

EDITORIAL COMMENT
A Mounting Problem

Reluctance of most of today's doctors to make house calls, even in the most dire emergencies, is not a Georgetown phenomenon.

Wherever one goes, there are similar stories — a child sick with a high fever — a man with a heart attack — a nasty cut. People pleading with their family physician to come, or being flatly turned down by doctors who have never tended them before.

The days are gone when the country doctor and the general practitioner in the city dedicated their whole life to their profession.

Until the forties, it was customary for a doctor to have his office in his home, to be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to put profession above his family.

Different Today

One can no more expect today's doctors to repeat the country doctor pattern of living, than you can expect other lines of endeavour to remain static.

The doctors we speak about flourished in the days when a working man's week was sixty hours or more; when store employees toiled five and a half days and two nights; when a week's vacation was the ultimate.

People lived more quietly — earlier to bed and earlier to rise. In the evening's they tended huge gardens, sat on their front porches or exchanged a bit of gossip over the back fence with a neighbour.

What's the Solution?

Today, then, we face the problem of what's to be done.

For while everything else may have changed, there are still sudden illnesses, still places where a doctor should go to the patient.

One step which might be suggested is that health plans be like most other forms of insurance — a \$50 or \$100 deductible clause. Health insurance should not be designed to save a man from the small bills, but rather to insure against illnesses which can cripple him financially.

Don't Underestimate Power Of Backbenchers: Whiting

After his first full session in The House of Commons with many other freshman MPs like himself, Halton's Rud Whiting foresees a more active voice for the new government backbenchers when Parliament resumes this fall.

"I learned a great deal in the first year," said Whiting. "I think this was the largest group of new members the House has ever seen, and we were all a little scared and unsure. Now we're more relaxed and at home."

Whiting said the main problem faced by new members in the last session was the fact "much of the legislation was already there to deal with, left from the Pearson administration."

"We had ample opportunity to express an opinion on the legislation, but without having been in on its preparation, it was sometimes quite difficult to make a recommendation."

"Sure there have been rumours that many backbenchers are dissatisfied with their so-called 'lack of voice' in government policy, but I think this dissatisfaction also applies to the opposition. I don't have any doubt whatsoever we'll have more to say when the next session begins."

Whiting pointed out one area in which he was able to play a part in affecting government policy despite his new-member status.

"When the estate tax came up for debate I received numerous letters from my constituents considered about a ceiling of only \$20,000 for non-taxable estates."

"Of each letter I received, I sent a copy to Finance Minister Benson, as well as answering them personally."

"I was literally snowed under with mail from constituents." After holding meetings throughout the riding with citizens and tax experts, cutting his vacation short and returning to Ottawa, Whiting told the minister he couldn't support the legislation.

Lengthy debate in the House went against the bill, and it was amended to raise the ceiling to \$50,000.

"This just emphasizes the amount of power John Q. Citizen holds, and I believe he is becoming more aware of this power."

Letters

The Halton MP receives "at least a dozen letters a day," at his Parliament Hill office and gives each a personal reply.

"I also get quite a number of people coming to me to arrange appointments with a government minister or other official and I'm usually successful in getting them to the person they want to see."

"It's encouraging the fast action you can usually get by a simple phone call to a minister or a civil servant."

Whiting puts in a full week at the Ottawa office, arriving every morning from an Ottawa hotel at 8:30 and usually not leaving until midnight.

Even then, the long day isn't over. "Before I turn in, I make it a point to call home every night,

His practice operated like today's corner store. If he had an hour between patients, he retired to his kitchen for a bite to eat, to his den or to his bed. He took an occasional vacation, a day or two now and then.

He was jealous of his practice; always ready to welcome a new patient, possessed of almost unbelievable energy and patience.

He enjoyed a comfortable income, though not a luxurious one, for his heart was usually bigger than his head, and like most professional men in those days, he was not the best bill collector.

A good share of his payment was something you don't buy with dollars . . . prestige. He enjoyed a unique status in a community. Everyone knew him, everyone loved him, and, after his life had ended, everyone remembered him.

Doctors, today, like most other people, have undergone radical changes.

Health plans which guarantee payment, more attention to mild ailments which people used to treat themselves, have swelled a doctor's business to the point where once he has acquired a certain number of continuing patients he signs off with strangers.

Today doctors have the highest per capita income in Canada. And they want to spend it. They allow themselves plenty of vacation time. They want to have weekends free, enjoy an evening out with friends, do all the things that their patients do in their spare time.

ative treatment.

Such clauses in health plans could relieve doctors of many minor things, allowing more time for the major.

Another is a working arrangement among all doctors in a community regarding office hours, vacations and night duty. A central agency could be established where emergency calls can be funnelled and a doctor located immediately.

Perhaps tying in with this, could be an organization like the Victorian Order of Nurses, home helpers trained in first aid, a nurses group which would visit homes.

Such a group could rush to an emergency, assess its seriousness and if they could not deal with it, could contact a doctor and assure him that he was needed.

Business As Usual

Although Whiting spends the weekends at his Riverside Drive home in Oakville with his wife, Anne, and their two children Jamie and Tracey, it's often business as usual for him.

"The first call usually comes about 10 a.m. Saturday, but an MP just has to get used to calls at any time of the day or night. It's all part of the job."

"Despite the hectic working hours, and all the travelling back and forth from Ottawa, I still wouldn't give it up for the world."

"Any time the family and I do get to spend together is appreciated even more."

Plight of Elderly

One major concern for the Halton MP is the plight of the elderly with no other source of income but old age pensions.

"These people are really caught up in the squeeze of the high cost of living."

"Back in the days of the depression, or before, when these people were at the height of their working career, no one ever thought of company pension plans or things of this nature."

"Consequently they have only their old age pension to live on, and they are totally unprepared."

He said even with the new pension supplement, pensioners receive only a little over \$100 a month.

"I got a letter today from a



PRINCE VALIANT

pensioner who is receiving only \$109 a month even with the supplement.

"This person has to pay \$120 a month just for an apartment to live in. I don't know how he can manage."

"Others I know have to itemize every penny, just to come up with \$5 left at the end of the month."

"There's something very wrong about expecting people to live on these pensions when it's their only source of income."

PM Impresses

Generally, he seemed pleased with his first year in Parliament, and was impressed by Prime Minister Trudeau.

"He's a strong leader," said Whiting. "The type we've needed for a long time."

"He'll listen to valid criticism, but he'll also take a stand when the going gets tough."

"It's not 'yes' to one member then 'yes' to another on the opposite side of a controversial issue."

"Those days are past," he said with relief.

On the other hand, the prime minister has impressed Whiting as "just a regular guy."

"The free wheeling, open type of personality the people are is just the kind of guy he is."

Whiting had harsh words, however, for members of the Opposition and public alike who feel it necessary to resort to heckling and name calling to get their point across.

"The prime minister is very easy to talk to, and I'm a little disgusted by people who resort to these tactics."

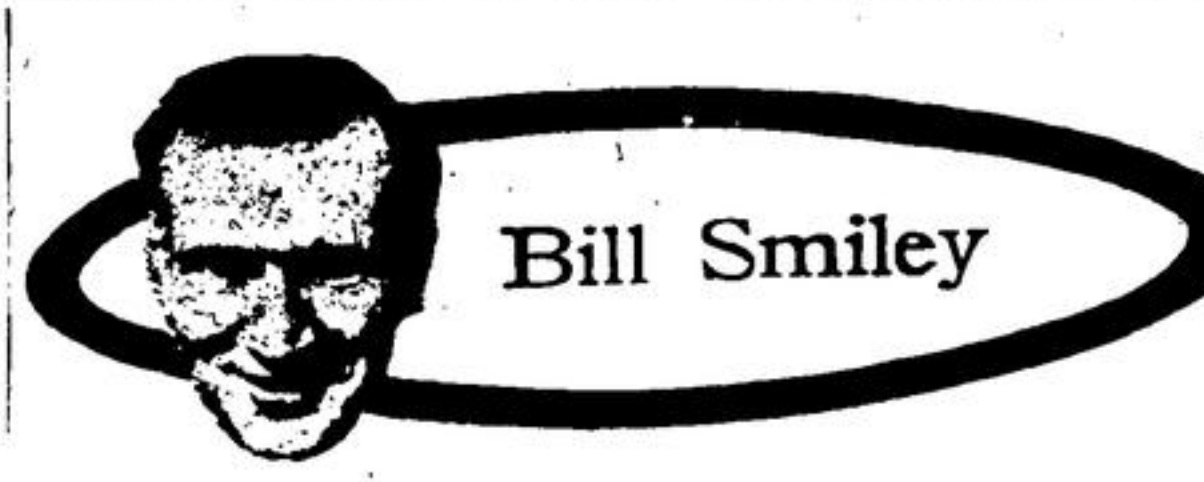
"Hecklers and unruly demonstrators accomplish nothing, and only spoil it for those who genuinely want the PM's ear."

Seek Extra Grants For Options in Tech.-Comm.

A brief asking Minister of Education William Davis to consider providing vocational grants recognizing additional costs for students choosing single technical or commercial options will be sent by the Halton County Board of Education

Under present grant regulations, only additional costs for students taking two or more technical or commercial options are recognized, placing a greater financial burden on local boards, the brief states.

Davis' March 1969, announcement that in September, 1970 all secondary schools in the province would be expected to organize on a credit system "with students choosing subjects from four areas of study — communications, social sciences pure and applied sciences and art — rather than being organized under the three branches (arts and science, business and commerce, and science, technology and trades) has significant implications for the use of vocational facilities



Bill Smiley

THE KIDS ARE PATHETIC

It's been a rough summer for a lot of people including yours truly. There's nothing like getting home, exhausted, after a trip and finding (a) that your wife has lost the house key and you have to break in through a cellar window, and (b) that an oak limb 40 feet long and ten inches thick has fallen across your hydro lines during a storm.

However, these are minor things, I got into the house with no more than a scraped knee and a bad temper, and a good neighbour had climbed up and sawed the limb in two, allowing half of it to crash down on my fence.

But this is a mere bagatelle compared to what others have gone through. Teachers are supposed to recharge their batteries during the summer vacation, and hit school in September, tanned, fit and bursting with idealism.

We'll be lucky to open this fall, the way our staff is folding up. A hernia and a heart attack, a total collapse from exhaustion, various slipped discs and other ailments have decimated the ranks. All I have is a touch of heartburn, and I attribute that to a couple of days of Bloody Marys for breakfast, served by friends we were visiting.

It's been a bad summer for a lot of parents. First, two kids I met on a visit to the old home town, told me nonchalantly that they had flunked their first year at College. Their parents were n't quite so nonchalant. Apoplectic is the word.

Same day I met an old friend who was at his cottage. They'd left one son at home, working. The night before, my friend had received a call from the police in his home-town. They raided a big teen-age party. At his place.

A friend of my daughter, a pretty, blonde 17 year old, had a stroke and her right side is paralyzed. No need to ask how her family feels.

A distraught mother told me three weeks ago that her 14 year-old daughter had disappeared, run off with another kid. She phoned, collect, this week from Vancouver. Alive, but who knows what she's been doing? The lady is a good mother, in every way. Has two daughters, one a fine, steady girl, the other a young rip. Why?

In the secondary schools" the brief states.

In Halton County, where six secondary schools will be operating within the terms of Davis' announcement, the number of students choosing single shop and commercial options "was increased very significantly," says the brief.

And everywhere you see them on the highways, dirty, bearded, long-haired. Hitch-hiking from nowhere to nowhere.

Some of them cluster in communes in the big cities. A commune is usually a falling down house in a slum area. It has a kitchen of sorts, a toilet that works occasionally, and the rest of the floor space is covered by mattresses and sleeping bags.

Theoretically, everyone contributes for food, rent and the chores. In reality, there are usually two or three working and the rest just drift in and out like alley cats. This produces personality clashes & hassles and a very unhealthy psychological atmosphere. Add drugs to this boar's nest and you have some pretty sick young people.

They claim they're opting out of a sick society. Work is a dirty word. They are meditating, seeking a higher spiritual life. There's a lot of talk about vibrations and Buddha and pure love for everyone. All this in a pig pen?

The young people are rather pathetic, but I grieve more for their parents, who simply don't know how to cope with a way of thinking and living so alien to their own. They are loving, frustrated, and helpless.

And I save a little pity for myself. Got a letter from my daughter, from Montreal, telling me cheerfully that she had one cent. Wired her some money yesterday. Got a collect call this morning, saying she could not cash it because she had no proof of identity. Phoned the Montreal telegraph office, told them it was OK to cash it. No can do. Confirmation had to come from our local wire office. Called them, got off a wire and presumably she cashed in, as she hasn't called back yet.

So, the original bite, plus two wires, plus two long-distance calls to Montreal. Should all kids, at birth, be placed out on a lonely hillside for the shepherds to adopt? We might be flooded with shepherd's pie, but it would certainly make life a lot simpler.

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NEWS ECHOES
From the Heralds of 10, 20 and 30 Years Ago

- Two handicapped Georgetown swim class pupils, Terry Kennedy, 2 Water St., and Jack Wild, 18 Byron St. were cited for their progress at the pool last Wednesday evening when they were awarded special Gus Ryder trophies during the annual water show here. The presentations were made by mayor Jack Armstrong, Pearce Porter chaired the affair with Jim Jones handling the commentary.
Georgetown Arena will be wearing a new look when a \$35,000 remodelling project now underway is completed in October. Hamilton Construction has already emputated the useless west wing of the John Street structure which at one time housed a two sheet curling rink.
Under discussion for several years, a decision has been made to move Georgetown's War Memorial to a new location. With sanction of Branch 120, Canadian Legion, council decided last night to move the cenotaph to a small park being created at the corner of Charles St. and James St.
Announcing his retirement as mayor after a term of thirteen years, Mayor Joseph Gibbons has accepted an appointment as assessor. He will vacate his office October 17th. Appointment of a new assessor was necessitated when Annot Early resigned in order to take a position as vendor of the new liquor store which is expected to open here the end of the year.
Winning top honours in their class at the Canadian National Exhibition last Thursday, the Lorne Scots Band brought further honours to themselves and the town. The Lorne Scots scored 274 of a possible 300 points. Adding to their laurels two band members won gold medals, Joe Wilcox for cornet solo and Fred Leace for euphonium solo.
Five pretty Georgetown girls finished well up in the standings in a beauty contest which attracted a large number of entries in Oakville last week. Entered from Georgetown were Evelyn Sanderson, Mary Cummins, Jennie Farmer, Shirley Dillon and Jean McDonald.
With war clouds threatening Europe and the peace of the whole world during the past week, militia units in Ontario have been on guard at various strategic points. Their duty is to guard against sabotage. Guards were placed at all government buildings, airports, canals, power plants and armouries. The Georgetown armoury is being guarded 24 hours a day by members of the local company of Lorne Scots. The CBC radio tower at Hornby is being guarded by returned men on three-hour duty.

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