

# A different gospel

The Gospel According To St. Hereticus

Once upon a time God lived at the North Pole. He wanted little boys and girls to be happy and have lots of good toys. But if they wanted toys, they had to be good. So God sent a spaceman to tell the shepherds not to be afraid, because even though Santa Claus was coming to town, Herod was going to kill all the little babies. Next week on the television network the three wisemen watched the baby Jesus coming to earth in a spaceship that was so bright it looked like a star. They followed the spaceship for a long time. But they didn't get tired, because they came in a sled that was drawn by three camels named Prancer and Donner and Blitzen, and the sled went jingle, jingle, jingle all the way. The noise frightened the shepherd's sheep, who started to run, and the pilot leaned out of the spaceship to tell the shepherds not to spank their sheep, because this would make them sore afraid.

He said that if they went to the Bethlehem Steel Company, they could see Jesus in a manger with an electric light bulb in it to keep the baby from getting cold. But the baby in the manger was only a doll, so it didn't matter.

The kings finally got there and had presents for the baby. One had some gold from Fort Knox, and another king named Frank Incense gave Jesus "murr", or something. The shepherds didn't see the spaceman anymore, but they decked the hall where Jesus was with boughs of holly, so that if bad Herod went there, he would prick his finger and die.

But Santa Claus got down the chimney before Herod had a dream and left a bowlful of jelly for Mary and Joseph, because they couldn't get into the hotel for supper. Mary was great with child, so she was the babysitter while Joseph went to the garage and got the donkey. Then they took a trip to the desert so Jesus could play with the sand toys Santa Claus had left, and then Santa Claus

gave them a ride over the Red Sea in his sleigh so that the Egyptians wouldn't drown them.

Then God went back to the North Pole until next Christmas and took off his red suit and made more toys. But it's always Christmas for Dad if he gets a carton of filter cigarettes that draw better than all the other leading brands. Impartial tests show. And the shepherds were late getting back to their flocks, because they were keeping their watch by night and couldn't see what time it said. But they left a special message for us about telling Mom to go down to the friendly neighborhood grocer and buy a giant economy size box of Zuz, with a plastic wind-up angel inside absolutely free, complete with launching platform.

Since Jesus gave presents to all the animals, we ought to give presents even to our aunts and uncles. He liked all the animals in the manger, because they were wearing swaddling clothes to keep warm, and there was a donkey and a cow and a horse and two sheep and a bear and a lion and a hippopotamus and a pushmepullyou, and all the people wore clothes made from old living room curtains.

Herod's other name was Scrooge.

(St. Hereticus is Dr. Robert McAfee Brown, Professor of Religion at Sanford University)

## Turkey dinner for Knox group

The Daughters of Knox held their December meeting in the form of a turkey dinner and all the trimmings at the home of Mrs. McKenzie.

Dinner was served and the exchange of gifts followed. Worship service was conducted by Mrs. Herb Price and her group titled Let Us Go to Bethlehem.

Mrs. Mac Sprowl and her group had a social hour of playing court whist, enjoyed by all.



CHILDREN LINE up in Beardmore's to take their turn at chatting with Santa. Bill Nelles took a leading role in the production for the 12th year. He says he enjoys the day thoroughly.

## Taylor denies north power

Energy Minister James Taylor says the proposed 500kV power corridor through Halton Hills will mainly serve Southern Ontario not the north as MPP Julian Reed said.

Reed, the Liberal party's energy critic, said most of the power coming from the new transformer station in Milton

would flow into Northern Ontario.

Reed also suggested Hydro wants to run three 500,000 volt lines and two 230,000 volt lines down the planned grid. He said the width of the corridor would fall between 750 and 1,750 feet.

Taylor replied that any other lines would be subject to the usual public hearings.

The minister also said arrangements for systems security and rights-of-way for the lines which connect at Milton follow recommendations of the Solandt report issued in 1974.

Bad Driving conditions were had on Thursday night.

## Information published

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854-2366 To the Editors, Dear Sir,

Today I get little satisfaction in saying "I told you so", though I can't help pointing it out now that the Minister of the Environment is looking at Montreal's Incinerator/Energy producing plant for Halton Region, that in Oct. 1973, yes 1973, when I wrote a full page article on solid waste for the Hills Publishing Co., amongst other such plants, I pointed out the merits of

Montreal's Incinerator Energy producing plant.

Again in Jan. 1976, in the Nassagaweya Area Ratepayers Association critique of the Dillon Report which I presented to Halton Region, I referred to this same plant.

One wonders what those people who take the taxpayers' dollars at the provincial level and council level to keep abreast of technology do to while away their time.

William A. Johnson

## Breaking down...

(Continued from page 4)

## Fort Erie reunion

Calling all former students of the Fort Erie Secondary School home to the town that skirts the border to mark the 50th anniversary of the school, May 12 and 13, 1978.

Those interested in attending are asked to contact the Reunion '78 Secretary, Mrs. M. McMillen at the school, Tait Avenue, Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 3P1, (416) 871-4610, as soon as possible.

Yours truly, Dean Mellway, Regional Director, Ontario March of Dimes, November 28, 1977



A COUPLE of things kept Dwayne Hitchcock busy Saturday at the Beardmore party. He had to visit Santa, and he helped lead the ponies in the popular pony enclosure run by his family.

# Tax bite in Canada lighter, better distributed—Philbrook

HOUSE OF COMMONS To the Editor,

By comparing our taxation system with that of our foreign counterparts it has become obvious the burden of taxation is lighter and more equitably distributed than in most other western nations.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to which Canada belongs, recently published a study called Revenue Statistics of OECD Member Countries 1965-1975. The study shows that Canada takes less of a tax bite than do half the member countries.

The figures reveal that Canada's total tax revenue—as percentage of Gross Domestic Product—ranks thirteenth out of 22 member nations. "Total tax revenue" means everything from federal income tax to customs duties, provincial sales tax and municipal assessments.

Taxes are highest in the Netherlands at 47 per cent of G.D.P., Canada at 34 per cent, comes behind France 37 per cent and Germany 35.2 per cent. Not so far behind is the U.S. at 30.3 per cent and Switzerland, the presumed bastion of private enterprise, at 29.5 per cent.

This means in dollar terms that every man, woman and child in Canada paid \$2,480 to all forms of governments. In Sweden the equivalent was 50 per cent higher at \$3,890 and even in Switzerland taxes per capita were marginally higher than in Canada.

Incidentally, if you think we penalize the hard workers and risk takers in our society at a higher rate than we do the norm of the population, look at the following. Our taxes on incomes and profits equalled 11.3 per cent of our G.D.P. while in Germany the corresponding figures were 12.2 per cent, in Switzerland, the tax haven, 13 per cent, and in the United States 13.3 per cent.

What is more, however, is that only less than half your tax dollar goes to the federal government. In 1975 Canada was first among OECD countries in the percentage of tax revenue which was accrued is even smaller than calculated since a large proportion is returned to the

provinces through equalization, revenue guarantee, health care and other contributions.

Clearly, though our federal tax levy is lower than most countries the government still manages to provide its citizens with a range of services either equal or superior to any other nation in the world. We have universities, medical care, old age pensions, Canada pensions, and more as we all know, and

## Manager—co-ordinator?

The town of Halton Hills may be looking for a manager-co-ordinator to replace Clerk-administrator Doug Pritchard who leaves at the end of year for a position in B.C.

A committee of four councillors, one from each ward, will draw up the terms of reference to prepare a job description for both a clerk-administrator and a management co-ordinator.

these are all federally supplied or supported.

Of course, these services are not free. We pay for them through our taxes. And we love to protest that the government is too involved in

the economy, that business is being taxed out of existence, that we are not allowed to hold onto hard earned profits. But the point is—and this is the crux of the argument, we are getting good value for our money.

The OECD figures speak clearly. For once the grass is greener on this side of the fence.

Dr. Frank A. Philbrook, Member of Parliament, Halton.

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