

## OUR READERS WRITE:

# CNR bureaucracy cited in parliament

## Oppose tax support for "Dutch" schools

Dear sir:  
It's happening all over again — the beginning of another separatist movement right here in the Acton area, as well as all over Ontario. I refer to our good Dutch neighbours, those of them who are not happy with our public school system, and have chosen to send their children to separate schools where more religion is taught. Forty-six separate Dutch schools have been opened throughout Ontario and more are planned.

At first glances their request seems not unreasonable — that the school taxes they pay should go to support the school their children attend. But of course one should ask, "Why cannot their children attend the school their taxes go to support, their local public school?"

The Dutch reply that Christianity is no longer taught in our public schools.

Yes, this regrettably is true (although separate Dutch schools were secularized) before the public schools were secularized) and the fact we have lost the right to have our children taught religion in public school is because of the persistence of another very tiny and very vocal group whose noisy lobbying overruled the will of the majority.

Appearance of the vociferous minorities at the expense of the silent majority seems to be pretty generally accepted these days, and I feel many of our current political problems stem from this tendency.

But why should we abandon our rights to satisfy a few? Freedom of religion is one of the basics — few in this country question the privilege of others to worship in the place and manner they wish, but then none of our churches are government sponsored.

Freedom of speech is another right we can enjoy so long as we do not abuse it by preaching sedition or treason, and the law has been extremely lenient in turning a deaf ear to many a rebellious outcry against authority that would be labelled seditious elsewhere. Education, however, is supported by government grants raised by public taxes, and is a compulsory privilege, free to all.

At a time when the Department of Education is consolidating public schools, services and administration in order to cut costs and broaden educational opportunities, it is too bad that this well-organized attempt to divert public funds to the use of a few seems to be receiving such general acceptance from an apathetic or uninformed public.

At present the Dutch want funds for their privately operated primary schools, but next it will be for special church-directed

secondary schools, the same as the Roman Catholic Separate Schools are agitating for. They have their pressure group and lobbies in every sensitive spot in government circles, hoping to achieve through persistence and harassment what reason and logic would deny them.

Why should these well-organized and very articulate groups be permitted to jeopardize the well-being of society? At a time when education costs are so high why create another direction for public monies to be siphoned off. Yet that is exactly what the Dutch are doing.

One cannot blame them for trying — for if they get enough signatures on their petition to impress the Department of Education that they have general support they could save themselves individually hundreds of dollars a year. No wonder they are persuasive! And at the same time they would attain official approval of their basic aim — that of bringing up their children separate from the rest of Canadians.

These people seemed happy to come to this country in the first place, and take advantage of its rich benefits and opportunities. They don't seem to realize that acceptance of these opportunities carries with it a responsibility to become good Canadians, not separatists.

Canada accepts all religions and cultures and ethnic background and this diversity will weave a rich and colourful Canadian heritage, but I believe that the unwillingness of certain groups to assimilate and become Canadian will eventually lead to difficulties in communication and ensuing trouble such as we are experiencing in Quebec today.

There are other ways of preserving one's cultural and or religious heritage, practised successfully by such groups as Ukrainians, Italians, Germans, Jews, Chinese and many others. None of these find it necessary to have separate school systems. But if the Dutch can persuade our government to divert school taxes to support their Dutch schools, why shouldn't all minority groups do the same?

Can't people see how this could result in a breakdown in Canadian unity. I think before we go signing any petitions, we should consider some of the ramifications thereof very carefully.

If any of us are so dissatisfied with public school education for our children that we feel compelled to remove them from the public school system, we are required by law to provide alternative education at our own expense. The Christian Reformed people should continue to do the same.

Concerned Ratepayer

A "most classic example of CNR bureaucracy" that took place in Acton was outlined for parliament when Halton M.P. Rud Whiting spoke last Wednesday and Thursday during the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Hansard, the official report of the debates in the House of Commons, records Mr. Whiting as follows:

"But, Mr. Speaker, I think the most classic example of CNR bureaucracy took place in the town of Acton. This town is now virtually without railroad service emanating from it. The service has been transferred to the city of Guelph. The methods employed by the CNR to deprive this community or railroad service should be enunciated. Trains that used to stop at Acton now whistle right by. This means that anybody wanting to get on a train or off a train at Acton can no longer do so. This means that freight and express have to be picked up elsewhere, in Guelph. Then the CNR moved in and took out the telegraph service —

Call "shame!"

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Whiting: They upheld the CNR.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Update service  
Mr. Whiting: After this ruling came down I could see just what would happen. The CNR flexed their muscles and said, "We won, we won. Now let us go and take away passenger service from Guelph to Toronto." This would deprive Georgetown, a town of some 16,000 people, of passenger service. Hearings were held in the city of Guelph which were attended by many members from both sides of this House. We worked together in trying to convince the Canadian Transport Commission that this should not be done. Strange as it may seem, the commissioners in this case said to the CNR: "Whoa, hold it; you can just go so far in this matter. And they ordered the CNR not only to continue passenger service from Guelph to Toronto but to update the service and bring it into this part of the twentieth century. This is what I want to urge the CNR to do. The CNR should bring its passenger service from Toronto to Guelph up to date.

The coaches they are using are of early twentieth century vintage. They are drafty, dirty and uncomfortable. In no way would anybody ride in these coaches if they did not have to.

Proper hours  
If the CNR would look on passenger service as a means of conveying people and as a money-maker and would tailor the service to that need by running trains at proper hours, I think we would see a great change in the financial picture regarding passenger services. I believe and I have advocated on more than one occasion in the House that the time has come when we must develop a national transportation policy in this country. We cannot have our railroads closing down lines indiscriminately. We must look

at the broad picture because the railroads did a great job in building this country. They still have an important role to play in the further development of Canada.

I thank hon. members for allowing me to go over my time. I know this is a subject which concerns many and I urge the government to act on my suggestions and the suggestions made by others. We should adopt a national rail policy and bring the CNR, this Crown corporation, closer to Parliament. We could then have more to say about its operation. This could be done if at least one Member of Parliament were appointed to the board of directors of this Crown corporation.

Agriculture problem  
Mr. Whiting also asserted that the time has come for revival on the part of business and industry in the well-being of Canadian agriculture, and the time has come for a much more serious and practical approach to a solution of the problems that beset Canada's farmers and other land-based producers.

He recommended secondary outlets for agricultural production such as supplying of raw materials for chemical and pharmaceutical industries. He called for greater flexibility in

agricultural research, perhaps involving the chemist. Taking agriculture as an industry, he said agriculture is in "a bad way" with rural slums developing.

Junk mail  
A survey of newspapers in his riding showed they all received material from the federal government and its agencies that was rarely used. The Oakville Daily Journal kept these mailings for a full 12 months and called Mr. Whiting to see the result — a storage room containing 185 pounds of paper which had not even been opened — "envelopes, books, folders, brochures, and everything irraginable made out of paper."

When Mr. Whiting questioned the cost of producing this unsolicited material he learned 10 departments estimated the cost at \$74,415, which sometimes did not include labor costs.

He said he had given his facts to Information Canada, and had the impression they agreed this was a profitless way of communicating. "I sincerely hope the government will consider and support this viewpoint. I am not saying this information should not be produced or should not be sent out, but I maintain that a mechanism must and should be found to make it more selective."

## Eight appointed to review court

Names of eight Halton men appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to sit on the Assessment Review Court of Ontario in Halton were released last week by Halton East MPP Jim Snow.

The eight men are John T. Armstrong of Georgetown, C. Dan Chisholm of Oakville, Arnold B. Coulson of Lowville, H. H. Hinton of Acton, Sheldon A. Featherstone and Maurice Beaty of the Milton district, F. N. Rogers and J. Blair of Burlington.

These eight appointees from the County of Halton will sit as members of the Assessment Review Court of Ontario which replaces the former Court of Revision for the hearing of appeals to property assessment.

Former members  
Several of those appointed to the Provincial Review Court are

## Campsite not yet approved

A campground development, proposed by Julius Hegedus, to be situated beside the Cedar Springs Motel on Highway 7 between Acton and Georgetown, has not yet received approval of Esqueusing planning board.

At a recent meeting the board passed a motion stating planning board, committee of adjustment and council are presently working on an official plan for the township and they would like to see the plan completed before they approve location of the campground.

## All published letters must be signed

The Free Press has received a well written letter signed "Mother of Four". Unfortunately, the writer's name was not attached so it can not be published. If the writer will identify herself by sending us her signature, acknowledging authorship, we would be pleased to publish the letter.

It is not necessary to have your name on

the letters to the editor. A nom de plume may be used on request but the policy of this newspaper is that the writer must sign his or her own name before letters can be published.

The Editor.

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## Twp. reps attend meeting with Bd.

Deputy-reeve Tom Hill and councillor Wilfrid Leslie will represent Esqueusing Council at a meeting with officials of the Halton County Board of Education to be held in Milton Heights, November 4.

A letter from the board asking for council representation at the meeting was read at Monday night's regular council meeting. Reeve George Currie indicated his schedule would not allow him to attend.

"I have enough on the course without that stuff I had seven meetings last week," the 80-year-old reeve, declared. He sits on county council as well as on the Township body.

**Last Few Days For . . .**

# Pottery Seconds

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Can. No. 1 Lean <b>Meaty Side Spare Ribs</b>	<b>69¢</b>
Schnelder's — 16-oz. Pkg. <b>BOLOGNA</b>	<b>59¢</b>
Swift's — 1-lb. Pkg. <b>Premium or Lazy Maple Side Bacon</b>	<b>75¢</b>
Pantry Shelf — 48-oz. Tins (Save 23c) <b>Orange Juice</b>	<b>3 FOR \$1</b>
Javex — 128-oz. bottle (save 22c) <b>LIQUID BLEACH</b>	<b>73¢</b>
Aylmer — 10-oz. Tins (Save 30c) <b>Cream Style Corn</b>	<b>7 FOR \$1</b>
<b>Tide XK</b>	<b>Proctor &amp; Gamble King Size (Save 40¢) \$1.59</b>
Canada — No. 1 — Fresh <b>Creamery Butter</b>	<b>65¢</b>
McLaren's 24-oz. Jars - (Save 25c) <b>Kosher Baby Dill Pickles</b>	<b>2 FOR 89¢</b>
Lucas Arthur's — 6-oz. Pkg. <b>Cooked Ham</b>	<b>53¢</b>
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Salada — Pkg. of 120 — (Save 30c) <b>O.P. Tea Bags</b>	<b>\$1.29</b>
St. Lawrence — 25-oz. tin (Save 20c) <b>CORN OIL</b>	<b>59¢</b>
Campbell's — 10-oz. Tins (Save 24c) <b>Tomato Soup</b>	<b>8 FOR \$1</b>