene and mood.

There's a quickening of the spirit that infects everyone. Fall fairs, those stubborn relics of a pioneer day, add their special flavor. Parades and pumpkins, hot dogs and horse races, and the warm, yellow wine of a Canadian October day, are unforgettable.

Hunters go into their special trance in this month. They crouch in duck blinds, they crawl through fences, they curse their misses. (And sometimes their misses, who can't see the point of it all.)

Golfers go goofy in October, desperately trying to get in the last few rounds, losing balls by the dozen among the fallen leaves, and praying for one more good weekend.

Sailing enthusiasts snatch every chance to get out in that perfect weather the month so often provides: nice breeze, warm sun, water so blue it makes your heart leap. And so cold it makes your hands ache.

October is ecstasy for the sport fan. World Series, pro hockey and football at its height. He can sit staring at the mac until his nears' senility and has to be spoon-fed.

Great month for the student. He has got through that middle of September, and can now set the down to the various business of falling in love, falling behind in his work, and falling into deep water, in that order.

And then, there's the burning of the leaves, a ritual which should be in the Canadian coat of arms. There's a tremendous satisfaction in scooping up bushel baskets of dry leaves, piling them on the fire on a dusky October eve, and seeing the orange and yellow flames spear skyward, searing the telephone wires.

Every year, I feel a pang of pity for the apartment dweller, with no leaves to burn. He's like a kid who never gets a firecracker of his own to set off on the 24th of May.

And when does the city-dweller ever get the sheer, human satisfaction of seeing a sprightly northwest breeze pick all the leaves off his lawn and deposit them accurately on the lawn of his neighbour, who hates leaves and is always trying to keep his lawn raked?

And the thrill of the apple crops. The soft little fruits of September, the peaches and pears that go rotten so quickly, are gone. And you drive thro' the orchard country, and you pick up a bushel of apples, and you bite into the juice spurts right over your shoulder. Food for the gods. Provided their teeth are not false.

And there's just enough sadness, as October nears its end and days shorten, and trees bare as gloomy November puts his clammy nose over your shoulder to lighten all the joys of this most remarkable month and make it something that's distinctly Canadian and distinctly you.



Halton MP
Rud L. Whiting
reports
from
Ottawa

THE INNER workings of the Canada Department of Labour were explained to some Members of Parliament, including myself, this week when the Honourable Bryce Mackasey took us on a guided tour of his department.

THIS TOUR was the first in a series and based principally on how information is gathered and distributed.

THE PUBLIC Relations and Information Services Branch, including its distribution centre was explained in detail. The tour visited the media relations section, which handles all press releases and statements; the general information section where pamphlets and booklets explaining branch and departmental programmes are written; the audio-visual and promotion section which handles the National Industrial Relations Film Library as well as film clips, posters and all types of advertising; and the publications section which writes and compiles the English and French editions of the Labour Gazette.

THE TOUR also visited the Department Library, considered one of the top five labour libraries in North America. Not only does the library have some 80,000 books dealing with all aspects of industrial relations, it also has an exceptionally large periodical section containing labour relations journals from all over the world.

THE ACTUAL structure of the Department and its methods of programming were later explained at a dinner given by the Minister before we returned to the House of Commons for the evening session.

IF MORE Ministers would take the time as did the Honourable Mr. Mackasey to invite fellow Members of Parliament, to tour their respective Departments, it would be a great help to us in familiarizing ourselves with the functions of the various Departments of Government and the reasons behind the legislation put forth by these Departments.

I WAS VERY pleased to hear that about thirty people from Acton attended the recent hearing on the closing of the CNR station in that community. I am most appreciative to Mr. Bill Coats for presenting my brief to the Committee. I want to assure the residents of Acton that I will do everything I can to help them retain railroad services in their community.

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IN THE MAIL BAG

Hospital Helpful In Emergency

2381 Alma Dale Ave., Burlington, Ontario

Dear Sir: We felt it necessary to construct a letter of appreciation to the Georgetown Hospital staff for their efficient and effective execution of an emergency situation in which our son was recently involved.

Doctors Duff and Hemming Nurse Sharon Woods, and the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance service deserve special mention. To these public servants too seldom mentioned for the contribution made to a community, a sincere "Thank you."

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Howlett.

Parents Appreciated Hockey Instruction

20 Elizabeth Street

Dear Sir: As parents of a boy who has just completed "Hockey School" at the Georgetown Arena, we

wish to express our thanks and admiration to all the wonderful men who organized the school and were at the arena every evening while the classes carried on.

A very special thanks to the young men who acted as instructors to the aspiring young hockey players, their kindness and patience will long be appreciated. Thank you in one and all, Tony and Mid Brunski.

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NEWS ECHOES

From the Heralds of 10 and 20 Years Ago

1958

Sandy Best, Conservative MP, said in an interview with The Herald today that he had notification by the Postal Department at Ottawa that another survey of the number of houses in town will be made, and if the required number has been reached, door to door delivery is a certainty.

The rabies plague sweeping across southern Ontario has reached Georgetown. First indication that the dreaded disease was in the area came from the Sykes Tool Corporation at the eastern entrance to town on Wednesday where two employees killed a fox which was acting in an erratic manner. The animal was running in circles on a lot behind the factory. Children have been warned by police to exercise caution around their pets.

1948

Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club has elected its new officers. They are president William Cromar, vice-president R. H. Ireland, secretary-treasurer Walter Gray, games chairman Claude Kentner, grounds chairman Wilfred Lavbie, entertainment chairman Hugh Dickie.

Ernie Crawford of Toronto is the new manager of the Roxy Theatre replacing Jack Polly who resigned his position last week.

Georgetown public school staff were in their rooms to greet pupils' parents at an open house at the school, Thursday. Members of the staff are: principal Howard Wrigglesworth, Mr. George Bale, Mrs. Edna Tapp, Mrs. Joseph Dwyer, Miss May Langan, Miss Hazel Harrison, Miss Laura Scott, Miss Wilma Stull, Miss Marie Lindsay, and Miss Beatrice Hume.

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Set Polling Stations December Elections

Polling stations have been established for Georgetown's December elections.

In Ward 1, there will be three polls at St. John's United Church, two in the fire hall and one at the municipal building, with others in private homes, including the home of Mrs. Ken Richardson.

Ward 2 will use Knox Presbyterian Church, Maple Baptist Church and the Metro Halton building.

Ward 3 polls will be at St. Paul's Baptist and St. Andrew's United churches and at the home of Mrs. Robert McNelly.

An advance poll is also planned for the municipal building.

SUGAR AND SPICE
by Bill Smiley

October, I Love You

Low man's crown or my snoring through my impending annual love affair with September. It seemed to hit the spot. Fan mail doubled; from two to four letters. I even received a declaration of love from a lady who shall be nameless.

But October is another matter. I think we Canadians love it in a different way, this most glorious month of the year. It's the month when we wake up, come alive, feel the blood cour-

ing through our impending annual love affair with September.

It's a shattering experience for someone from another country to visit Canada in October. They are used to a change in the fall. Their leaves turn pallid browns and yellows. But when they see a vista of woods and water on a golden Canadian October day, they are literally stricken breathless.