Lewis says hydro corridor denial of rights

What similarities exist between the closing of Durham Hospital and the Bradley to Georgetown hydro corridor?

According to NDP leader Stephen Lewis they are both indicative of the denial of citizens' rights by Queen's Park. "All efforts citizens mobilized to persuade the Government to change its mind never had any impact,' he told 450 people at an information meeting at Durham high school auditorium Wednesday night last week, including several who made the 75 mile trip

"The parallels between closing of the hospital and the battle for an independent study of the Georgetown to Bradley hydro corridor "chill the blood a little," Lewis told a responsive audience. He said the Government told citizens to send them alternatives because the cabinet was flexible and would take them seriously, but in both cases they were ignored.

from this area.

"It's a dual story of frustration and dismay for the comhands, if there is an election, and the government changes.

Lewis saw the decision to part of the growing tendency of monolithic government decisions on citizens without the right to appeal. It bothers route. However, he charged me, he said, that although there was never any ques-

manipulated by government. The meeting, called by Interested Citizens along the route of the hydro corridor which Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell approved recently, highlighted Lewis' hard biting speech in which he attached the ambitions of Ontario Hydro and the decision of the Government to follow without question, any decisions Hydro made.

Lewis said Ontario Hydro decided the corridor would run from Bruce to Milton in 1971 at a time when power was cheap and inexhaustible and Hydro behaved like a free-wheeling enterprise which could do as it pleased. "All decisions were made on that basis," he said, charging no one was ever consulted and it was presumed the corporation never made any mistakes. It was in that atmosphere they made the decision about a line from Bradley to Milton, he said.

In 1972, he said, the Ontario Government approved in principle the Bradley to Georgetown corridor but the year was also the turning point for Hydro, Lewis said. munities involved," Lewis He suggested the Moog affair. said, pledging he and his citizens' protests and quesparty would insist on an in- tions from environmentalists dependent study of the hydro who questioned Hydro's corridor from start to finish rationale, whether the probefore any land changes posals were economically and environmentally sound. turned things around.

"Suddenly everybody got proceed with the corridor as edgy," Lewis told the crowd. The Government rejected the decision made in 1972, and bureaucracies to impose agreed to have some kind of environmental study for the

PROPOSED 500,000 VOLT HYDRO CORRIDOR PEAK VOLTAGES OVER 700,000 VOLTS PREVAILING UNINSULATED CONDUCTORS HEIGHT OF TOTIERS 165 FEET (16 STORY BUILDING)

WALTER SCOTT'S map of the Bradley to Georgetown hydro corridor just east of Acton shows effects he believes it will have on Halton Hills.

said the Government only looked at it in the light of congovernments asked for public tions about the desirability of sidering one route over participation, citizens were the route, or whether basic another, always in con-

At exactly the same point in time the Government appointed the one man Solandt Pickering corridor. Dr. Solandt was also asked to look at the proposal for a junction Beverley Swamp and Milton

planning was wrong. Lewis formity to the route chosen by for corridors. "They couldn't believe it," he said, "the way they played one farmer against another.'

Lewis said Hydro exists for Commission with a mandate the people of Ontario and has to look at the Nanticoke to a responsibility to the Legislature and of all people in the province they have the least right to abuse and mistreat at Milton, although he never people. He charged that is the strayed far from the Ontario way the corporation con-Hydro proposal in spite of the sistently behaved until it was fact it went through the changed-under pressure.

The NDP leader also charged the Government Then came part five, Lewis appointed the Porter Comsaid, where Hydro started to mission to investigate deal with farmers on exprop- Ontario Hydro's activities riation and easements of land because they were out of con-

trol, were forcing rate increases, over-capitalizing and had been seduced by nuclear power, although Lewis said it was worth noting the hydro system has a 'corridor was still being 38 per cent surplus.

Then, after receiving a request from the Interested Citizens along the Bradley to Georgetown route, for an independent study of the entire corridor, Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell decided on an environmental hearing of only a small portion of the route from Colbeck to Limehouse. Although the ICG and politicians asked for an independent study of the entire corridor he noted, it was refused for an environmental study of little consequence to anyone involved.

Environmental Hearing Board in its report rapped Ontario Hydro for flaws in its public participation program. "In considering the matter of the Bruce to Essa proposal the EHB report said, "Perhaps the most serious concern is how such a basic difference of opinion between Ontario Hydro and a vitally concerned and actively involved sector of the public could persist at this advanced stage of the decision-making process, in spite of the high quality of the comprehensiveness of public participation which accompanies the study. Clearly this situation resulted from a flaw in the public participation process, that there was no full public participation in making the fundamental decision as to where electric power from the Bruce generating station shall go, and therefore what

study area boundaries shall

McKeough announced a \$5.6 billion cut in Hydro proposals but the Bradley to Milton shoved through with no thought of using alternate routes already proposed or used by Hydro accepted. It was to go ahead despite what citizens, logic or politicians

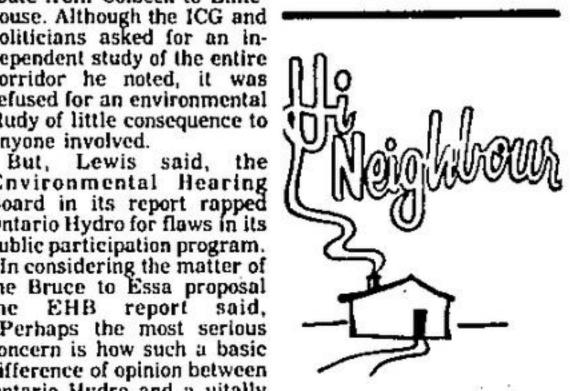
The ICG turned to the Ombudsman Arthur Maloney

and he agreed to take the case

Lewis said some things on after some thought. He began to change. Mr. notified the Minister he was taking on the case last December. Correspondence between the Ombudsman and the Minister continued but it wasn't until April the Minister notified Mr. Maloney he has no jurisdiction in the case because of a cabinet decision back in May, 1974. Mr. Maloney regretfully

dropped the case, Lewis said. "That was the last nail in the saga. Citizens were blanked every step of the way," Lewis said, "All efforts of citizens mobilized to persuade the government to change its mind never had any impact."

Lewis urged the audience to look at Hydro proposals to ring Lakes Huron and Erie with nuclear plans and to bisect the province with hydro corridors which would swallow up valuable farm land. He said alternate proposals of interested citizens made more sense and had more profound and deep thought into the matter than Hydro had contributed but they were rejected outright.



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Liberal MPPs to talk on line, citizens' rights

subject of an Interested Citizens' Group (ICG) sponsored meeting at Erin next runner-up in the party's Wednesday.

The meeting will feature two Liberal MPPs as speakers: energy critic David Peterson (London Centre) and Halton-Burlington representative Julian Reed.

the Erin High School gym-

Citizens' rights will be the nasium May 12 starting at

Mr. Peterson was the

that both speakers "are very The meeting will be held in familiar with the problems of

leadership contest earlier this year. Mr. Reed, of Norval, sits on the all-party Hydro Select Committee and is Liberal critic for consumer commercial relations. An ICG press release states

the proposed Bradley-

Snowmobile course for operator's licence

Between November 19. 1975, and March 23, 1976, there were 22 fatalities, 537 personal injuries and 267 involving snowmobiles on and off Ontario highways, reports Transportation and Communications Minister James Snow, of Hornby.

"This underscores the potential hazards of snowmobiling and the need to train operators," said Snow, "and our proposed instruction program is a logical next step to meet this need.

Mr. Snow was referring to his Ministry's program with the Ontario Safety League and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs to develop and deliver a program of courses on snowmobiling and snowmobile driver training. MTC will provide the Ontario Safety League with a grant of \$20,000 to develop the course. From the course will come Ontario's first certified snowmobile instructors. The OSL will carry out a

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will train approximately 1,200 property damage collisions snowmobile instructors from

two-day course with 18 people who will qualify as "area instructors". They, in turn, across the province who will train locally those who want to apply for a motorizef snow vehicle operator's licence. The manual for instructors and the instruction course is

being written.

corridor and have been associated with the problem for some time." The Erin meeting is the

second sponsored by the ICG which focuses on citizens' carrying out an independent study of the entire proposed station to Georgetown.

Approximately 450 people, concerned about the closing of the Durham hospital and the building of the hydro line. heard Mr. Lewis and other

two issues.

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Georgetown transmission

rights. New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Stephen Lewis spoke on the same topic at Durham April 28 when he pledged the NDP to Hydro corridor from the Bruce Nuclear Generating

speakers.

Mr. Lewis outlined his view of the similar handling of the hospital closing and the 500,000 watt power corridor. The opposition leader recounted how, in his view, the Ontario government resisted appeals from citizens to change its decisions on the

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