

"Complete denial of natural justice"

Area citizens ask Premier for impartial hearing on hydro corridor

16 August, 1974

The Honourable William G. Davis, Esq., Q.C., Premier of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Premier,

Re: Ontario Hydro - Bradley Georgetown Transmission Lines
ANDRE: Solandt Commission

The Globe and Mail report of 12 July, 1974 announcing your Government's decision as to Hydro routes bore the caption "Unique public review of Hydro's planning invited by McKeough."

Our group has now recovered from the shock of what was actually being announced in the Darcy McKeough letter dated 12 July, 1974 sufficiently that we now give you our preliminary criticisms before proceeding to the next necessary step in dealing with a province-wide response.

1. In respect to our pointing out the absolute need to understand and correct Hydro planning in 1974 for steps commencing immediately, we and the remaining public have been promised instead an opportunity to look at and to criticize the generalities of far-distant general planning. The concepts are intangible, the date of any hearings on them is projected for sometime in 1975, and the opportunity to speak of current future possibilities on a theoretical level leaves a bad taste as the farms and properties of our area are being cut or destroyed by actualities.

Long-term planning is necessary, and we are considering the recruiting of independent skills to take a useful part in such a process.

2. Mr. McKeough speaks of proceeding to a vast increase in the nuclear facilities at Bruce, thereby incurring capital costs of many millions of dollars at that facility, and multiplying now and forever the need to proliferate more and heavier transmission lines across the prime agricultural and scenic areas of south-western Ontario. It would appear sensible to end any increase in capacity at Bruce and to install nuclear generating capacity closer to the actual and projected load centres, e.g. Lake Ontario for Toronto-Hamilton and the Golden Horseshoe, while Bruce generation could service North Western Ontario and Northern Ontario. It is recognized, however, that a connection must be made to other 500 kv networks. Again, the Bruce-Essa line, under consideration by Hydro, does not appear to have been linked into the disclosed plan.

3. It is indicated that no enquiry or investigation beyond the empty, ex post facto, public meetings of this spring are intended to be held for the Limehouse-Orangeville area or the patch from that area to Bradley Junction, while all other areas would now appear to have some independent hearings. The announcement states that "hearings of necessity" will be retained for this area. This apparent concession to democracy is in substance no more than a sop to the appearance of hearings of necessity are traditionally matters of form without effect, and that case law indicates that it is only appropriate to find out if the taking authority considers the work necessary. The findings from the hearing are then left, cynically, to the expropriating authority itself as the body deciding whether or not to carry out its already-stated plans. Looking at the overall "decisions" announced, it would appear that Hydro made

its plans, then held its superficial hearings, and then has simply received the deliberative approval of the Cabinet to go on and do practically exactly what it had always planned to do, and in the way and in the places first intended. If it is correct that the hearings of necessity themselves would be limited to local conditions, then you combine the mockery of an empty procedure with the fact of providing a forum where neighbour will be pitted against neighbour in order to avoid the direct impact of the lines.

4. It is perfectly clear that the Solandt hearings were focused on the concerns of those people directly affected by the east-west corridors, and concessions were made which affected our area negatively. A curious aspect of Dr. Solandt's report is his refusal to accept the expert, neutral and highly expensive report of the environmental consultant, Bruce Howlett, concerning the Escarpment Crossing. Mr. Howlett's organization was selected by Dr. Solandt to make an intensive study of the areas concerned and lauded by him as being outstanding in the field. Mr. Howlett was able to recommend an Escarpment Crossing agreeable to the many thousands of concerned people represented in the briefs submitted, but Dr. Solandt made a recommendation conflicting with their views and Mr. Howlett's. No understandable explanation for the choice has appeared in spite of Mr. McKeough's comment on page 13 of his July 11th, 1974 statement, "Based on consideration of the evidence presented to him, Dr. Solandt made recommendations regarding the route of the 600KV corridor." We must further comment that Dr. Solandt misunderstood the implications of the Bruce to Essa alternate since he suggested an additional escarpment crossing was required. This of course would not be the

case, but one less crossing could be envisaged.

In sharp contrast to the intensive study of the Nanticoke-Pickering route, the Bradley-Georgetown study was conducted by Hydro officials themselves. The very name "Bradley-Georgetown" indicates the pre-conceived assumptions with which Hydro began and the findings that resulted. Obviously Hydro intended from the first to cross the Escarpment at Limehouse beside Georgetown, and their refusal to give serious consideration to such alternatives as the Bruce-Essa route as advanced in their hearings is understandable. This is why concerned citizens in the area from Bradley to Milton are justified in their feelings that the performance of the so-called "public input" is a farce, and that the contrast between consideration given them as compared with those along the Nanticoke-Pickering route is highly discriminatory. It is equally clear that to use the Solandt public hearings as an excuse for having no impartial public hearings whatever before physically embarking on land-taking for the Limehouse-Orangeville area is a complete denial of natural justice. The continuing pattern of Hydro acquisition people dealing with landowners in other projects shows that Hydro feels itself obliged to take any approach in discussions that will lead to actually getting the land they want. It is therefore simply putting the fox among the chickens to leave it to Hydro to make the specific land route choices in the very area with which we have expressed concern, and in which there has been no meaningful public input beyond undisclosed private arguments as to line placement and line switching.

The most significant observation that we have with respect to the proposed

Hydro corridor is that it contravenes one of Hydro's first priorities stated as recently in their report No. 5553P, Long Range Planning of the Electric Power System dated February 1, 1974, Page 15, in which general station sites must be "close to a major load centre." Throughout all of the Bradley-Georgetown hearings conducted by the Hydro, they continually stressed that the transmission lines were being built to service the local area and provide power specifically to the Kitchener area which is the closest major load centre, e.g. 2800 megawatts by 1985 and 5000 megawatts by 1995. Needless to say, all of these remarks by Hydro must be construed as false or the Government has erred in its route selection since the present projected line makes no effort to approach the closest load centre - Kitchener is left without new supply, and the other routes are misplaced as a result.

Another load centre, although not as large, could be considered to be the southern Georgian Bay area, where the Hydro are now in the planning stages to acquire further expanded transmission rights of way, between Bruce and Essa. Curiously, no attempt has been made to service either of these load areas but the power taken directly to the Toronto-Hamilton area.

We must also ask, if going to Kitchener is no longer a priority, why a route of less impact could not be chosen, e.g. that being from Bruce to Essa to Toronto. This could have the benefit of eliminating any new unrequired corridors.

It has been continually suggested that the Essa-Kleinberg corridor must be reserved for the future. Please consider that it has a minimum capacity of 9000 megawatts, of which Bruce would require only one-third. The remaining 6000 megawatts of capacity is equal to half the power now being used in Ontario. Hydro has not demonstrated that this amount of capacity will be required in the future. We must presume that priorities, other than minimum impact, must have directed the Government's decision. Since all of these points have not been fully answered, and proposals have been made which would have satisfied the needs of the Bradley-Georgetown study area in most part, that is avoiding prime agricultural land, following existing corridors and minimizing the distance between generation and load centres, we cannot help but feel that the key question is "Why did Dr. Solandt change his consulting engineers' recommendation and permit a plan which was acceptable to our area to be killed by a handful of people with the support of Ontario Hydro?" This becomes more difficult to understand when the Hydro Environmental Study for the Bradley-Georgetown study area, even in its present form, did not demonstrate any benefits for Dr. Solandt's alternate.

It appears absolutely essential, for the application of uniform standards of justice and fair play, that there be public hearings by a body not controlled or influenced by Hydro and with power to affect the actual results. If your Government is not willing to move voluntarily to satisfy such an obvious and established need, then it appears necessary that facts be put upon the floor of the Legislature and that a formal public enquiry under the terms of the Public Inquiries Act, R.S.O. 1970, C.379, be demanded.

Yours truly,
Interested Citizens of
North Halton and Wellington,
John C. Schneider.



WILDFOWL on Fairy Lake increase monthly as ducks, geese and swan raise broods of young. Sometimes the north arm of the lake resembles a harbor as flotillas of fowl congregate for a daily feeding by Esther Taylor.



Bill Smiley

Once upon a time, I really enjoyed shopping in supermarkets.

My wife hates shopping of any kind. Most women, I believe, rather enjoy it, especially for clothes. She detests it.

Therefore, she'd hand me a list as long as a foot, and off I'd go to the supermarket. Walking into that air-conditioning on a sweltering summer day was like going for a cool swim off a red-hot beach.

Picking up your empty grocery cart was like getting into a boat to go fishing, or finding an empty cornucopia to fill.

Then there was the pleasant, leisurely stroll through the vast maze of goodies. Past the vegetable counter, where the contents were sprayed with water to make them look "garden-fresh." Foking through the meat counter, with the red light overhead to make the meat look fresher.

Along the frozen-food section, where I always did some wild impulse buying, like fiddleheads or fresh shrimp in a gourmet sauce.

Into the fruit section, where I'd snatch up a basket of apples that looked as though they came from the Garden of Eden and tasted like wet tissue. Or grab a bag of oranges that looked as though they'd just been plucked off a tree and had about as much juice in them (and a lot more seeds) as a wizened little old lady of 94.

Pondering over the cheese counter and selecting a ripe Camembert, forgetting the cheese slices which were on the list.

Then there were the delightful personal encounters. The bowing and slipping back and smiling when you almost ran into a little old lady with her cart. The making friends with sticky babies riding in the baskets. The brief interchange with a friend and the inevitable, "We must get together one of these days." The polite and friendly clerks who would gallop a quarter-mile up and down the aisles to find you one small item you couldn't locate.

And finally, a pleasant chit-chat with the cashier, and the cheery willingness of the packers, the boys who put your stuff in bags and then carried it to your car, even in a blizzard, refusing a tip, once, then taking it with thanks.

Those were the days. But they're gone. Oh, the same cruddy moodmusic comes over the speakers. The signs and banners are there, more misleading than ever. But, by gosh, the price is NOT right, the service is lousy, and the old courtesy and leisureliness is a thing of the past.

The vegetables are still hosed down, but now the customer is being hosed as well. Fifty cents for a head of lettuce?

We now walk past the meat counter with eyes averted, until we come to the hamburger section and surreptitiously snatch up half a pound.

The frozen food department is enough to freeze the blood. In fruit, raspberries at \$1.00 a pint, bananas that look beautiful at ten cents each, and rot overnight. And on

and on. Cheese must be made of angels' milk.

Service? You might as well be in the Sahara looking for an oasis as in a supermarket looking for a clerk.

There seems to be a big cut-back on staff. Hit for the door with a full shopping cart on a busy Friday or Saturday afternoon and two of the five or six check-out counters will be closed. You can stand in line for half an hour. The cheery boys who used to do the packing are almost nonexistent, and you're lucky if they put your groceries in your cart, let alone take it to your car. The cashiers are as friendly as computers.

Inside the store, don't turn your back on that sweet little old lady who once exchanged smiles and apologies with. She'll run you down from behind with sixty pounds of groceries, trying to beat you to that "super-special" on aged turnips.

Don't try to make friends with that cute kid riding in the basket. He'll probably throw a half-empty pop can at you, or sling a half-eaten chocolate bar onto your clean shirt.

Oh, dear reader, we are being manipulated by the supermarkets. Who do you think is paying for that "free" parking, those full-page or double-page advertisements, all that fancy packaging? It is you and it is I, fellow sucker.

I always knew I was being taken in a supermarket. But it used to be sort of fun. Now it's a nightmare.

Free Press Editorial Page

4 The Acton Free Press, Wed., August 21, 1974

Answers letter from Jean 'buyer'

Dear Sir:
In answer to the "poor little girl" from last week who "doesn't know who to trust anymore..."

We think the girl who bought the jeans and the girl who wrote and signed the letter are two different people. I myself gave the buyer a bill. How else would she be able to return after three days and have it explained?

As far as the price changes are concerned, please compare them with the

same brand names and you'll see that "by golly the price is right."

It's been a long hot summer and these poor kids are running out of ideas on how to amuse themselves.
By the way, we are not a "boutique". A.J. Place is a Jean store.

Anna Coniglio,
John Coniglio.

Abandoned pup hits home

Dear Sir:
One hears tales of puppies and kittens abandoned in obscure places; dumped off in driveways, left to die. It fills me with distress. It's not until the act is committed on one's own doorstep that the enormity is realized.

Last weekend a just-weaned pup was hurled screaming out of a car window into our hedge row along 5 Sideroad, as the car sped away into the dark. We tried to convince ourselves the pup was a frightened stray, but the sound effects were too obvious.

Fortunately, the pup was physically unharmed and responded to loving care. He now has a happy home with our neighbors.

In this case, the act was a kindness. The pup is better off in his new home. But what of the thousands who suffer and die? Is it not kinder to have a vet put them mercifully to sleep? Or, better still, avoid all unwanted births by sterilization?

Concerned.

Officials scramble for cover

Dear Sir:
In response to an article in your paper last week.

This part of the province must be in a sad state of affairs when its residents have to travel to the far north, the west and to the Rockies to find clean and sparkling lakes with trout that jump and clean country.

We have our Health Departments, Health Units, Government Departments, Water Resource Commissions and Conservation Authorities.

These are a lot of departments constructed of a lot of people, costing us taxpayers a lot of money. They are great at talking and telling us what should be done...

They are also great at spending our money on signs and equipment to keep our country clean and our waters sparkling but when a pollution problem is reported to them, have you ever watched them scramble for cover.

By the time they figure out who's responsibility it is, things are really in a mess. Then they tell you that they don't have enough personnel to do the job.

If the residents of this part of the province would stop allowing sewage, pig manure, and sows to live in creek bottoms plus all the other things that are dumped in our waterways, and on our land, our fish would jump and our waters would sparkle again and our country would look as beautiful as it did 40 years ago when I was a boy.

Just THINK of all the people who could be doing something constructive for this province and saving us a lot of tax dollars!

Just think for a moment!

Clicky-Dicky

He's a super energetic guy,
He's right there with the news,
When councils meet, and drag their feet,
He gives us all their views.

God bless the little news-hound,
Who pops up everywhere,
Out in the sticks his shutter clicks,
At every county fair.

With his tricky box of lenses,
To make good pictures certain,
I've even heard he gets the bird,
Behind the bathroom curtain.

He used to get in places,
No one else could go,
He tells the news and gets the views
With the Queenie of our Show.

But times are really changing,
They are kicking him about,
To hide the news from public views,
They lock the newsfolk out.

There should be no private meetings,
For which the public pay,
It's theirs to know who spends their dough
In a democratic way.

So, let's keep "CLICKY DICKY"
With his pencils and his pads,
We want the news and picture views,
Just like we always had.

Victor Smith
R.R. 2 Rockwood.

Budget reports accurate,

To: The Editor of
The Acton Free Press.

Dear Sir:
I have reviewed the reports of the 1974 Budget of Halton Hills in several newspapers and found your comments and editorials to be accurate and very informative to the general public.

Therefore, on behalf of the Finance Committee and the Department Heads concerned please accept our sincere thanks. May your excellent standards of reporting be continued in the future since progressive newspapers play an important role in knitting the communities of Halton Hills together.

Yours very truly,
"Pat" McKenzie

\$3,720,000 more in grants for Halton

Dear Editor:
Re: Provincial Grants to the Regional Municipality of Halton.

I have read with interest over the past weeks the comments of the press and the municipal officials relating to financial assistance provided by the Provincial Government to the new Regional Municipality of Halton and the four area municipalities.

Many of the comments have related to the so-called start-up grants which were approved for the Region of Halton in the amount of \$1,000,000 or an amount of \$4.83 per capita. Similar grants in other regions that have been approved to date this year amounted to \$4.44 per capita for the Region of Durham, and \$3.22 per capita for the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth.

What has not been made perfectly clear, I believe, is the increase in financial assistance made available to the new Region and the municipalities by way of increases in the unconditional provincial transfer payments. These increases have been substantial and for the most part are a permanent feature of the reformed municipal structure and will give the Region a greater capacity to provide services to its citizens in 1974 and future years.

In addition to the special assistance to the Regional and area municipalities for the development of regional services and start-up costs in the amount of \$1,000,000, there is the on-going increased per capita and

general support grant to the Regional Municipality which this year shows a substantial increase in the amount of \$2,370,000. In addition there is the estimated transitional grant to the area municipalities in the amount of \$350,000.

You will note that the total increase in the financial assistance to the Region and the area municipalities over and above what would have been available under the former structure amounts to \$3,720,000.

In order to more fully explain the assistance made available to the Region this year, I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter written by Mr. A. Rendall Dick, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Inter-governmental Affairs to Mr. Allan M. Masson, Chairman of the Regional Municipality of Halton on August 1st, 1974, outlining the approved financial assistance to the Region, which I believe is self-explanatory.

I hope the foregoing information will assist in explaining the additional monies made available to the municipal governments through the Treasurer's policy of sharing the provincial revenues with the municipalities. In addition to the grant monies mentioned above are the many other provincial payments made for the provision of financial assistance for the municipalities - road programmes, public libraries, conservation authorities, the educational system, etc.

With kindest regards, I remain,
Yours sincerely,
James W. Snow,
Minister.

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