



FEDERAL ASSISTANCE programs for businessmen were outlined by 11 representatives of departments in a seven hour seminar organized for Halton businessmen by MP Rud Whiting. The seminar, held at Sheridan College Saturday, was attended by 158 representatives of business and industry. Whiting welcomed the representatives and emphasized the program was to "tell business what is available to it through government". —(Photo by J. Dills)

OUR READERS WRITE:

Whole school system needs overhaul

Box 53, Acton, Ont.

Dear Sir:
Mr. Bray's letter was all well and good but it didn't give me any answers to the problems that bother me. There are very few geniuses in this world. Most of us parents, concerned with children in schools, are just average people who want average answers to our questions.
Mr. Bray didn't tell us why the school finds it simpler to have three to 400 students running through the halls every hour, instead of six or seven teachers quietly moving from room to room. This necessitates having lockers for books which although supposedly locked are still tampered with. Lockers are stacked constantly, which means a student has to pick up all his books off the floor every time he opens the door. Locks are often removed, switched or even found in triplicate, or worse on one locker.
What happened to the old-fashioned desks where a student stayed put and the teacher moved around, creating a lot less disturbance? Sure, we had some problems

with books disappearing—but are there any less problems now?
Why does a student find it necessary to take a special commercial course after completing Grade 12?
Why are our schools concentrating on preparing students for college when the largest percentage of them never get to college?
How many students know what they want to be when they start high school? How can they choose proper subjects to fit them for a position they haven't yet chosen?
What ever became of the old apprenticeship system where a boy could earn a little money while learning a trade? (from practical experience.)
It all boils down to the same thing. Experience, dependability and loyalty mean far more than two or three years more of school.
I'm not pointing a finger at any particular school or any particular teacher. I'm saying the whole school system needs a complete overhauling before it breaks down completely and leaves us stranded in the middle of nowhere.

Mrs. R. Atkinson.

Students not prepared for society

Acton, Ont. April 11, 1972.

Dear Sir:
Education is not in School.
How true! Hurray for Mrs. R. Atkinson! I believe my two sons must be in the same class as her boy. They do not walk the streets but prefer to sit with Uncle Bobby and the Sesame Street crew. How challenging for an 18 year old!
The new trend in education is careful guidance by a teacher to lead her class "to learn by discovery".
The children are grasping the new idea

well. With very limited discipline by the school, they have discovered that they can become disrespectful, ignorant "educated clowns" who can apply for relief when their "time" in school has been served.
I do not feel that our local schools are preparing our future citizens to meet the demands of our trying, confused society. Employers cannot be expected to teach basic manners and good citizenship as well as a trade.
The armed services might bring these useless young adolescents to their senses before it is too late.

—Mrs. R. Smits

Middle class going to pot . . .

There is no money in the pot. With which to pay the bills: Our taxes must go up a lot To pay for social frills.
We cannot tax the very rich. We cannot tax the poor. So few of them to make the pitch. With the middle class, it's sure.
So we take it from the middle class. The folk who are most inventive. Tax them all. 'Kee their "brass". And rob them of incentive.
We must build some more super-schools. To educate our nation,

We cannot tolerate the fools. That bore this generation.
We must have better teachers. To teach us how to live. With all these modern features. So, the middle class must give.
A tax on this, a tax on that. They must pay a bigger share. The middle class must go to "bat". They have the most to spare.

—Victor Smith, R.R. 2, Rockwood.

County, nurses still talking

A shroud of secrecy surrounds negotiations between the Halton County Nurses Association and Halton County. Personnel manager for the county John Watson told this paper both sides had agreed not to discuss the matter with the press or public.
However a reliable source claims the nurses are asking for a starting salary of \$8,400 a year. The current schedule runs from \$7,200 to \$8,400 in Halton. In Wentworth, \$7,300 to \$9,400 are the rates.
During a recent meeting of the Halton County Board of Health Medical Officer of Health

intimated an urgency in reaching a settlement. He said his staff was interviewing applicants for public health nursing jobs but most applicants wanted to know how much money they would be earning if they accepted employment here.
The Health Unit has been operating short of their complement for some time now. The county has made an offer and an answer is expected in the near future.
CROCUS and snowdrops are a very welcome sight in sheltered spots while icy snow still lingers nearby.

Chamber may organize industrial committee

Executive of the Acton Chamber of Commerce has been given membership approval to continue investigation of the possibility of forming an industrial committee within the chamber.
Approval was granted, in spite of the feelings of some members at the chamber's recent dinner meeting that the chamber might be wasting its time and money by inviting the heads of local industries to a dinner meeting to discuss formation of such a committee.
President Roy Goodwin felt an industrial committee could promote business among industries already established in town. He pointed out the town already has the Acton Development Commission to try to bring new industry here.
Secretary Betty Eastwood told the meeting many towns in Ontario already have industrial committees and that in one town the committee has taken over an industrial park.
John Secord wondered if the chamber had enough money in its budget to throw a dinner for industry heads.
Past president John Shadbolt pointed out many local industry heads don't have the authority to make such decisions anyway. On the subject of the dinner, he saw no reason why the chamber should pay for such a dinner, since many industry heads have larger expense accounts than the chamber.
"The question is," Shadbolt added "Is the Chamber of Commerce satisfied with the job the Acton Industrial Development Commission is doing? We don't know what's going on up there," he offered.
Bob Sly, representing Beardmore at the meeting, thought the local chamber should ask other chambers for their experience in organizing industrial committees.
Mrs. Eastwood was instructed to write the Canadian and Ontario chambers for further information.
Although permission for further investigation of an industrial committee formation was granted, the matter of a dinner meeting was left up in the air.

Nassagaweya protests 1972 education levy

Nassagaweya Council feels the township is getting a raw deal concerning the municipal education tax levied this year and has formally protested to the Halton County Board of Education.
The education mill rate is based on total assessment in the area, including industry. But in a basically rural township such as Nassagaweya, most of the taxes are paid by homeowners. There is very little industrial assessment in the area.
In addition to the lack of industry, much of the land in the municipality is in the hands of absentee landowners, creating higher taxes for residents.
Have 30 days
The decision to protest the tax rate was made at the April meeting of council. The school tax levies were announced by the Halton County Board of Education in March. If a town or township disputes the mill rate it has 30 days to protest, under the provisions of the School Administration Act.
Notice of the protest was revealed at last week's meeting of the Board of Education. When a protest is filed an arbitration meeting with all the municipal clerks in the county must be held.
Hearing Thursday
The clerks will sit on an arbitration board in a hearing set for tomorrow (Thursday) at 9:30 a.m. in the administration office of the Halton County Board of Education on the Guelph Line in Burlington. Members of Nassagaweya Council will present their case at that time.
This year the Board asks a \$385,682 levy from Nassagaweya. That means a mill rate 2.27 mills lower than 1971 but councillors claim the 1971 rate was higher than normal because of an error the Board made in 1970.

Crosswalk dangers concern council

In the opinion of Mayor Les Duby, more education on the matter, wide publicity and perhaps a little more surveillance is needed to encourage pedestrians and motorists to obey regulations at Acton's two crosswalks.
The mayor made the statement at council's regular meeting last week, after Councillor Norm Elliott expressed concern about safety at the Mill Street crosswalk.
Elliott charged a motorist's view of children stepping out to the street is often completely obscured by cars, who are illegally parked beyond lines, marked for parking. Cars may not legally park within 20 feet of a crosswalk.
Issue tickets
Elliott said he watched a policeman make out a steady stream of tickets one morning for cars parking too close to the crosswalk.
"Is there anything we can do to improve this situation?" he asked his colleagues.
Councillor Earl Masales pointed out that some people have to park exactly where they want to get out. He suggested there were probably other off street parking spaces available.
Councillor Peter Marks wondered if three or four parking spaces could not be eliminated on each side of Mill Street crosswalk.
Increase fines
An increase in the fine for parking offences was suggested by Councillor Bill Coats.
"Have fines kept pace with the cost of living?" he asked. "If it got up to 10 or 15 dollars people might think twice."
Mayor Duby assured council the town had purchased the best possible crosswalk signs, so that they would do a good job.
Council's public works committee is to investigate the matter further.

Accidents, charges reported by police

A freak accident at the high school parking lot was investigated by police Monday afternoon. When one of the students was in her family car its gears accidentally became engaged. The car rolled and struck the car of teacher Mrs. Mills, Georgetown. Total damage was \$85.
No charges were laid.
Last Wednesday a charge was laid after a car left Eastern Ave. and struck a hydro pole. Damage to the car was estimated at about \$400.
Hit parked car
Following an accident Sunday, an Acton man was charged with impaired driving and failing the breath test. His car, which received estimated \$500 damage, hit a parked car owned by Douglas Lockerbie. Damage to the Lockerbie car was estimated at \$700.
A charge of failing to remain at the scene of an accident was laid against an Acton man this week. The accident occurred on Mill W. at 8:45 p.m. April 12. The parked car owned by Telford McDowell,

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Let's talk about HORSES



with Jennifer Barr

Question: Could you give me some hints on endurance riding?
Answer: Allow at least 6 weeks of conditioning for a 25 mile ride. Ride your horse every day starting with a five mile walk. Increase the distance till you are doing about 10 miles a day with a lot of trotting. If you can't ride out one day, try and do an hour of ring work.
Include obstacles and hills in the rides - steep hills - and try to find a river to cross. Get someone to show you how to check pulse and respiration. A well-conditioned horse has a fast recovery rate, i.e. after a gallop or a hill climb, his p & r. will be high but should return to near normal in 10 minutes.
Every once in a while, take the horse for a really long ride, 25-30 miles, and throw in a good gallop. Rest the horse for a day before the ride.
Try to ride as light in the saddle as possible, change leads and diagonals often. When a horse is tired, collect him and brighten him up - it helps you both. If your legs are tired, shorten your stirrups a notch rather than hang your legs loose.
Feed heavy on grain and include a vitamin-mineral preparation. If horse is pastured, bring him in at night and feed him hay and grain. It helps to harden his muscles.
Learn to rate your horse so that you know how long it takes him to cover one mile at each gait. With practice, you will be able to tell how fast you are going without knowing the distance.

as often as you wish, but be sensible and observe a few ground rules for winter work.
He will have a heavy winter coat, so be sure you dry him out very thoroughly after you've ridden. Give him a good 10 minutes of warm-up before doing any fast work.
If he's doing a lot of work, make sure he has enough concentrated feed.
He will need winter shoes with calks or borium to avoid slipping on the ice. Leather pads in the shoe are also handy to stop the snowballing within the hoof.
Whether you ride or not, your horse should run out in a paddock every day, preferably all day, no matter what the weather.
Winter riding is tremendous fun, the horses are lively, the air is brisk, and the ground is soft if you should happen to part company with your lively horse.
Please send questions to Jennifer Barr, R.R. 4, Rockwood.

Disturbance at hotel Sat.

Police were called to the Station Hotel about midnight Saturday night due to a disturbance. There had been damage to tables and glassware. No arrests were made as the suspects, thought to be from out-of-town, couldn't be identified.
An Acton man who was charged with being intoxicated in a public place Tuesday of last week appeared in court in Milton Monday and was fined \$25. Police had been called to the Royal Cafe at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

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