

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Tough Job, But Aren't They All?

Perhaps no tougher than the business world, but more apparent, is the job situation in professional sports.

One couldn't help but be shocked, after Sunday's hockey playoff when Toronto took it on the chin four straight from Boston, to hear a news flash that 'Punch' Imlach had been fired as coach and manager.

This, despite getting his team into the playoffs almost every year for ten years, and winning three or four Stanley Cups.

We're still shocked, but after thinking it over, we wonder if this is much different than other fields of work. There are movie stars who win Academy Awards, then flop in a couple of movies and are heard from no more.

And there are men with responsible business positions who suddenly disappear, or end up with a minor position, demoted because they have made an error, lost some of their zip, or been in the way of an up and coming younger man.

The difference is that when one has

a position in the world of entertainment or politics, a situation like the one that took place Sunday is in the public domain. Everyone has an opinion on a hockey coach's efficiency. Everyone thinks they know how good of how badly he does his job.

Firing of a man of Imlach's stature is national news. And being in the entertainment world, it becomes dramatic, a production in itself.

In business, it's different. Even the hardest boss wouldn't dismiss a man at the Christmas party. Nor would he tell a newspaper reporter two minutes later that Mr. X would be no longer with the firm.

It would be done with more finesse, discreetly.

But it would be none the less final, none the less an upset to a man who had given his best to his job.

It's a tough, cruel world, one which could stand more compassion, more use of the Christian virtues to which most of us give only lip service.

Where Were the Economists?

When the Ontario department of education embarked on its massive new program of consolidating school districts, we were among those who doubted the advance publicity about economy being one of the factors in the decision.

Now the department finds itself in a bind, with municipalities screaming at the increased taxes which face them. So bad was the situation last week that the government decided to investigate the whole set-up, for in some towns education taxes will be boosted more than one hundred per cent.

No doubt some compromise will be worked out, for no government in power is going to shoulder the blame for increasing local taxes.

Chances are the excess costs will come from the province, in the hopes that the voters will forget all about it, forgetting that the money will come from them, albeit in a more roundabout way.

What's To Do?

Easy to criticize, but what would you do, is the logical question for one to put to the above.

We don't pretend to be an expert on education, but we have some experience in business, and we can see no reason why a government department cannot operate on business lines.

Education can no more be static than coating paper, producing plastic products, or automobile parts, as some of our Georgetown industries do.

But improvements can be made gradually, tested for efficiency, financially analyzed, before a reckless plunge into the unknown.

Education in Ontario has already an almost unsolvable financial problem with its teachers' federation, perhaps the most powerful union in the country. From twenty years ago, when a teacher was grossly underpaid, we have reached the stage where salaries are on a higher level than similar jobs in industry, and where teachers are not satisfied with guaranteed yearly increases of three or four hundred dollars, but each year negotiate a further increase in base rate.

More and more we hear that public school teachers will someday be required

to have a university degree, and those who now possess this receive a much higher salary.

And yet does a degree, pieced together from winter extension courses and attendance at summer school, with no stipulation that the subject matter be designed to public school teaching, make any better teacher? And could it not be that the strain of study and assignments can hamper a teacher's efficiency while he grinds towards his B.A.?

To this we have now added an administrative hierarchy with salaries which stagger the business world. We are introducing new features like open classrooms, eliminating grading and exams, without training teachers to cope with the new concepts. Now we talk of 'lay assistants' to help... but if the teachers' federation reacts like other labour unions, there will be small chance of doing this, unless the assistants get the same pay scale.

Our solution, then, is to engage some good businessmen, schooled in making wise decisions, in tying money and product together, to head our school system before it is too late. Make changes, certainly, but study and test them, weighing the pros and cons.

80 Boys Potential for 'Big Brother'

The Big Brothers of Canada held an open meeting Thursday evening at Cedarvale to discuss the possibility of forming a Branch of this organization in Georgetown.

Mr. Herb Kellond of Hamilton, past president of Big Brothers of Canada, addressed the group of interested Georgetowners, giving the background of the movement, and citing numerous examples of fatherless boys who have been aided by Big Brothers.

Mrs. Geraldine Barnes, a Georgetown resident who is actively interested in the organ-

ization, reported on a survey movement, the Kinettes and the taken in local schools, which showed that there are at least 80 fatherless boys in Georgetown, many of whom could benefit from a "Big Brother" program.

Mr. Pat Dillon, a former Georgetown area resident, and a member of Toronto Big Brothers, made the point that formerly, a fatherless boy would often have an "Uncle Charlie" to take him under his wing, but that, in our mobile society of today, there is often no male relative nearby to act as a father substitute. This is where the Big Brother organization can help.

Although attendance at this exploratory meeting was encouraging, it was disappointing that more service clubs were not represented. Only the Jaycees, who are the organizing force of the Georgetown Big Brother

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CROWN OF THORNS

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JIM SNOW REPORTS

This week the Legislature continued its examination of departmental estimates and is now considering the expenditures proposed by the Department of Social and Family Services for the coming year.

The Department of Transport has announced the preparation of a new traffic safety film. The new film is entitled the "Reid Memorial Film" and is 1967. It outlines the variety of activities carried out by the Oakville Safety Council throughout the year, and would be of interest to any community safety council or group wishing to form a safety council in their area. The film is dedicated to the late Reid Forsee, Oakville Safety Council Chairman.

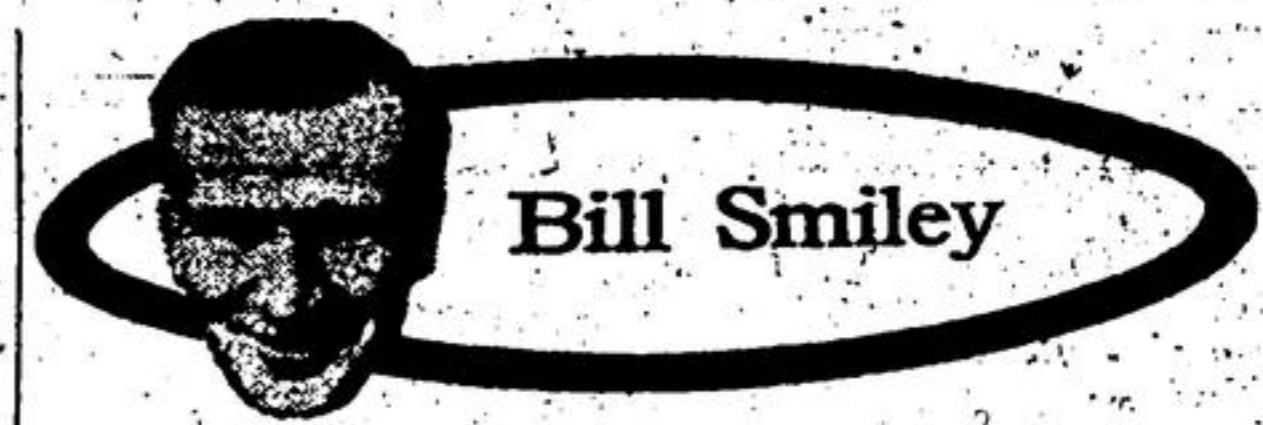
er. We all know the contribution the late Mr. Forsee made to the safety programs of Ontario, and I am very pleased indeed that the Department has seen fit to honour Mr. Forsee in this way. Only a limited quantity of prints are available but anyone wishing to borrow the film should write to the Ontario Department of Transport, Highways Safety Branch, Room 358, Ferguson-Block, Queen's Park, Toronto 5.

This week The Honourable Irwin Haskett, the Minister of Transport, announced the statistical results of his Department relating to motor vehicle collisions. During the year, the number of registered motor vehicles rose by 4.9%, and the estimated mileage rose by 6.6% to approximately 26.7 billion miles. Collisions, injuries and property damage all grew at a faster rate than the increase in motor vehicle population. During 1968, there were 1586 traffic deaths compared with 1,719 deaths in 1967. This was the lowest number of deaths in four years. However, the total number of collisions increased by 7% and the total number of persons injured rose by 6.3% to a total of 71,520. The amount of property damage rose by 12.4% to a total of \$9.6 million dollars. Mr. Haskett stated the most common driver error, in fatal collisions, according to the police reports

was speed too fast for road or traffic conditions, accounting for 13% of the total. Inattentive driving was the second most common error at 11%. Sixty per cent of the drivers involved in fatal collisions were reported to be driving improperly in some way. In non-fatal collisions, fatalities dropped during the year by 14.5%.

Following the release of these statistics, the Minister announced the proposed crackdown on drivers who break traffic laws by his Department which is expected to also provide greater safety to all motorists on the Ontario highways. In introducing nearly 100 amendments to the Ontario Highway Traffic Act to the Legislature, Mr. Haskett pointed out that the tougher penalties for serious offences and the overhauling of the entire system of deterrents would achieve a greater degree of traffic safety. He said the changes were aimed at irresponsible drivers who invite collisions by their shocking disrespect for the laws of traffic.

On Wednesday, The Honourable George Gomme, the Minister of Highways, presented the Legislature with the highway construction program of the Department for the year 1969-70. The main highway program according to the police reports



Bill Smiley

Students are After Me

If you hear that my house has been burned, or that student rioters have occupied my study and taken axes to my typewriter, don't be surprised. The student militants are after me.

Their hackles were raised when I suggested in a recent column that they get away with everything but murder.

I said it and I mean it. There shouldn't be one law for the rich and another for the poor. And there shouldn't be one law for some poor devil of a kid who gets six months for stealing something worth \$35 and another law for students who commit arson, destroy property and are hailed as martyrs.

From Halifax, one Barrie Sandman launches an attack, after condescendingly telling me that he is not a regular reader of my column, but 'glad-eyes over it' once in a while.

While admitting that he is not one of them, he defends student activists. Without them, says he, nothing would be accomplished in getting rid of the dead hand of administration in the universities.

In that case, why are you not one of them, young Barrie? Are you one of the hundreds of thousands who sit back and let a few do the dirty work, and then get on the gravy train when the smoke has cleared? There's a mixed metaphor I defy even an Irishman to better.

His letter is too long to quote, but he adopts a familiar type of 'logic' in it. When you can't refute the argument, attack the speaker. So he accuses me of writing something serious; being a subscriber to Time magazine; hiding behind someone else's opinions; writing for right wing fanatics; mud slinging; and worst of all, probably being double-chinned. That gives you an idea of the coherency of the letter.

Dear boy, you are 120 per cent wrong. I often write seriously; never read Time except in the dentist's office; never hide behind other's opinions; write for Canadians from plumber to politician, doctor to ditch digger, teacher to teenager; don't sling mud though sometimes rocks; and have a

chin like a shovel. That's 100 percent. The other 20 per cent is for spelling and grammar errors, though perhaps this is unfair, as you are obviously a college student.

As though this weren't enough, comes a searing letter, dripping with sarcasm, from a young lady in Red Deer, Alta. It encloses a paragraph from my column, out of context, and is on behalf of all militant students.

Somehow, I emerge as the villain. "We have destroyed parks, universities, and computers; but you and your glib following have broken the mental barriers and destroyed the values and inhibitions that held us back. Someone had to unleash the hounds and I don't think they should go unnoticed." Who? The hounds?

Then she compares me with her dad, who apparently wasn't strict enough. Then: "We kids let ourselves go sometimes but what an orgy of unrestrained jealousy your generation has had."

Dear girl, say it isn't so. I haven't broken a mental barrier or destroyed any values or inhibitions (including my own) for years. And I have never yet unleashed a single hound. I, too, let myself go sometimes. But unrestrained jealousy? Pity is the emotion I feel most often towards young people.

Then she attacks newspapermen. "You sure know how to use the old axe. If we stole their (politicians) car they'd have it back tomorrow. You can take their name and reputation and get paid for it." Nonsense, love. If you stole a car, you'd be arrested. If I stole a name or reputation, I'd be sued for libel.

Final excerpt: "The smart ones work behind the scenes and let others go to jail. Besides, you've solved the problem of eternal youth." I'm afraid I don't get the connection. But I'd be happy to serve a jail term if the latter statement were true. You should have my burritus, kid, along with my falling hair, teeth and arches.

All I can say is: Student activism — yes; student terrorism — no.

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