

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Pros & Cons in Voting

Lowering the voting age to 18 years, which seems to be in the cards federally, is like any other subject, one which has its pros and cons.

It would seem that in this country we say a man is ready for marriage, for the working world, for driving an automobile, for serving in the armed forces. Yet we deny him the right to help choose his government—the government which sets many of the regulations by which he must legally abide.

One can argue that many 18 year olds are not yet mature enough to have sensible views on matters of public concern. One can also argue that some are wiser than many of their seniors for age does not necessarily jibe with maturity.

In today's troubled times, with so much talk about generation gaps, and youthful protest, it would be easy for the adult world to brush off a lower voting age, to say 'Let's wait till things simmer down.'

But do things ever really simmer down?

Perhaps the major differences between a youth who grew up in the twenties or forties, and the 1969 version, is that adults tend to pay too much attention to a generation gap which was always there, to play up youthful indiscretions instead of taking them with a grain of salt and looking at the disturbers of twenty years ago, now comfortably ensconced in the 'establishment' as we are inclined to call the workday world.

We don't think lowering the voting age will have any harmful effect on our way of life. Too few adults in Canada appreciate the privilege of free elections, as statistics show. Perhaps a lower age will be enervating to adults. If youngsters tend to be too radical, to make bad judgments, then the adults may pay more heed when voting day comes and make sure they use that precious franchise.

We Graduated, Too

There was nostalgia for this writer in attending the commencement exercises at the high school last week.

It marked our final break with elementary and secondary school education, as our number three young hopeful received his certificate. This fall, for the first time in 23 years, we have no personal reason to attend a school function, to visit a school on parents' night, attend a Christmas concert, hear news of what went on at school today.

As students filed by to receive their diplomas, as various speakers appeared on the platform, as the orchestra performed, our thoughts wandered through those years, and a procession of teachers and pupils passed before our eyes.

They were good years, good for us and good for our three children, and our gratitude goes to a country which provides such a fine educational system, and to the teachers who guided them through the

important formative years of their lives.

At times we have been critical when we feel that teachers are putting dollars too much to the fore. No one expects them to return to the days when much of their pay was in status and security and they were grossly underpaid in relation to others with similar, and many with much less education.

The pendulum has swung and today teachers are organized, and never again will be subject to penny-pinching trustees. They are receiving salaries commensurate with the job, have advantages of pension plans, longer vacations, and salary schedules which provide automatic yearly increases.

Would it not be possible, then, for teachers some year to agree that their salaries are adequate, and to give the taxpayer some relief from the crippling education taxes which seem to be going nowhere but up?

Could Use More Awards

One thing which could be used in today's high school is more awards to be presented at commencement.

There was a day when awards and students were almost equal in number and almost every graduate received some sort of recognition.

The number of students has multiplied and it is possible now only to acknowledge the few at the top with awards available.

There are many new business firms

in town who would be happy to oblige if they were asked, and many, perhaps, who have just never thought of it.

School authorities would be overjoyed if they were contacted and offered a prize. Many donors specify the field in which their prize is to be awarded. Others leave it to the discretion of the school administration.

Either way, you will do a service to the school system and help a deserving student in a tangible way.

OUR ECONOMY . . .

Some Tax Changes, But Capital Gains Sure Thing

by Frank Flaherty
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Thanks to Finance Minister Benson's paper on tax reform most Canadians can now figure out the way they will be taxed over the next decade. Some people are sure to pay more, especially those who make capital gains.

On the short run, at least, a lot of small income people are going to pay less, some a lot less in relation to the amount of income they have been accustomed to have left after paying their taxes. These are the moderate and low income earners who will benefit, in dollar terms at least, from the raising of exemptions. The big fellows in the \$50,000 and up income tax brackets may also pay less because of a lower percentage levy on the top brackets of the big incomes.

Many of them, however, will pay more in actual dollars because of the decision to tax capital gains. No longer will taxpayers have an incentive to work and plan for profits rather than a steady flow of income from wages, salaries, interest and dividends. This may mean less business for the brokerage business.

The fact that Canada remained without a capital gains tax for so long while other advanced

countries used it has intrigued many foreigners. Some attribute it to 'conservatism.' Canadian reformers tend to blame it on an undue dominance of wealthy individuals in the Liberal and Conservative parties.

Most business organizations in the country have consistently opposed it. Their argument which apparently carried weight with successive governments was that a young and undeveloped country needs capital and should reward the people who accumulate and invest capital. Another popular argument was that capital gains are highly unstable and, since governments need a steady flow of income, they shouldn't rely on them.

No capital gains tax is conceivable without allowing for capital losses. The Benson tax will do that. This means that in boom times like the present the finance minister will get a lot of revenue from capital gains taxes. In slack times when prices are dropping his revenue will fall rapidly and he'll have to boost the rates of tax on earned incomes at a time when employment may be declining.

That argument is probably finished now because, whether good or bad, no government is ever likely to let go of a source of revenue.

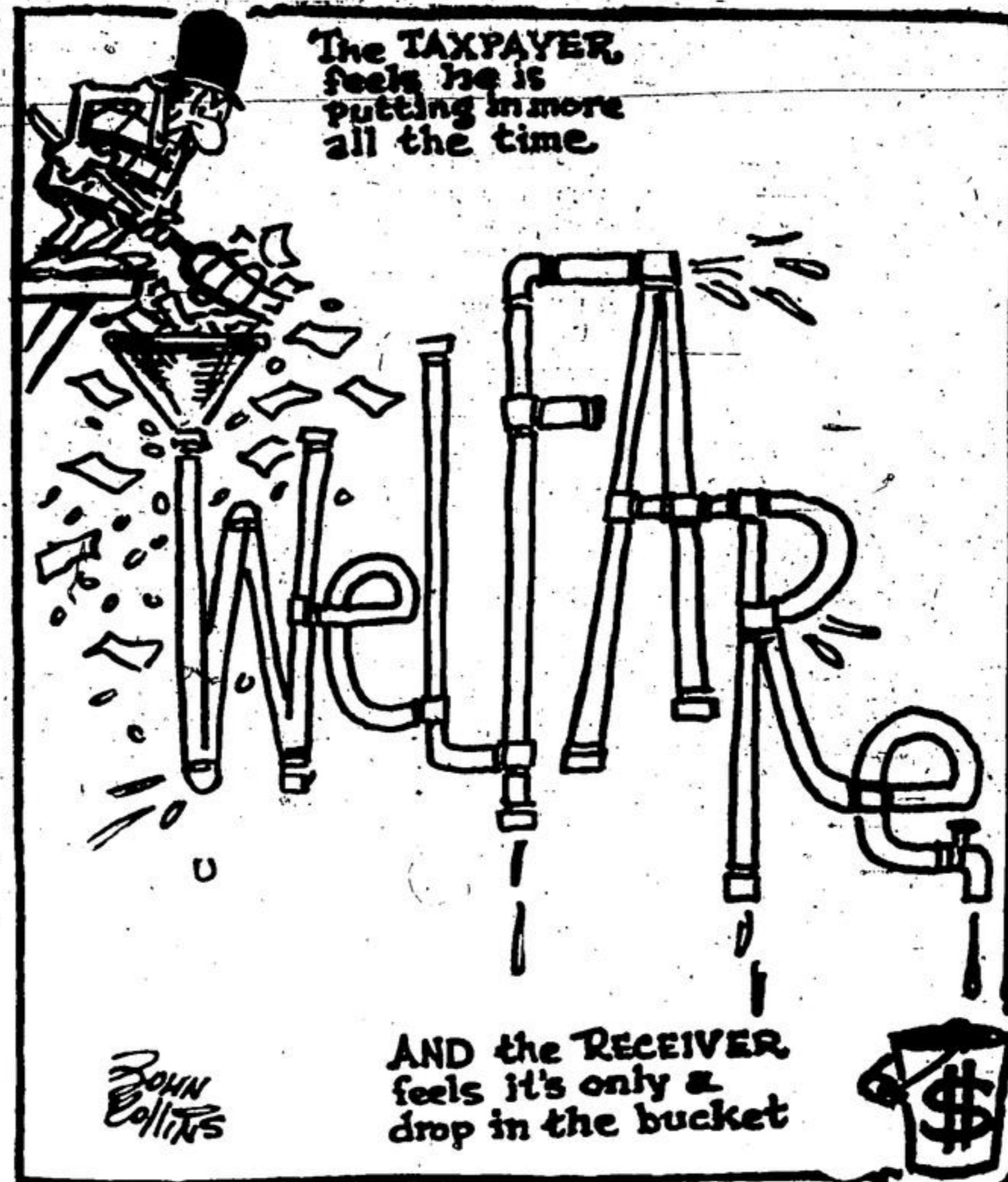
Canadians will have to wait

for the next budget to see just how large the capital gains tax is expected to bulk in the government's total intake. As of now it's clear the minister expects it to more than cover the revenue loss stemming from increasing the exemptions and thereby lower the tax load on low and medium incomes.

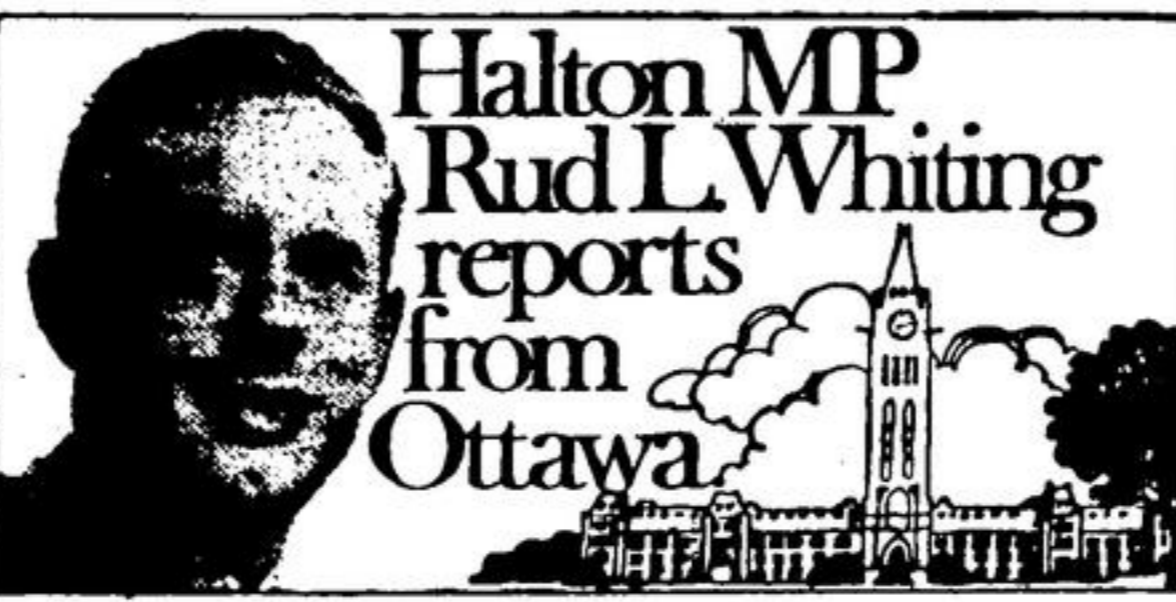
Benson's statisticians say that had the new tax plan been in operation last year 750,000 fewer Canadians would have paid any income tax, 3,100,000 would have paid less tax 820,000 would have paid about the same, and 3,030,000 would have paid more.

One of the biggest disappointments this year has been the failure of the top leadership of the trade union movement to support the drive for wage and price stability. It leaves the recently created Prices and Incomes Commission out on a limb. John H. Young, the Vancouver economics professor who heads the board, however, says he's not giving up.

Addressing a Labour Relations conference at Montreal he rebutted suggestions that the commission had suggested labor should bear the whole load. The Board had in mind "a formula or set of criteria defining what constituted a justifiable price increase in present circumstances and a corresponding.



DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING AT EITHER END



FROM THE phone calls and letters received since Mr. Benson, the Minister of Finance, released his White Paper on Tax Reform, many people in my opinion believe that the contents of this document are to become law. The White Paper contains proposals only and while proposals represent the thinking of the Government, nevertheless none of them can become law until they are incorporated into legislation, presented to Parliament and approved by that body.

THE PURPOSE of a White Paper is to evoke discussion, especially on the part of the public and it is from such discussion the government gets the feelings of the country to guide them in planning legislation they wish to introduce.

THE BENSON White Paper as a document did not contain many surprises as such. Almost every proposal had its origin in the Carter Report published in 1967 which received wide publicity and discussion at that time and since.

THE CARTER Report has been acclaimed throughout the world as the most comprehensive study of taxation ever attempted. It was the first serious effort to study methods of taxation used by governments as sources of revenue.

THE PURPOSE was also to seek ways and means of spreading the tax burden more evenly than at present and to plug the many loopholes that have been unearthed over the years by astute students of taxation or as some call themselves tax experts.

THE CARTER Report was found to be too severe in many of its recommendations. Its basic premise was "A buck is a buck is a buck" no matter its source and should be subject to taxation. This basis for equitable taxation is fine in theory but it lacks practical realism in many areas. However, the Carter Report contained a wealth of information and was written with a great depth of thought. It was from this report that the Benson White Paper had its

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IN THE MAIL BAG

Not Personal, Policy Is Council's Concern

R. N. B.
Milton Ontario

Dear Mr. Editor:

In regard to the Resqueing Township resolution asking the Halton County Board of Education for certain considerations in various areas as it prepares its estimates for 1970, I find it regrettable that Mr. Armitage, in his press release, has seen fit to deflect the reasons for suggesting staff salary reductions and maintaining teacher salary schedules at existing levels, to a personal attack on the Board's employees and teachers. These suggestions are concerned only with Board policy.

The interests of the taxpayer may be served further by suggesting to the Board that the public's romance with education is over. The hard facts of the costs of an educational program that is based on the idea "nothing is too good for my child" are causing many to wonder if, perhaps we should have only the best program we can afford, and to concentrate on seeing that we get it.

The public response to the Resqueing resolution has been both unanimous and gratifying. I thank all those who have taken the trouble to telephone and to stop me on the street to express their views, which are that it is time someone suggested to the Board exactly what Esqueing Council has.

Your truly,
Ken Marshall

NEWS ECHOES

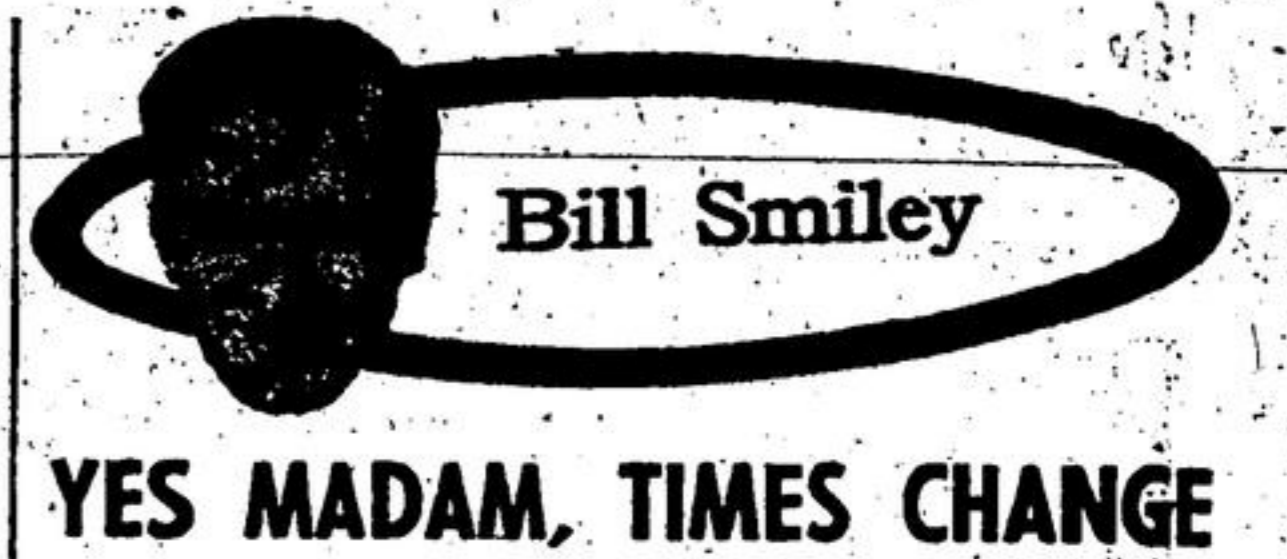
From the Herald's of 10, 20 and 30 Years Ago

1959
● Speaking at the North Halton Urban Board dinner in Erin's Hilltop Lodge Saturday, Halton's M.P.P. Stanley Hall spoke of the growth of Halton County and his hope that one day the entire county might be an amalgamated municipality, a City of Halton, with each of the present municipalities forming a part of the unit.

● Close to \$4,000 in scholarships has been awarded nine Georgetown high school students who achieved success in the academic standings last term. The recipients of the awards were Wade Baker, Pauline Watson, Tom Forgrave, Douglas Sargent, Betty Avery, Rodney Hyde, John Verlis and Virginia Walker.

1949
● The water shortage which has been serious at several times during the past year became critical on Sunday when it was discovered that streams which fed the Silvercreek reservoir had almost completely frozen. An emergency council meeting was called in the afternoon and a sound truck was sent around telling that water was to be used for drinking only and asking housewives not to do their washing. Industrialists were invited to a second meeting in the evening. A resolution has been passed advising Canadian National Railways that the town would be unable to supply water for the locomotives until the emergency was over. The arena's ice plant has also been cut off.

1939
● Due to war conditions and the demand for socks for the soldiers, Brill Hosiery Mills, Georgetown, find their present factory accommodations inadequate to meet the demand of orders placed with them. Due to this rush of business another storey is being added to the factory and when completed will add greatly to the appearance of this building as well as making room for more machines and work. D. Brill, Georgetown and W. Schenk, Glen William, are the proprietors.



Do you know what the upcoming generation of Canadian men is going to marry? Rotten wives. And do you know why? Because the mothers of these potential wives have spoiled them rotten.

They have over-protected them, tried unsuccessfully to impose their own dubious taste on them, and refused to allow their daughters to learn anything practical, like sewing or cooking.

This is not a blanket condemnation, but it certainly applies to many people I know. Nor must I blame it all on mothers. Many fathers aid and abet.

I speak from experience. These middle-aged spoliars are driven by several motives. Most of them were growing up when things were tough all over, and they are ruthlessly determined that their kids are going to have all the "advantages" they couldn't have.

Thus we have a plethora of lessons in music, ballet, figure skating. We have the very latest fashions and fads, regardless of cost. We have cars for kids who would be dangerous on a bicycle.

Another motive is fear. By shielding their children from any and all unpleasantness, including work, they hope to keep them "straight" and out of the clutches of drugs, sex and hippiedom. More often they drive them into trying something out of sheer boredom with their diet of pabulum.

Another reason for the cocoon-like over protection is love. You don't like to see someone you love in trouble, whether it's emotional, financial or legal.

And a final motive is plain laziness. Mothers say "I'd rather do it myself than have to nag at her (or him)." So do fathers. Thus many of the things which middle-aged people consider virtues: punctuality, diligence, courtesy, cleanliness go by the board.

But when you have to tell an 18 year old girl to wash her feet there's something wrong.

My neighbor, whose son is at college was wakened early Saturday morning by a long distance (collect, -turally) call from said son. His car had collapsed and he wanted to buy another one.

Choking back his natural fury, father said he would think it over. Result? He and his wife drove about 300 miles to see the kid and get something settled.

Example two. Our daughter is at college. My wife writes about three times a week, and her letters consist, mostly of "Do this" and "Don't do that."

The kid needed winter boots and a winter coat. This of course is very unusual in Canada, and demands urgent action. And, of course at 18, she's much too young to buy them for herself. And of course she might be lonely in that big city, with no friends.

So we drive through 450 miles of that fog and rain. Counting hotel bill, tips, gas and a couple of dinners out, these boots and that coat cost about four times what they should have.

And then the brat says she isn't lonely at all. That's the only reason I went and I told her so.

However and despite, we had a pleasant weekend. Dining out, we sat beside a young couple. He was a Czech, not long out, very smooth, very handsome. She was a Newfoundland, very friendly, very open.

Then a Sikh (Indian, turban and beard) came in and sat nearby, looking desperately lonely. I asked him over. The chef, a young Czech who was a friend of the other one, joined us and said he'd like to take my daughter out. Kim spilled something on her mother's best blouse.

We adjourned to our hotel room for a couple of pleasant hours. The newly girl asked Kim if she'd like to share an apartment. I wouldn't be surprised if a Czech did, too. My wife worried about the smooth Czech. The Sikh lost his meal ancholy.

Don't think I've strayed from my theme. Our kid is spoiled rotten. She cooks like a one-armed paper-hanger and couldn't sew two burlap bags together. My deepest sympathy is extended to her future husband.

MOON'S AREA

The area of Canada's Arctic regions is the same as that of the moon's entire surface.

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