

Alf Hales brings Ottawa to Acton supports govt. war measures act

Wellington M.P. Alf Hales, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons, delved into three current topics of interest for an intimate dinner meeting of the Chamber of Commerce at the Dominion Hotel, Monday.

Mr. Hales brought 25 people from the Chamber and their guests up to date on the crisis in Ottawa from the viewpoint of someone who was there. He also dipped briefly into a private bill he sponsored on political internship and the work of the public accounts committee before concluding with a few remarks on a trip to Expo in Japan as a guest of the Japanese government.

Brink of great peril
Ottawa at 4 a.m. Friday, October 16 — "We were on the brink of great peril", Mr. Hales maintained. "I'm not sure we weren't on the edge of civil war."

The tall, personable Conservative MP made no bones about the fact that he supported the government wholeheartedly in its implementation of the War Measures Act.

"I'm glad they acted as strong as they did," he told guests. "I for one am willing to sacrifice some of my freedom and civil liberties for a time if it is going to cure the situation in Quebec."

"We've arrived at an unusual juncture in Canada's history with the prime minister in a bullet-proof car, kidnappings and the presence of R.C.M.P. and soldiers in Montreal."

Prodded by Opposition
The government will be replacing the War Measures Act with less strict controls soon, Mr. Hales said, prodded by the opposition. But, he added, "It would surprise you all the different angles the War Measures Act brought up."

"But it had to be done that way so that those who would destroy democracy could be caught unawares," he emphasized.

The War Measures Act is not going to cure all the problems—they'll be driven underground for a while—but they know who is in the driver's seat now," he said of the F.L.Q.

Bright spot
He saw the election of Mayor Drapeau in Montreal as a bright spot in the Quebec political picture. Smiling broadly, he referred to the Conservative win in New Brunswick as another happy spot this week, although admittedly occurring on the heels of the Liberal victory in Nova Scotia.

Political internship
Mr. Hales switched next to his own private member's bill for political internships which was so



M.P. ALF HALES clears up a point for guests at the Chamber of Commerce dinner Monday. Mrs. John Secord is on his right. Others at the head table were John Secord, C. of C. President John Shadbolt and Mr. and Mrs. Allan Eastwood. —(Staff Photo)

have one of the first 10 students since he started the bill.

Since he was on the public accounts committee Mr. Hales approached a foundation to sponsor the program. They agreed, putting up a quarter of a million dollars. The first year of operation 125 applications came in for 10 positions. And everyone wanted one.

My student is a tower of strength to me, said Mr. Hales.

Def changed system
Public accounts? John Diefenbaker changed the system in 1957, enabling a member of the opposition to be chairman.

"It is a good system. The member of the opposition can open up any can of worms," grinned the speaker, referring briefly to the scandal about the refitting of the aircraft carrier Bonaventure. There are Conservatives, Liberals, N.D.P. and Social Credit members on the committee and they work with no sense of partisanship to see public money is spent properly.

Halton M.P. Rud Whiting is also a member of the Committee, Mr. Hales pointed out.

Final item in his talk concerned Japan, where he was chosen to go, representing the Opposition. It was an eye opener. He said the idea that the Japanese would work for a bowl of rice a day was a lot of poppycock.

Toyota workers
Japanese wages at the Toyota motor works for instance, came to \$145 a month for an unskilled

assembly line worker but the fringe benefits were tremendous.

These included a 20 day paid vacation, a furnished apartment for \$12 a month, a daily lunch for six cents, a 20 per cent subsidy for driving to work, 20 per cent of wages into a pension fund, two yearly bonuses of \$75.

Total benefits amounted to \$1.91 an hour, about six cents less an hour than the same class of workers receive in the Volvo assembly plant in Nova Scotia.

Further advantages include medical treatment for 30c at a company hospital and the privilege of shopping at a company-owned supermarket where prices were 10 to 20 per cent lower than the publicly owned business.

One out of four Japanese families have color TV; the cost is only \$1.26 a month. Black and white sets cost 86c.

Compares transportation
The efficiency of the Japanese train system and the new developments made a comparison with Canada's ill-suited transportation policy made them years ahead, he said. "We are going to need trains like Japan and that's what we should be doing instead of the ad hoc planning being done."

But the thing that impressed

Mr. Hales most about Japan was the fact 100 million people could live and work together and prosper in an area one-quarter the size of Ontario. He saw this as a challenge to Canada and an example to follow.

Questions and answers
A question and answer period followed where Mr. Hales disclosed he favored replacing the student loan system which often left the government holding the bag for students who had no intention of ever paying loans back. He also extolled the co-operative system of education as practiced at the University of Waterloo.

Mr. Hales was introduced by Chamber president John Shadbolt. Allan Eastwood introduced the head table. John Secord said grace.

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Mrs. E. Roadknight celebrates 95th birthday Sunday

There were board sidewalks, people kept chickens and pigs in backyards and horse-drawn street cars pilled the streets of Toronto when Mrs. E. C. Roadknight was born in the Queen City.

The date? October 27, 1875.

Sunday afternoon at the home of her son, Ed Roadknight, in Guelph friends and relations held a 95th birthday party to honor the former Acton resident. Although she left Acton in 1947 after the death of her husband, Mrs. Roadknight has maintained a keen interest in the town and its people.

The Roadknight family moved to Acton in 1915 to improve Mr. Roadknight's health and spent most of their years in their home at the corner of Arthur and Wellington streets. When Mr. Roadknight died in 1947, Mrs. Roadknight moved back to Toronto until 1959 when she moved to Guelph to be with her son Edwin. She has been living in Guelph since.

Guelph she reminisced about life in Acton and the many friends she made there, many of whom came to wish her happy birthday.

Mrs. Roadknight was a member of St. Alban's Church



Keen memory
Mrs. Roadknight has a keen memory and likes to tell of early years in Toronto when the horse drawn street cars were replaced by electric models. She recalls very vividly the two years she spent in western Canada, especially the first winter near Calgary when the family lived in a tent. They lived in Vancouver before coming back to Toronto and the subsequent move to Acton.

Sunday afternoon at the home of her son on Calgary Avenue in

while she resided in Acton and now belongs to St. George's Church, Guelph. She lives an active life at Cambridge Lodge now after two accidents, in which she broke her hip and ankle.

Helping her celebrate her 95th birthday Sunday were her son and his wife, four grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and one great great grandson. One hundred and twenty-two people called to wish her happy birthday.

The Free Press joins with Mrs. Roadknight's many friends and relations in wishing her many happy returns and many more birthdays.

CUTTING THE CAKE at her 95th birthday party Sunday is Mrs. E. Roadknight. Mrs. Roadknight spent over 30 years in Acton, living at the corner of Wellington and Arthur Streets.—(Staff Photo)

Bank of Montreal

NEW TIMEPIECE
erected by the Bank of Montreal in the downtown business section will allow shoppers to pass more than the time of day. The clock is in front of the bank at the corner of Mill and Willow Sts.—(Staff Photo)

Close post office

Post offices all across Canada will be closed Remembrance Day this year, it was announced this week.

"It will be the first time the Acton post office has closed on Remembrance Day," Acton postmaster Gordon McKenna told the Free Press. It has been declared a holiday before but employees always worked.

Remembrance Day falls on Wednesday, November 11. Acton observances will take place on the Sunday prior to the actual date.

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