

Working at being Canadians

OPPOSE TAX SUPPORT FOR "DUTCH" SCHOOLS

Dear Sir:
The title above this letter appeared over a letter in this column last week. I am very sad and disappointed that in these days of national crisis a letter like this one was even conceived, let alone submitted to our readers.

"Our good Dutch neighbors" are said to have opened "separate Dutch schools" and that "their basic aim" is "that of bringing up their children separate from the rest of Canadians". In the next paragraph the author of this letter writes "They don't seem to realize that the acceptance of these opportunities carries with it a responsibility to become good Canadians, not separatists."

Let me in passing assure every reader that the Dutch realize this responsibility very well. They are working very hard at it whether they support Christian schools or not. And I am sure that they are deeply hurt and disturbed by the above misrepresentations and accusations.

I said I am very sad and disappointed about such a letter. Why do I say this? Do I say this because I support the Christian school and the petition for equality in education? No, not because of that! I am sad and disappointed because this letter demonstrates how little we have really learned in these last few weeks from the present crisis in our land. For it seems to me that this crisis is with us primarily because as a majority we are by and large still too ignorant and too insensitive about the basic human rights and liberties of minorities, and because we are still too apathetic and even too averse to securing rights and liberties for minorities which rights and liberties we as a majority take for granted for ourselves.

As English-speaking Canadians we have not taken our French speaking countrymen and their rights seriously. I take it this is also the gist of the Rev. Turner's article in last week's column, "The Clergy Speak Out!"

In effect we have said to our French fellow Canadians: "Forget about your hang-ups of being different. Become like us, assimilate and become Canadian", don't cause a breakdown in Canadian unity." And now we read the same kind of reasoning with regard to Christian schools supporters.

But does our Canadian unity indeed mean that we shall all conform to the same mold culturally, religiously and educationally speaking? Does not democracy fight, or at least claim to fight, with might and main for the preservation of the basic human rights and liberties of the individual and the minorities? Does it indeed not bend backwards to safeguard such rights? Is not this what all the furor is about in the debate around the invoking of the War Measures Act?

Does not democracy and Canadian unity thrive on diversity and freedom over against the uniformity and regimentation of the tyranny of a totalitarian state? Is it not strange then that we should have an educational system which is almost as monolithic and state controlled as the one found in a totalitarian state while reportedly 85 democratic countries in the world allow for at least partial equality and in some cases allow for total equality of educational opportunities for minority groups?

It is my conviction that both in the French Canadian problem and in the Christian school problem we are not helping Canadian unity and Canadian heritage by labeling each other with the derogatory term "separatists". Instead, let's really try to respect minorities and their rights as long as they are law-abiding citizens. Let's also remember that we can smother such minorities just as effectively by the majority rule of a democracy as by the suppressive laws of a dictatorship. All it takes is a greedy ruthless majority concerned with its own advantage even if this means the denial of the rights of others less powerful than such a majority.

We should of course not be surprised that the basic elements of our society use such injustices as an excuse for their cruel crimes and terrorist tactics.

I would plead with our "Concerned Ratepayer" and with others who may feel like him that they refrain from labeling the schools under con-

sideration as 'Dutch schools' or even 'Christian Reformed schools'. The supporters of such schools as a group do not call them by these names. They do not want them to be or to be known as such. They certainly do not have the basic aim "of bringing up their children separate from the rest of Canadians". This is at best a mistaken notion and at worst a malicious accusation. They do not aim for ethnic distinctiveness of the Dutch, nor do they act out of an ethical disdain for all what is Canadian. An unbiased investigation of the facts will soon bear this out.

So for the sake of human concern — not just ratepayer's concern, for the sake of justice and liberty in our nation, especially now, let us realistically respect our genuine differences. Let us at least try to understand and tolerate each other, and let us be fair enough to present the other side's position in as honest and as informed a way as possible.

The basic aim of Christian school supporters is clearly to provide their children and children of other parents with a positive Christian education — not simply "more religion" as last week's letter stated. These people want to take their commitment to Christ serious not just on Sunday in church and during the few waking hours of their children at home, but also during the crucial process of formal education in the day school, not just in a Bible lesson but in the whole curriculum.

They are deeply convinced that education cannot, and in fact does not take place apart from an all pervading philosophy of education rooted in one's basic attitude toward God and the Bible. And this is not just a Christian conviction. It is also held by several secular educators. This has nothing to do with nationality or a particular denomination. Supporters of Christian schools would love to see nothing better than that more of their fellow Christian Canadians would join them in the promotion of positive Christian education.

Many parents, other than those from Dutch descent, have expressed their preference for this kind of education, and they are gladly welcomed under the same conditions as everyone else. Such parents and teachers do not sacrifice huge sums of money and certain inconveniences merely to be Dutch or separatist. They are moved by their life commitment to Jesus Christ.

Is it fair to ask or even suggest that they abandon this commitment? It is true, the law gives them the right to operate their own schools subject of course to certain regulations and minimum requirements for which no financial aid is given in return. But is such legislation not hypocritical when this right is at the same time undermined and rendered largely ineffective by the smothering device of economic discrimination?

"You may choose Christian education for your children. But you must pay for that as well as for the secular education of the children of others." Is that a fair and honest choice especially when the cost of such education is approximately \$500 per child per year? Is not that a most vicious form of discrimination against the financially less well off? Must we add insult to injury?

I cannot believe that our "Concerned Ratepayer" is really more concerned with paying his tax rate than with doing justice to all our citizens. I want to believe that he along with many others is big-hearted enough to join us in fighting bigotry, discrimination, and injustice especially over against minority groups which sincerely seek the good of our country and every citizen in it.

I challenge everyone of you to fight ignorance concerning the real motivations of others, particularly the supporters of Christian education, and to fight apathy in the face of real injustices done by the majority to legitimate minorities, particularly the supporters of Christian education. Find out about Christian education and then support its just struggle against unjust discrimination!

P.S. If anyone so desires I will be more than happy to outline the financial and educational feasibility and advantages of such public Christian education and other school systems next to the secular public school system.

Peter Brouwer,
A concerned citizen.



NEW EXECUTIVE of the Halton-West Progressive Conservative Association elected at the annual meeting in Burlington Friday is shown with the Hon. George Kerr, MP for Halton West. Left to right, standing are; first vice president, Robert Foster, second vice president Mrs. Gerrie McMillan; president John McLean; secretary, Mrs. Grace Freckleton and treasurer Dave Smith—(Staff Photo)

Halton West Tories told

Premier will lead party

Halton West Progressive Conservatives are gearing for the expected 1971 provincial election and mean to keep the Hon. George Kerr as the representative for the riding.

Over 100 Conservatives met in Burlington Friday night to elect a new executive for the riding, listen to Mr. Kerr and guest speaker, Richard Rohmer, chairman of the Mid-Canada Development Foundation. Bulk of the crowd was from Burlington but there were also representatives from Nassagaweya township present.

Acton Conservatives failed to send representatives to the meeting.

Rumors false

In his report to the riding, Mr. Kerr told Halton West Tories to ignore rumors that Prime Minister John Roberts would be stepping down as leader of the party.

"He will lead the party and still be prime minister after the next election," Mr. Kerr asserted.

The present session of the Legislature is drawing to a close and for cabinet minister Kerr it has been "fruitful". He said good legislation had been passed and the government had "kept up to the various reform demands of the province."

"This will stand us in good stead" when we go before the people, Mr. Kerr was sure but he warned Halton-West Tories about complacency especially with Stephen Lewis leading the New Democratic Party. He paid tribute to Mr. Lewis' as a tremendous organizer.

McLean president

Elected to head the Halton West executive for another year was John McLean of Burlington. Mr. McLean was returned by acclamation.

An election was held to fill the posts of first vice and second vice-presidents with Robert Foster and Mrs. Gerrie McMillan winning the nod from voters. Dave Smith was elected treasurer and Mrs. Grace Freckleton took the post of secretary when Dick West withdrew.

Auditors appointed were Paul Preston and Allan Udder.

Lack of purpose

Guest speaker Richard Rohmer deplored the lack of a sense of purpose in Canada to unify the people. He said the last unifying drive was the building of the trans-Canada railway 85 years ago.

With slides and projections, Mr. Rohmer told the Halton Conservatives that governments must get together to create a national policy for the development of the one million square mile corridor of

Corporal punishment

A recommendation by Lambton County opposing the elimination of corporal punishment received the support of the Association of Counties and Regions of Ontario at their annual convention in Kitchener last week.

The resolution said the banning of corporal punishment would undermine the last disciplinary resort of authority in the classroom at a time when it should be strengthened.

Lax morals

The resolution offered the idea the banning would cause hardships on teachers and said lax discipline and lax morals usually go hand in hand.

Beardmore chosen for pilot project

The respirator testing project, announced as a pilot project in Halton county, will be held at Beardmore and Co. Ltd. on November 16, 17 and 18.

The program, announced by the Halton County Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association, detects lung disorders such as bronchitis, asthma and emphysema.

The simple test consists of taking one deep breath and blowing it into a machine. Draw for tickets

On the final testing day association president C. McFadden will make a draw and present a ticket to a hockey game

in Maple Leaf Gardens to one of the employees taking the test. Christmas seals are already in the mail for the association's annual drive for funds.

Local directors are Mrs. Horace Blyth, R. R. 1; and H. H. Hinton, Acton.

Alan Fish of Oakville is chairman of the committee this year and the slogan is "Matter of Life and Breath."

Equipment owned by the Association is loaned out to patients — such as postural drainage boards, oxygen, and a complete air purifier for extreme asthmatic patients.

THE VOTERS' LIST ACT
Section 12
Clerk's Notice of First Posting of
Voters' List 1970
Township of Nassagaweya - County of Halton

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I have compiled with Section 9 of the Voters' Lists Act, and that I have posted up at my office at Brookville, on the 30th day of October, 1970, the list of all persons entitled to vote in the municipality at municipal elections and that such list remains there for inspection.

AND I HEREBY call upon all voters to take immediate proceedings to have any omissions or errors corrected according to law, the last day for appeal being the 13th day of November, 1970.

DATED at Brookville, this 4th day of November, 1970.

G. C. THOMPSON,
Clerk,
Township of Nassagaweya.

School is open to everyone

63 John St. E.
Georgetown.

Dear Sir:
Re: Concerned Ratepayer
When I read the letter from the concerned ratepayer this week, I was so angry I had to wait three days before I cooled off enough to write a civil letter. If I sputter a little yet, you'll know why. The trouble with people like the concerned ratepayer is that they are ignorant of the facts, and don't know any better.

What grounds has he or she for calling it a Dutch school? 99 per cent of the pupils are born Canadians. The national anthem is sung every day which is more than is done in most public schools across Canada. There is absolutely nothing Dutch about anything in that school. And it isn't our own school. It is open to anyone who wishes a Christian education for their children. Likewise the church is open to anyone who wishes to worship there. It is only a matter of choice.

The concerned ratepayer writes, "The Dutch have their own school, their own church." He accuses the Dutch of keeping to themselves. He even dares to link them, in a way, with the deplorable mess in Quebec. That blame doesn't fall as heavy on that minority group of F.I.Q.'s as it does on the government, who for a year knew what was going on, but didn't lift a finger to stop it. It's often after a tragedy before action is finally taken.

One of the reasons why concerned Canadian parents have set up Canadian Christian Schools, is to have their children taught about responsibilities toward society, responsibilities as a Christian living in society. To make them aware that Christianity is for everyday everywhere, everything. Not to live as you please through the week, and on Sunday, bring out God, for an hour... who was put on the shelf for the rest of the week.

The concerned ratepayer was sorry that religion was taken out of the public schools. Just how sorry was he? Did he or she do anything to keep it there? Was he or she at the hearing of the McKay report to protest? If you, concerned ratepayer, were not getting something that was rightfully yours would you not do something about it?

The United Nation Declaration of Human Rights states (26-3) "Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given their children. If I choose a Christian Education and am a Canadian ratepayer, I have the right to expect the government to provide this education, otherwise the

declaration is void and has no meaning. I am forced to have my child educated in the public school system which is not Christian. Is this freedom of education?

This country was built on faith, love, hope, charity. Sound familiar? The fathers of Confederation were Christians. God counted in the government of their time. Canada thrived. Her people are free. They have enjoyed peace and prosperity. Canada is among the richest countries in the world. A rich heritage concerned ratepayer, a rich heritage. How about countries where God has been shoved in the corner, as Canadians are doing today (one example being in the schools)?

How about countries who no longer depend on God but on Man, Russia, China, to name but a few. Is this what Canadians want for Canada? I didn't become a Canadian citizen this spring to stand by and let that happen to my country.

In closing, concerned ratepayer, I would like to put you straight, as for the "Dutch" Canadians not fulfilling their obligations and responsibilities as Canadians. I believe the concerned ratepayer said "they take" "they enjoy the freedom." Of course they do, but don't suggest they don't do anything for it. Find out for yourself how many Dutch Canadians are on welfare. Not too many I can tell you! Most of them work hard for what they have in this country today.

Many work for themselves in businesses which they have built up from nothing. Numerous ones serve society and mankind as doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, social workers. Which other people honored Canada with liberation festivities?

Holland wasn't the only country liberated by the Canadians. Dutch Canadians give blood, collect for the March of Dimes, cancer society, and many other causes. Church groups entertain at homes for the aged and hospitals. They give and support community fund raisings. They educate their children to a Christian way of life which is the richest heritage the Dutch Canadian could give Canada. And they're not afraid to sign their name, when they write a letter that might cause controversy!

Thank you concerned ratepayer and fellow Canadians who have taken the time to read this lengthy letter.

Very Sincerely,
Ria Kroezen (nee Hulsman)
63 John St. E.
Georgetown.

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9 MILL ST. ACTON 853-0650

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Blue Bonnett - 3 lb. Pkg. 10c off Label MARGARINE	Save 20c 99¢
Clarks - 48 oz. Tins (Save 34c) Tomato Juice	3 FOR \$1
Heinz - 25 oz. Bottles (Save 15c) KETCHUP	2 FOR 99¢
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Duncan Hines (Save 27c) CAKE MIXES	2 FOR 79¢
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