

Resource recovery is a must

Region should forget landfill Reed claims

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed says Halton Regional Council suffers from a town dump mentality and that is all that is standing between the region and resource recovery.

Reed serves as the Liberal critic on energy in the provincial legislature and recently returned from a trip to Washington to see what the Americans are doing with regard to resource recovery and waste management.

"When I went there I saw what happens when a country sets a goal with a determination to reach it. Just prior to 1976 the Americans said they'd make resource recovery a reality by 1980. They said that garbage is a natural resource and they proceeded to say 'now how do we do it?'"

Reed went on to say that Ontario municipalities are caught up in what he calls the town dump mentality. "Here we seem to spend a lot of time finding out why it won't work."

According to the MPP there are so many approaches that could be taken. "Some of them are negative cost wise now, but they won't be for long."

Reed insists that the technology for resource recovery is with us and is proven but it is not implemented because of the "too soon syndrome" which is typical of so many things.

"In some European countries official plans for municipalities must have energy plans and this has spawned municipal generating facilities."

Reed describes systems where garbage is burned to provide steam. The steam

generates electric power and the power is sold to the provincial utility and the waste heat is used for domestic hot water and heat in subdivisions. According to Reed by using the waste heat that is created in the process the operation becomes 75 per cent efficient instead of the usual 35 per cent.

During a year-end interview with this newspaper Reed said the big subject in the Ontario Legislature this year will be the dealings of the select committee on Ontario Hydro.

The committee is expected to explore hydro's theory on load management, the massive corridors and the centralization of power in huge plants.

Reed favors decentralized plants for electric power and claims that two thirds of the power generated is lost before it is used.

"We can't afford to go on capitalizing large plants under the guise of security when all we are doing is committing ourselves to wastage of most of what is generated."

"The alternatives can be found in Europe and the United States. Ultimately we have to get Hydro into the '70s."

Reed said the committee will look into the matter of nuclear energy. Not only will the government have to be concerned about dealing with waste by-products from uranium but they'll have to face the prospect of putting so much power in the hands of a few technocrats according to Reed.

He says that because the expertise to operate a nuclear system is so complex it would be impossible to fill in for

operators if they decided to strike. He maintains that as being as serious as the problem of dealing with wastes. Uranium wastes have a half life, in other words remain dangerous, for 2,500 years.

Reed says the garbage issue and the energy issue are very closely related because garbage represents such an abundant source of possible energy.

Turning to other areas the MPP says he sees 1978 as the year the Niagara Escarpment Commission finally resolves its difficulties with landowners and attributes a lot of that to the positive influence of Director Gerry Coffin and Chairman Ivor McMullin.

Even when the official plan is finally unveiled (supposedly in the next couple of months) there remains another year of public hearings and two or three months of hearings by experts.

Reed said that it has always been the attitude of the government to disband the commission once the report is finalized and have recommendations included in municipal official plans and implemented by the municipalities affected by the escarpment.

While Reed agreed with Treasurer Darcy McKeough's efforts to balance the budget by 1980 he

said he seriously questions the priorities. "I'm surprised that the treasurer hasn't got rid of the super ministries. He cut the budget for Oaklands Centre in Oakville by \$266,000. Oaklands is a place for the trainable retarded so that they have the opportunity to become self sufficient or partly self sufficient. If our society is ever to be judged on our humanity it will be how we treat our elderly and our infirmed. Of all of the areas where priorities are set this is one area where cuts shouldn't have been made."

"If they cut one super ministry that would provide more than the \$266,000," Reed noted that the government had at one point indicated dis-appointment in the way the super ministries had worked out but there has been no move to wind them up. "We still have Margaret Birch and her entourage."

"I recognize and support the need for restraint but the priorities are appalling when on one hand you deny budget money for the retarded and then on the other carry excess baggage."

Reed reiterated concerns about the national unity issue but predicted that Canada will survive the crisis and stay together.

"The issue has to be resolved for once and for all but



JULIAN REED

the feelings behind it don't go away with the course of a referendum. We have a responsibility to realize that we have a mosaic not a melting pot and that this approach takes more maturity and give than other approaches"

O'Connor says

I'll sit out

Terry O'Connor will not seek the Tory nomination for Halton this time around. O'Connor's announcement follows weeks of speculation about what he might or might not do. MP for Humber Valley, Otto Jelinek announced his intention to run in Halton for the Tory ticket.

Jelinek's Toronto riding disappeared under redistribution. He has family and business interests in Oakville and claims it will be a return home for him, as he was born at Bronte.

O'Connor said the fact that he has four young daughters—all under the age of 12—was the key reason for his decision to sit this one out. "We have four girls and over the next eight or 10 years they're going to be needing a

father. I can't do a good job for the riding and be a responsible parent too."

But O'Connor's decision not to seek the nomination is not to be interpreted as retirement from the political field. O'Connor leaves the door open for some day down the road.

Announcements about other candidates seeking the nomination are expected

Report shows alternatives to energy

Liberal energy critic Julian Reed announced Tuesday that the Middleton report, released Monday shows that there are clear-cut alternatives to the proliferation of nuclear capacity in Ontario—

which further confirms the position that the Liberal party has held for the past two years on electric power in Ontario.

To this date the government and Ontario Hydro have taken little interest in these recommendations, Reed charged.

"The Liberal party finds this report most interesting and will make sure that all of its positive aspects will be presented to the government.

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Resource recovery

Qualifies statement

In a letter to Regional Chairman Ric Morrow, Environment Minister George Kerr has explained his ministry's stand on funding for resource recovery plants.

While Kerr hasn't entirely backed off from the statement he made in Waterloo last November his letter to Morrow introduces factors Kerr never mentioned during the meeting in Waterloo with environmentalists and dump fighters.

During that meeting Kerr said his ministry would fund back-end plants as well as front-end plants. The front-end plants have been favored and promoted by the ministry while many environmentalists prefer the back-end plants because they dispose of a far greater percentage of the garbage.

In his letter to Morrow Kerr explains that the ministry policy provides for total funding of front-end plants by the province with half of that being a grant and the balance a loan to be paid back over a 40-year period.

"This does not rule out the possibility of provincial grants for 'back-end' plants, where special circumstances exist, and in fact this possibility is being examined in Peel. However, negotiations there

are based on a maximum provincial grant of \$10,000,000 by the province, the balance of between \$35 and \$45 million being provided by Peel.

During the Waterloo meeting Kerr was questioned about funding for back-end plants and assured environmentalists that funding from the province did exist. Kerr didn't offer details of the funding and wasn't pressed to do so.

What Kerr didn't explain was that the funding for back-end plants wasn't nearby as enticing for municipalities as the grants for the front-end plants.

The back-end plants are being promoted by members of the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens' Group as an alternative to landfill.

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