

# U.S. decisions do affect our lives

The disclosure by Labor Minister Fern Guindon that the United States DISC program influenced a decision to close the Georgetown plant of General Fireproofing is more ammunition for those who oppose U.S. control in Canada.

The labor minister has said that there was no question that the U.S. legislation was involved in the decision to close the Georgetown plant next March, affecting the jobs of close to 200 employees, many of them from Acton and district.

The DISC program is designed to encourage U.S. manufacturers to produce goods at home rather than in Canada or abroad. Financial benefits are written into the legislation to stop the flow of capital from the United States and create more jobs for the American people.

Unfortunately, what is good for the people of the United States is not necessarily good for the people of Canada. The Georgetown plant's closure will no doubt create more jobs

in the United States but 200 Canadians will be out looking for work because of a decision made in Washington.

Most of us are prone to dismiss decisions made out of the country as hardly binding on Canadians. But it is obvious when the situation occurs on your doorstep that as a people we should be questioning more closely the attitudes of all governments, federal and provincial over the issue of who controls industry located in Canada.

It is absurd to blame the Americans for the situation which exists because Canadians have let it happen with the blessing of all concerned. If anyone is to blame for foreign domination of Canadian industry, which in turn could lead to financial domination of the country, it is Canadians themselves.

We have been too glad to accept American branch plants into the country and the resultant investment and jobs. We welcomed it without any thought of the consequences if the Americans decided to pull out.

There is no doubt that this is only the

first blow to industry in this part of Ontario. We are watching the auto pact negotiations with some trepidation because the stage is set for something similar to happen there. Many of the cars produced in Canada are sold in the United States (at lower prices) and it may be more profitable to have these automobiles totally made in the U.S. under the DISC program. This would affect many more people of this district.

It can be noted, according to the labor minister, General Fireproofing decided to expand into Ontario so excess goods could be sold to markets in the northeastern United States. The auto industry uses a similar set-up.

In the past we have been inclined to think much of the outcry about foreign domination of industry in Canada was political patter aimed at votes. In the future we will take a closer look at any party which is fully aware of all the implications which can result from foreign control of Canadian industry.

## Free Press Editorial Page

### 1972 is on its last legs

Christmas has passed and 1972 is on its last legs, tottering around for a few more days until the new year arrives with its bag of surprises.

Despite occasional moans and groans from this page we would be remiss if we did not recognize that old 1972 has been a pretty good year around this family journal.

We have had splendid co-operation through the year from a battery of columnists, correspondents and tipsters who have regularly supplied us with material to supplement what the full time members of the editorial staff produce. We've made our share of mistakes which we have tried to patch up as best as we could. We have annoyed some people because of our views on some matters but we have always tried to print both sides of every story.

We seem to be getting more letters from our readers on a variety of subjects, letters we always welcome providing they are signed and contain no libel. We are also glad to hear from our readers who have ideas to brighten up the paper or wish to submit articles of interest.

Some changes have been made. We have been on the white horse a couple of times aiming the editorial lance at or for causes with which we disagree or

support. We have had results. In other cases, apathy or lack of support has won the day.

We have tried through the year to broaden the scope of the Free Press, extending boundaries into areas where we feel there are common interests, or should be. This has resulted in a healthy increase in circulation, which we feel is some indication of how the Free Press is accepted in the town and a wide district.

For this we can also thank correspondents Mrs. Fred MacArthur (Churchill news), Mrs. Art Benton (Limehouse news), Mrs. R. Shortill Sr. (Ballinafad news), Doris Fines (Ospringle news), Mrs. Georgina Wright (Eden Mills news), Mrs. Ron McLean (Ebenzer news), and Mrs. George Burt (Silvercreek news) who keep readers on top of happenings in those very important places outside the towns and villages.

Lorraine Root, our Rockwood reporter, is keen on the Rockwood scene with her articles and comments on the village and district, which includes large parts of Eramosa township. Wendy Thomson has been reporting Erin township council news in addition to her well read column, The Painted Box, and Jennifer Barr has added another dimension to the

Free Press with articles and columns on horses.

Denis Gibbons has the sports world at his fingertips. He created a stir when he correctly predicted that the Russian national hockey team would be much stronger than Canadians realized and could jolt us a bit. Kay Dills keeps her finger on the pulse of many local activities with special emphasis on the world of women and she has helpers posted through the community to keep her posted.

We have had a few tiffs with town and township councils but always endeavoured to keep remarks to within the bounds of fair comment. We have disagreed with decisions they have made through the year—and have said so. They in turn have had reservations about some of our comment—and have said so.

The past year has also had its share of tragedies. Some of them had a profound effect on personalities and events through the town and district, and saddened many.

But all in all 1972 was probably no worse than any other year and quite possibly a heck of a lot better than many of its predecessors.

In any event we wish readers the best for the new year ahead and urge you to keep reading.

### Back Issues of The Free Press

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Wednesday, December 31, 1952.

Add half a pound of butter, melted. Toss in some ground chicken or turkey gizzard, with the water it's been boiled in. And every time you have a shot of rye, give the turkey one.

That means that you'll get up in the morning on equal terms, and after the bird has got over his hangover, you'll have a real, live bird, with a personality all his own, on your hands. It does wonders for the inhibited dinner guests, too.

I've heard good teetotalers say, after three helpings of my dressing, "Wow, one more of those and I could fly". It's most distressing when they try it. Keep a firm hand on the gravy boat when this occurs.

One must, of course, be temperate in making this dressing. One year I had a turkey so high he got up and tried to fly off the platter as I was carrying him in from the kitchen. That's what I told my wife, anyway. She claims it wasn't the turkey's fault that it wound up on the kitchen floor, in a pool of grease, with twelve starving people waiting

but I'm getting away from my theme, whatever it was. Oh, yes. Christmas cards.

Well, a few special ones maybe. To O. G. Alexander of Chicago. Reads my column in *Sincardine News*. Has taught school for 45 years and is still alive. Stout chap!

To Mrs. V. Gerlach of Stettler, Alta. I agree with you about welfare and unemployment bums, but keep happy.

A special hello to John Sawchuk who said of the *Carlton News*, "Paper wouldn't be the same without his column."

And to everyone else who reads this column: God bless, chaps. Keep fighting. Life is the life. Merry Christmas.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 28, 1927.

Campbellville is looking up. The people are talking electric light.

The annual High School At Home given in the town hall added another success to a long line of brilliant culminations that have attended the holding of this annual event. The choruses by the entire school and the selected numbers and the singing, tambourine dancing, as well as the individual instrumental, vocal and dancing numbers provided for enjoyment. The play was an outstanding feature. The orchestra added zest. Mr. Roy Brown, a former pupil, very ably conducted the proceedings as chairman. The promenades at the close were a feature that allowed of renewing of acquaintances. A dainty lunch was served. Much credit is due the principal Miss Knapp and her assistant Miss James.

Inspector (formerly principal) Stewart and Mrs. Stewart, Miss Marguerite and Miss Mary and Master George of Milton attended the At Home.

It is some time since there was such a hot

contest in Esqueping. Col. G. O. Brown headed the poll for council with T. L. Leslie a good second. W. Gowdy, manager of the Toronto Lime Company at Limehouse, crowded out the two men who had previous experience, T. Bird and J. Thompson. Wes Murray did well for a new man but was not elected.

Dr. and Mrs. Farmer left Tuesday for St. Petersburg, Florida, where they will spend the winter.

Acton went back to her first love and elected W. H. Storey as reeve by acclamation. It is admitted on all sides that Mr. Storey is the most able chief magistrate that our municipality has ever honored as its head. He was the first reeve elected when the municipality was incorporated in 1873 and for 17 years was a member of council. We have an entirely new council, James Clark, J. A. Murray, Alex F. Smith, John Clark, and Isaac Francis. School trustees are George Hynds, Henry Grindell, R. G. Campbell, Robert Holmes and Dr. Uren.

Advertisement — The New Woman now enters upon pursuits formerly monopolized by men. But the feminine nerves are still here and she still suffers from toothache. Nervilene cures toothache in a moment. It is the most marvellous pain remedy known to science.

The cantata Christmas Chimes at the Methodist church taxed the capacity of the building including all the galleries. There were 35 numbers on the program. The crowning success was the closing piece "The Christian Graces" by ten of the young ladies of the school. Dressed in dainty costumes of pure white they exemplified in song, illustration and posture the beauty and joy of cultivating the Christian graces. All the former superintendents of the Sunday school who have not passed over the river were present. During its 53 years the school has had nine superintendents, the late Alex Brown, the late John Spang, W. H. Storey, Eli Snyder, James Moore, W. P. Brown, R. E. Nelson, Thomas T. Moore and H. P. Moore. They were given a beautiful Christmas salute.

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50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 23, 1922.

"Joy Cometh in the Morning" sang the Psalmist. But he didn't live in these northern climes and have to make the fires.



ST. ALBANS CHURCH was decked out in old-fashioned style for Christmas to celebrate the church's centenary. The decorations are as authentic as possible to those originally

used, thanks to photographs loaned by Esther Taylor taken in 1892 and 1894. The photographs were originally part of the A. T. Brown collection.

(Photo by J. Jennings)

Don't be surprised if you don't get a Christmas card from me this year. Just keep expecting, and it may roll in sometime between Valentine's Day and Easter.

I wish I could blame it on the postal workers, who are the latest villains in everybody's piece, but I must be honest and blame it on the Smileys.

Dilatory, procrastinating and just plain lazy are adjectives that could be applied to us with impunity. And even with relish, if your tastes be that way.

As I write, I can see from the corner of one eye 140 exam papers to be marked in three nights. As I glance from the opposite corner of the other eye, I can see a blizzard that has been going on for six hours. Neither of these sights is inclined to make one's spouse hang high.

However, "life is the life" as my daughter remarked at the age of six, and it's been a family motto ever since. I'm not sure what it means, but there is something very profound behind that simple observation.

It's really my wife's fault that Christmas is not all teal up and ready to be sliced into the rough.

Normally, she's sitting around brooding about Christmas, this time of year. But this year she's sitting around brooding about NOT brooding about Christmas.

How could anybody blame the poor kid because she's not fretting about the holiday season? She has this teaching position, you see, and there's simply isn't time to worry about anything else. It's a tremendous load.

She has to get up at the crack of about 4.30 to put her hair in curlers, you see. Then she has to trudge through the snow for 94 yards, snow-plowed, to get to work. There, she teaches for 45 solid minutes. Most of the

### Bill Smiley



afternoon is spent preparing next day's lesson. Most of the evening is spent in describing to me the horrors and delights of her "day" in the classroom. Who has time to worry about Christmas decorations, cards and such?

So, we have once again made our annual vows. No cards, no Christmas presents, no time-consuming, silly decorations.

I can just see us now, December 22nd we'll be up all night writing cards, licking and stamping envelopes. On December 23rd, we'll be dashing around town, pawing through the left-overs for gifts. And on December 24th, I'll be taking the name of the Lord and most biological functions in vain as I try to prop up a skimpy tree with a butt as crooked as the leg of a goat. The tree, not me.

On Christmas Eve, when most people are going to church, or listening to carols, or sitting by the fire, I'll be in the kitchen, up to my elbows in turkey dressing. I always get this job.

And I know why. Nobody can turn out a stuffing like yours truly. I like it neither dry nor soggy, but moist, and with a life of its own. I use the standard ingredients: fried onions and celery, bread crumbs (real, not bought), and a good dash of everything in the spice cupboard, from tabasco sauce to chili powder.

### Answers questions of Brethern

Dear Sir:

Last week the Brethern of Messiah asked for the answers to ten questions about Christmas. I have attempted to accommodate them.

1. Exchanging of gifts? Why not? It is impossible to give to the Birthday Babe so we give to each other. To a child, outward expression of love takes the form of giving. Loving parents give it food, warmth, affection and learning stimulus in the form of toys. Sure some people overdo it, but why condemn the practice because of a few.

2. The tree? The tree originated with the custom of decorating an outside tree with goodies for the birds and animals. No one would condemn that. As for an inside tree? Is it so bad to bring joy to so many people with a few bangles and lights?

3. Decorations? The pagan Yule celebration at midwinter utilized lights, fires and bright decorations to coax the sun into coming back. It always worked before, so why not now?

4. Mistletoe, yule log etc., are all left over from pagan days. Why shouldn't we combine several different customs and types of celebration and let those who wish to worship Christ do so in their way, and those who don't, celebrate what they like, how they like. Live and let live.

5. Special foods and dishes. See 4.

6. Relationship between Jesus and Santa Claus? None. Except that they are both legends of people with a loving and giving spirit. Again, why not combine different kinds of celebrations if it makes people happy?

7. "Merry Christmas" means to me

"may you have a happy holiday, rich in joy and love."

8. Can it be proved that Jesus was born on Dec. 25? Does it matter?

9. Alcoholic beverages and immorality? Oh, come on! What is immorality? We all have to live by our own codes. If we follow Christian belief and Christmas is then a religious ceremony, we will automatically behave with Christian morals. If not, that's our own choice. But we are free to make the choice. Right?

10. Where does the Christmas spirit go on Dec. 25? Mine stays with me all year, where does yours go?

I may not have answered these questions to your satisfaction, Brethern, but I sure have to mine.

Yours truly,  
Jennifer Barr.