

Have to Move if Taxes Keep Rising, Tell Davis

"A minority of ratepayers in Esquesing are being adversely affected by the province's method of apportioning municipal costs for education," trustee William Lawson declared this week.

He pointed out that last year the Department recognized Esquesing's ability to pay for education and made grants of 55 per cent. This year the Department looks at the whole county and pays only 47 per cent of the costs.

Agriculture which makes up only 37 per cent of the township's assessment is the minority adversely affected where education costs this year will be more than the total tax last year, the trustee emphasized.

In a letter to the Minister of Education, Esquesing Township

Council protests "not only the amount but the division of the proposed levy of the Halton Council Board of Education".

The letter protests that the method of distribution of costs, using the provincial equalizing factor instead of the county equalization bylaw, has resulted in an increase in the levy for education from Esquesing of 32.67 per cent.

"This is particularly hard on the farmers in the Township. In spite of the so-called urban sprawl, 37 per cent of our assessment is still farm assessments. It would seem that the purpose of this act was to drive the farmers off the land and to make it easier for the speculators who have been moving in".

Examples of the effects of the education levy on farms of 300

acres, of 200 acres, 100 acres and residential lots, were cited.

The examples of a 300 acre farm showed the 1969 education tax of \$2,130.13 was up by \$345.85 over the total 1968 levy for all purposes of \$1,784.28. A 200 acre farm was indicated with education tax this year of \$1,221.33 compared to last year's total levy of \$1,247.86.

"As you can see from these tables, the farms in Esquesing Township are going to take a terrific beating, because even with the most rigid economy on the part of the council these farms are going to be taxed from \$500 to \$1,000 more than they were last year and last year's taxes were by no means cheap. In the long run it will mean that the farmer will have to sell out and go somewhere else, and the political repercussions will be tremendous", the Esquesing letter tells the Minister.

Halton Joins Protest Education Too Costly

Halton County Council has joined the fight against soaring education costs in the county.

The council agreed at a meeting Tuesday, April 22nd to have its finance committee prepare a brief to be presented to Education minister William Davis.

Council took the action after endorsing an Ontario County resolution protesting increased school costs under the new regional boards of education.

Five of the seven municipalities in Halton, including Georgetown, Esquesing, Oakville, Milton and Nassagaweya have already balked at accepting the Halton board of education's budget.

Oakville deputy reeve William Gillies said the county should become the focal point for protests to the education minister. He urged the county to bring the municipalities together and arrange a meeting with Davis.

Gillies urged that the brief be presented in person by as many people as possible.

Reeve George Gallagher of Burlington disagreed saying it is up to the Halton Board of Education to protest if it is not getting enough money from the province.

Other county council members replied that it is the municipalities which have to raise the money for education and not the board which just presents the bill.

First Year

This is the first year of the regional education boards and across the province there has been much criticism of the Board's first budgets. In Halton where 10 local school boards were consolidated into the one regional board, the criticism has been as strong as anywhere in Ontario.

Board Chairman Halton Board chairman Fred Armitage said last week that criticism of high municipal taxes for education should be aimed at the provincial government and not the board.

The board has complained that the provincial government is favoring Ontario's city areas over smaller urban and rural areas when it comes to paying.

SMILE

"Did the audience call for the author to come out at the play last night?"

"Yeah, they dared him to come out."



Halton MP Rud L. Whiting reports from Ottawa.

I AM WRITING this column shortly after the prime minister announced in the House of Commons the resignation of the Honourable Paul Hellyer, Minister of Transport, and also the Minister in charge of Housing.

I HAVE A high regard for Mr. Hellyer. He was an able Minister of the Crown. He headed up the task force on housing which made its report some two and a half months ago. I am most anxious that some of the recommendations in this report be enacted as soon as possible to help alleviate the housing shortage in Canada.

While the 200,000 housing start this year is unparalleled in history, I believe we are still not building enough housing accommodation for those people in the middle and lower income brackets.

MR. HELLYER'S political career began in 1949 when he won election in the Toronto riding of Davenport at the age of 25.

HE BECAME Parliamentary Secretary to the Defence Minister in 1956 and Associate Defence Minister in 1957, just six weeks before the Liberal government was defeated. He himself was defeated both in 1957 and 1958 but came back with a by-election victory late in 1958.

AS DEFENCE Minister in 1964 he introduced a white paper on the integration of the Armed Forces. The final act unifying the three Forces passed through Parliament in 1967. During that time he was the storm centre of opposition from within the Forces, from the Commons Opposition and from some within the Liberal party.

JUST A little over a year ago Paul Hellyer was one of the

main contenders in the Liberal leadership race and, at one point, it appeared that Mr. Hellyer had a good chance of winning.

MR. HELLYER plans to remain as a Member of Parliament representing the Toronto riding of Trinity. He is in my opinion the type of man who will continue to fight for the principles he believes in.

IT WAS MY pleasure to attend a breakfast meeting last Monday, sponsored by the Oakville and District Chamber of Commerce. One of their aims during this week was to increase their membership by a hundred and I wish them every success.

THE CHAMBER of Commerce serves a very useful function to the community and all levels of government. We have in Halton very active Chambers who are making their contribution.

SMILE

"Don't you remember me?"

"Well, you do seem rather fresh in my mind."

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the people of the Town of Georgetown have accepted the challenge to combat hunger, disease, ignorance and poverty in developing nations and have supported the committees of Oxfam of Canada, UNICEF and "Y" World Service by personal participation and sponsorship of walkers;

THEREFORE, I hereby declare SATURDAY, MAY 3rd, 1969, as

"MILES FOR MILLIONS WALK DAY"

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WHELDON, EMMERSON, Mayor.

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