

## Ottawa Report

by  
Terry O'Connor — Halton MP



It was budget night in the House of Commons and the air was charged with expectation and excitement. Financial barons from Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver packed the galleries.

John Turner, visibly nervous, spoke for an hour and 20 minutes, realizing perhaps better than anyone that those 80 minutes may turn out to be the most important in his political career. At one point, Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Donald Macdonald, sitting beside him, told him to slow down and take it easy.

As the cuts and goodies poured forth opposition backbenchers vied with government backbenchers to create the longest and loudest desk thumping racket. Opposition Leader Bob Stanfield stood and bowed solemnly to the Finance Minister as several minor concessions to the P.C. program and one major one (his real income - constant dollar proposal of last year) were

made. Why, Mr. Turner even cut the tariff on bananas, just for good old Bob.

**Short-term**  
However Mr. Turner seems to have opted for short run political acceptance as opposed to long run economic benefit to the country. The budget has heightened speculation that the government, their image buoyed by the initial public favor surrounding the budget, is contemplating calling an election rather sooner than later. For in the long run the slight tax cuts, lack of strong inflationary controls and negligible assistance to small business can have no significant effect on what remains our major economic problems—inflation and unemployment.

On the other hand overdue old age and veterans' pension increases, the elimination of sales tax on many high volume consumer items and the elimination of capital gains tax

on a family farm transfer after death to a son are attractive vote-getting propositions. They are certainly well deserved and should be included in any expansionary budget. However we feel he should have gone farther. Those cuts, welcome as they are, must be accompanied by strong and dramatic measures, such as substantial tax cuts and even price and wage controls, designed to solve both of our major problems.

**About face**  
The generous acceptance of many PC and NDP election proposals appears to be smart politics—again on the short run. In view of the damning denunciations by Mr. Turner last year of these same measures, his about face at this time does little for his long run credibility as a minister of finance.

If you have a problem, idea, comment, criticism or if you simply wish to get in touch with me, please stop by or call my riding office at 326 Lakeshore Road East, Oakville, 844-0222.

# New garage escapes roads budget cuts

Halton County Council's Roads Committee has chopped \$269,000 from its 1973 budget, reducing the amount of money the committee will ask county council to raise as the county's share for maintenance of the county roads. The county's share will be \$1,438,500, an increase of \$280,000.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications has allocated \$1,466,000 as their contribution to the county roads system. Under the original estimates the total construction and maintenance work for the year would cost \$3,253,500. The committee cut that figure by bringing forward an \$80,000 surplus and cutting 269,000 worth of construction work from the budget.

Budget cuts were realized mostly through reductions of projects the engineer felt may not be completed in the calendar year anyway. In most cases some

work for design and preliminary work was left in, with the intention being that the rest of the work would be undertaken in early 1974.

**Jobs effected**  
Those jobs effected include: Guelph Line, Highway 5 to No. 1 Sideroad, \$7,000; Cedar Springs Rd. from Highway Ave. to No. 2 Sideroad, Burlington \$5,000; No. 25 Sideroad in Con. 1 Esqueping, completion of road grading and widening, \$2,000; Wildwood Hill, Esqueping, design property and construction, \$45,000; Rd. 23, Bridge 12, Paper Mill Bridge, Georgetown, Esqueping, design \$3,000; Bridge 12, Paper Mill Bridge 91, Seventh Line at Stewarttown, Esqueping, design \$3,000; Bridge 12, Paper Mill Bridge Georgetown, design, construction \$80,000; Wildwood Hill, Esqueping, construction of culverts, under fill, \$50,000.

County engineer Doug Corbett

noted the actual cuts in projects amounted to \$218,500 and the urban rebates saved as a result of the cuts would total approximately \$50,500.

**New garage**  
At the same meeting the committee confirmed the purchase of a county garage. That project estimated to exceed \$140,000 was delayed last year but after discussion at two meetings, committee chairman Tom Hill and engineer Corbett were successful in convincing members that the garage was necessary and the crowded conditions at the old garage shouldn't be tolerated any longer.

Some members had been concerned about the location for the garage just a few miles east of the County Buildings and wondered if it would be suitable in regional government. Only lab and testing facilities at the central garage would serve the whole county.

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FEDERAL MINISTER OF LABOR

## Labor minister slams protective legislation

In a hard-hitting speech to the Halton Wentworth Liberal annual meeting, Federal Labor Minister John Munro attacked what he called a protectionist stand as advocated in the Burke-Hartke bill now before the United States Congress.

Munro said the key lobbyists for restrictive, protection-oriented legislation was the A.F. of L.-C.I.O., the principal spokesman for the American Labor Movement.

"What does this mean for the International Trade Unions? In this context, I'm talking of the Canadian affiliates of the International unions (unions international really in the sense of the affiliation of unions in two countries, Canada and the United States) — perhaps continental unionism would be a more accurate identification.

"It strikes at the very core of this affiliation developed over decades. It strikes at the very core of the fundamental rationale for the existence of 'international unions,'" he said.

Shattering  
Munro said the move by U.S.

labor leaders could prove shattering to the international labor movement that had been so beneficial.

"As one dedicated to a greater degree of Canadian autonomy within the International structure, ironically I am now becoming more concerned about the actions of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. in the United States. Inevitably it will earn the disillusionment and possibly the vengeance of the Canadian worker against his American brother and pervert a cause of greater Canadian self-determination within the International movement.

"Its only results can be a narrow unhealthy nationalism that will insist on the repudiations of the finest elements of the International Trade Union movement itself.

**Lower barriers**  
"The fact remains that the basic tenet of the American labor movement has always been to foster a lowering of trade barriers. This has always proved to be in the best interest of their American members and their brothers all over the world.

Abandoning it, will be at their peril.

"The Burke-Hartke Bill must cause all trade-unionists to ask whether International Unions can logically and equitably serve the best interests of workers in two different countries in times of economic stress. And it is incumbent on the International union leadership to answer this question fairly and directly.

"I fervently hope the answer is 'yes' but that answer cannot be reconciled with the fostering of the Burke-Hartke Protectionist Trade Bill."

A report of an interview with Congressman James Burke as reported in the Toronto Star Monday indicated that Burke would fight any move by the U.S. government to impose a surcharge or other punitive tariff on Canadian exports to the U.S.

Although the Treasury Secretary George Shultz listed Canada along with Japan and the European Common Market as targets of proposed protectionist legislation, Burke said Canada had earned the trade surplus with the U.S.



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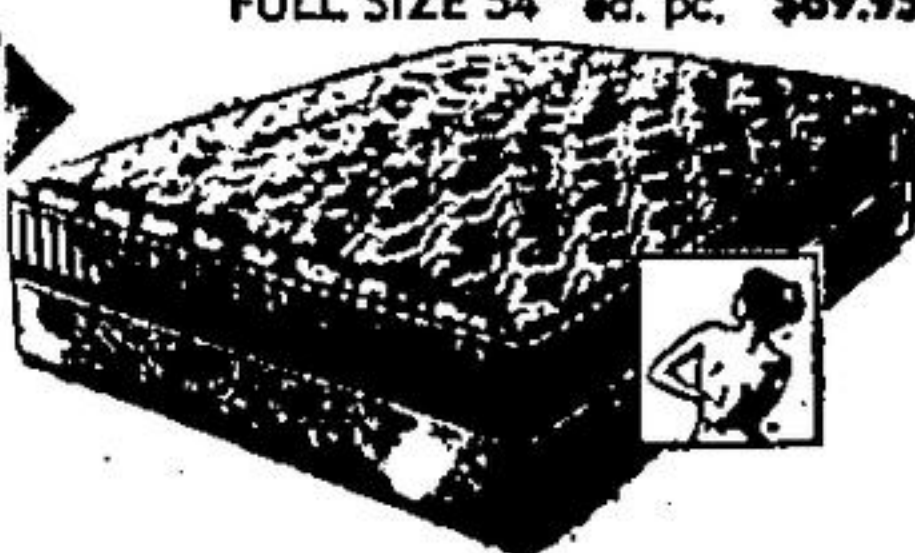


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