

Fun and games period

"What really was said about the Bradley-Georgetown hydro corridor and the office of the Ombudsman in the Ontario Legislature on April 8, 1976?"

Here's the questions and answers from Hansard with stars of the House bobbing up and down:

Bradley-Georgetown Hydro route

Mr. Lewis: A question of the Minister of Energy. How is it that the Ombudsman in Ontario engaged in a preliminary investigation of several months' duration into the Bradley-Georgetown Hydro Corridor plan before he was informed that a cabinet minute dated May 29, 1974, precluded him from the inquiry which had accumulated many many hours, indeed months of his time.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I think Mr. Speaker, in answer to that question, I think in fact a number of months ago, it was indicated to the Ombudsman or to staff in his office that there was some question in mind of the officials of my ministry as to whether in fact his act did in fact give him jurisdiction. Somewhere in this file, I have the list, the chronology of the contacts between the Ombudsman's office and mine. If you would like, I can send you later today or tomorrow, a letter indicating the chronology of the contacts on that.

Mr. Lewis: By way of supplementary, you will recall then that you wrote the Ombudsman in December of 1975, saying that you were seeking a certificate from the Attorney General to indicate that his investigation was precluded under the Act with... which certificate never came, and his right was reversed on April 5 by a reference to a cabinet minute of May 29, 1974, about which no one in this Legislature or the citizens committee or the Ombudsman knew anything.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, that last part is absolutely not true.

Mr. Lewis: Why?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Absolutely not true. That was referred to—the hon. member will know that on July 11, 1974 my colleague the former Minister of Energy did announce the government's decision.

Mr. Lewis: You announced your decision.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: ... which embraced the decision taken by the Cabinet of Ontario on May 29, 1974.

Mr. Lewis: But didn't tell anybody about it.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The Environmental study, again if you will look at the statement of July 11, 1974 the new Treasurer indicated that that study was, in fact, underway. You are quite correct in saying that it wasn't completed.

Mr. Lewis: It wasn't.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It was delivered to the ministry in December of 1974, released in January, 1975 dealing—the primary concern as you recall at the time was the portion of the route between section 33 and 95 as expressed, I think, by one or two of your members and certainly by the former member for York Centre. That was the primary concern. In fact, I would suggest looking over Hansard the last two years. The only concern ever expressed.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister prepare a full chronology of all of these events and table it since it appears very clearly that the Cabinet decision dated May 29, 1974 which precluded the Ombudsman's investigation was taken before the intensive investigations undertaken by Mr. Caverly?? and others, and it would appear that while the Cabinet had made up its mind on this matter, they were allowing other interested citizens to think that the matter was not decided and that the government undertook expensive and lengthy investigations after the decisive fact had been agreed. (?)

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, let me just give the hon. member and the House some of the more important dates.

Mr. Nixon: We would like all of them tabled.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Well, fine. I'll be glad to. Let me just say this—that in fact the decision was taken in 1969, you will recall, to build the Bruce Generating Station, Bruce A Generating Station. In early 1972 the Cabinet of the day decided that the terminus of the line from that station would be in the Georgetown Milton area and that was announced at the time.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: In 1974 we got into the Solandt Commission on the Nanticoke to Pickering—I'm sorry, 1973 and 1974, and in 1974 he recommended that there be no further consideration of a Bruce to Essa corridor. He gave extensive time to individuals who made representation for such a study and he specifically recommended against such a further study. On May 2, before the decision was taken by Cabinet, representatives of the interested citizens group in that part of Ontario met with ministers of the Cabinet Committee on resources development to put yet again their view that there should be a further study of a Bruce to Essa corridor, notwithstanding the recommendation of Commissioner Solandt. It was not until May 29, almost four weeks later that the decision was taken by the government and announced by my colleague, the Treasurer—the then Minister of Energy, on July 11 of that same year.

Mr. Speaker: Further questions. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk with his questions please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Twenty minutes has been taken with the first set of lead-off questions with their supplementaries. I think we should get on to the questions. There are many more people with questions. The member for Halton-Burlington please.

Mr. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Yakabuski:

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Really got you eh?

Mr. Reed: On May 29, 1974, when the decision was made which affected the Ombudsman's participation in the Bradley-Georgetown corridor, was hydro's environment report available and if not on what basis was that cabinet decision made?

Hon. Mr. Handleman: Finally heard about it.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have indicated on a number of occasions to people in the area affected and recently, since the hon. member started to ask about this in the last 10 days to him, that the decision was taken a number of years ago, in fact, it was over four years ago—

An hon. member: In other words...

Hon. Mr. Timbrell:—that there would be determinants of the line to bring power out of Bruce would be in the general Georgetown-Milton area and for reasons of system security for reasons that are well-known to him.

The member will know, as I indicated earlier, that in fact, the environmental reports prepared by Hydro on the Bradley to Georgetown corridor were completed and delivered to the ministry in December 1974 and released to the public on January 6, 1975. He will also know that in March, 1975, when the interested citizens group visited me in my office on Mar. 25, I believe it was, I ordered Hydro to keep all work on the line until I had considered their request. You will know, of course that my response to the request was to order the environmental hearing board to investigate the portion between 33 and 95, that is between Colbeck and Limehouse.

I notice I have a copy of an advertisement of the hon. member from the last election. He was prepared to stop it altogether and I put to him again the question which I put to him in the letter which I sent him several days ago; is he in fact prepared to make all power consumers of the Province of Ontario pay the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars that will be involved in such a delay?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Reed: Mr. Speaker, the minister has not answered this question. I asked him on what basis the 1974 decision was made?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I did, in fact, answer the question and if he would pay attention I will tell him again, that the decision was taken—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you might read it in Hansard, thank you.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That the—

Mr. Roy: Don't repeat it you dummy—my god!

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Albert be nice.

Mr. Roy: Smart ass.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Watch your language.

Mr. Roy: Send him back to school and learn some manners.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Will the minister take his seat. If it's the same question it was answered. I have a supplementary.

Mr. Roy: Show a bit of modesty.

Mr. Ruston: Send him back to grade school.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Order.

Mr. Lewis: I want to ask—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: I want to ask...

Mr. Speaker: Order, the hon. member for Ottawa-East.

Order.

Mr. Lewis: Can I not ask a supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Lewis: I am sorry. I want to ask you relating back to the content of the question. What are you going to do as a minister, as a cabinet, to repair the obviously strained relationship with the Ombudsman as reflected in the letter which he sent you as a result of this precluding?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: The Ombudsman was contained in the action.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, that's an observation I suppose that the hon. member is certainly entitled to make.

Mr. Shore: Tell him you have got a very good relationship.

Mr. Lewis: I think you should be responsible for that. (inaudible) the other day.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have spent part of the morning rereading Hansard from last year with regards to the debate on the Ombudsman Bill and I find it difficult—thoroughly difficult—to determine exactly where your party stood on that particular conception.

Mr. Lewis: It was on the same issue that Jim Renwick exchanged with John Clement.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I read 12 pages of comments from the hon. member and still couldn't understand where he placed.

Mr. Renwick: There is not difficulty, you reread it to-night.

Mr. Roy: Why don't you bring us... (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Rhodes: Calm down Albert.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I think Mr. Speaker that the relationship between the Ombudsman and the assembly and the government is as good today as it has ever been, particularly as a party.

Mr. Yakabuski: Don't destroy that image.

Mr. Roy: You appear like a nice guy Paul next to him.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It was a case that this was—I think this was really the first occasion on which the Ombudsman had to answer for himself, the question of the breadth of his jurisdiction particularly in light of section 14(b) of the Ombudsman's Act.

Mr. Nixon: Is he that bad?

Mr. Roy: He is that bad.

Mr. Yakabuski: (Inaudible) the leader in four years when your time is right.

Mr. Renwick: He spends most of his time writing.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Simcoe East. All right, we will allow a final supplementary, the member for Halton-Burlington.

Mr. Reed: In view of the—

Mr. Speaker: The member for Halton-Burlington with a supplementary.

Mr. Reed: Knowing Mr. Speaker, that the cost of this delay from 1974 to the present time, according to the minister's figures would be from 25 to 48 million as of April 5, 1976 and that further...



EASTER SUNDAY brought crowds out to all the churches in summer clothing, no less. Here a group leaves Knox church.

Friends-In-Deed

Picnic plans will soon be finalized

by Mrs. Emily Price

We hope everyone had a happy Easter. The weather couldn't have been better, and it is hoped as many as possible got out to enjoy it. Our busy season is starting with the election of officers, so we are hoping for a good attendance to encourage the new executive, whoever they may be.

The area clubs' picnic on Saturday, June 5 at Eden Mills, is to be finalized at this meeting, and also several other activities are to be discussed. Our trip to the Metro Zoo on May 30 has met with great success. A busload will be going so this is very encouraging to us. We are hoping all our future activities will meet with the same success. It is very important that as many of our group should get out and take part, if only by their presence.

Welcome
We always welcome new people and volunteers who feel they would like to come out and see what our organization is all about. We welcome them to come out and share their ideas with us. The next meeting will be on

No trailers year-round

No permanent year-round mobile homes will be allowed at Waterfalls Playground, on the Sixth Line, according to a site plan recommended for approval by Halton Hills Planning Board. Summer camping in tents or trailers will be able to locate there, and the existing snack bar dance hall and residence will remain. Swimming will also continue in the park. An area will be used for reforestation.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Opposes ban on public

R.R. 2, Rockwood, Ont. April 16, 1976.
To the Editor,

Dear Sir,
As a person who is deeply committed to public affairs in Halton, I am disgusted to read that two of Halton Hills councillors would even suggest banning the very people they are supposed to represent from Halton Hills committee meetings. In Halton I have had direct evidence of apathy shown by residents. Regionalism was the beginning of this apathy, government is too far removed from the taxpayers, but to ban the public and the press is outrageous.

People like myself, who work rotating shifts, rely on the press for information, and people who are elected should be prepared to be quoted and mis-quoted. A short letter to the editor will clarify the situation. In Halton Hills we have the media in competition, so the correct message will be delivered.

Of course, some subjects must be held in camera, but these are few and far between. I personally would like to see the day when regional and local council meetings are covered by cable T.V. Councillors who want to turn government into a secret society should never be elected to office.

William A. Johnson.

A prisoner's plea

April 15, 1976
Mr. Elton W. Moore Jr.
P.O. Box 787, No. 143-328
Lucasville, Ohio 45648

To the Editor:

Dear Sir,
I will be intensely grateful to find that this short letter will not be regarded to be an unsolicited intrusion upon your social and private affairs. I'm writing in hope that I may receive your services in printing an item for me. I would like to thank you beforehand for any attention you give me and my plea for help of correspondence.

Lonely Prisoner In Need

I'm incarcerated at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility at Lucasville, Ohio. I'm 23 years old and without family and friends who are concerned with my health and welfare. I'm seeking outside communication before I lose myself in loneliness. If anyone cares to write: Elton W. Moore Jr., P.O. Box 787, No. 143-328, Lucasville, Ohio 45648. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Remain In Peace.

Elton W. Moore Jr. No. 143-328

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