

# Our readers write

## Protest new bill

Sir:  
The chief focus of media and public attention since the release of the Government's Constitutional Amendment Bill has been on the provisions in regard to the Supreme Court and the Senate. However, I believe that citizens should be aware that the Bill proposes revolutionary changes in the Constitutional Monarchy, changes which are in many ways more important to the average Canadian than any other of the Bill's proposals.

The Bill presents a monarchial facade; behind lurks a republican reality which removes the Queen from being part of Parliament and which concentrates power in the hands of the Prime Minister's appointee, the Governor General. The Governor would exercise power in his own right, giving way to the Sovereign only when she was present in Canada.

Not only is this a gratuitous insult to the Queen, whose labours and interest have been directed so evidently to Canada, but it also would allow for a government to con-

solidate its own power, without checks or balances, by keeping the Monarch out of Canada.

The deceitful danger of the Bill is that it maintains many of the Crown's trappings, while these symbols would in fact stand for altered ideas and a quite different institution. Equally, it would preclude Prince Charles or Prince Andrew from serving as Governor General, it would eliminate reference to the Queen's Canadian Forces and it would abolish the happy status quo whereby both Queen and Governor can exercise their powers fully, within and without Canada.

Canadians determined to preserve their institutions should write their provincial and federal legislators to protest the Bill's provisions. A detailed statement outlining its threat to Canadian Constitutional Government may be obtained by writing the Monarchist League of Canada, 2 Wedgewood Cres., Ottawa, Ont. K1B 4B4.

Yours sincerely,  
John L. Aimers,  
Dominion Chairman

## System of assessment

124 Tudey Avenue,  
Acton, Ont.  
L7J 1R6  
July 24, 1978

The Editor, The Acton Free Press, Acton, Ont. Dear Mrs. Dills:  
I am writing to your paper with regard to the matter of the present system of assessment pursued by the Acton Hydro Electric Commission in levying payments for hydro on residents in our town.

We are continually being urged to follow the course of saving energy by the constituted authorities within our province, yet the basic rate of assessment for hydro has, apparently, been raised from 100 units in 1977 to 1,000 units in 1978. In other words, ten times the previous assessment. Is this change due to the whims of the local commission or has it been ordered by the provincial authorities?

We, ourselves, have been trying to obey

the suggestion to conserve electrical energy. Indeed, last year only for the month of March did we go above 1,000 units. For January it was 1,000 for May 900, for July 800, for September 800 and for Nov. 900.

The present policy of assessment does not encourage a householder to conserve energy, but rather to do otherwise. To my own way of thinking, the course which should be followed is to give the householder who uses below a certain number of electrical units a lower basic rate and to increase the higher rates. Let the former divisions of rating assessments remain, but make the rate higher for the bigger amounts used.

The householder who is being hit the hardest of all under the present system is the one who lives alone and who is honestly trying to conserve energy.

Respectfully yours,  
A. Walter Fosbury

# If corridor ever finished it will be monument to political interference

Following is a copy of a letter sent to The Toronto Star regarding statements from Ontario Hydro over the Interested Citizens' Group request for an independent study of the corridor.

The letter is particularly relevant at this time since Ontario Hydro is challenging Halton Hills and Region opposition to the 500 kV Bruce to Milton hydro corridor marching through the town. Hearings open Monday, July 31.

To the Toronto Star:

On April 5, Andrew Frame, a civil servant advisor in the Ministry of Energy, accused Star staff writers of inaccuracies in their report of March 4 on the Interested Citizens' Group and its request for an independent study of a power transmission corridor planned by Hydro to follow a route north west of Toronto. Brian Valle, one of the writers, effectively revealed a number of errors in Frame's letter but some additional incorrect statements should not go unchallenged.

Frame states, "The Cabinet did not order the Ombudsman to drop his investigation into the claims of the Interested Citizens' Group (I.C.G.). The Ombudsman himself concluded that he had no jurisdiction because of Section 14 of the Ombudsman Act."

This is not correct because a letter from Ombudsman Maloney to Energy Minister Timbrell, dated April 6, 1976, states that (1) Timbrell questioned the Ombudsman's jurisdiction in the matter and (2) Malcolm Rowan, Deputy Minister of Energy, informed Maloney that the matter was being referred to the Attorney General to consider issuing a certificate denying Maloney the power to continue his investigation. Rowan must have had authority from his minister so Maloney certainly was not pressured from the Cabinet level to drop his investigation, as he said, "reluctantly".

The whole Bradley-Milton Hydro question with its much publicized public participation became a farce when it was learned that the general route was decided before either the Hydro Bradley-Milton activity or the Solandt Commission began.

A letter from Premier Davis, dated February 5, 1976, to the Interested Citizens makes this matter clear. This

quotation is from it. "Ontario Hydro made the decision as far back as 1971 that the line should be located in a corridor between Bradley Junction and the Milton transformer station. The government accepted that the line should start at Bradley Junction and finish in Milton as early as 1972."

Solandt's recommendation of the Limehouse crossing and Frame's attempt to suggest that the public had a chance to be involved in the decision became a deception also when it was found out that the Limehouse crossing decision was made by the Government months before the Solandt Commission even came into being. The following excerpt from a corridor statement by D'Arcy McKeough on November 14, 1974, in the Legislature makes this clear:

"A preliminary route in Concession 5 was identified and submitted to the Government Liaison Committee and subsequently approved by Cabinet on January 11, 1972."

This concession crosses the escarpment at Limehouse. Frame states, "the reason the transmission line crosses the escarpment at Limehouse and connects with the Nanticoke-Pickering line at Milton is because it was a major recommendation by the Solandt Royal Commission. This recommendation came after public hearings had been held."

Certainly the Interested Citizens who live in the Georgetown-Acton-Milton district and who attended the Solandt hearings as well as the public meetings can attest to the fact that the Solandt Commission's discussions

prepared and presented to the farmers for their forced agreement. Frame's interesting wording, "the farmers were involved in the finalization of the statement", does not picture the proceedings as the farmers saw it. They say they were pressured into a settlement on the threat that further negotiation was useless and might result in a less advantageous price for their land. The settlement had to include the press release and it had to be made without the farmers having legal counsel or members of the I.C.G. executive present at the meeting or the deal was off.

This information from farmers who were actually present hardly fits Frame's description of the procedure. In a later meeting with members of the I.C.G., Deputy Minister Rowan described his role in arranging the meeting with the farmers as that of an "honest broker". His prominence in the discussions carried on between the citizens and the series of energy ministers has been obvious. His vehement and sustained objections to any suggestion of an independent review of the problem have led the citizens to suspect that this civil servant, committed to an earlier decision and determined to save face by resisting any change in the plan, has been a king pin in blocking the consideration already given by the Government to other groups involved in corridor problems.

As for Frame, he should do more homework before rushing into print. Misleading statements do not help inspire confidence in the Ministry

where he is employed. In spite of efforts by Frame, Rowan and certain Hydro personnel to becloud and distort the issues, the Bradley-Milton corridor story is an example of Hydro planning originally based on engineering principles being changed for political reasons; then when citizens asked for an independent examination of the changed route, as has been given two other major corridors, they were refused.

Over a period of nearly five years the excuse has been that there was not enough time to study the matter. There was even a refusal to a request for an independent four-month review using Hydro's own data to compare with only one alternative route selected originally by Hydro, and accompanied by a clear agreement from the Citizens to accept the result with no further resistance.

The Corridor issue was split into three geographical sections in a transparent effort to divide the Citizens, but this failed. Then efforts were made to obtain an expropriation decision in any one

section that would force the other two into submission. Propaganda efforts were maintained to try to create the impression that some sort of independent examination was being carried on. Solandt was supposed to have done this in the south third. The Hillsburgh hearing was supposed to be a study but it was primarily to get some order in the chaos caused by Hydro adjusting a short portion of the route in the middle section some four times to avoid influential citizens.

In the north portion Energy Minister Timbrell simply said no study was necessary since the route would follow an existing line. He thereby created some 45 miles of farms split diagonally by the double corridor, probably the most disastrous disruption of good farms anywhere in Ontario.

If the corridor is finally finished it will remain a lasting monument to both political interference in energy planning and open government discrimination between groups of Ontario Citizens.

*Pope, Starvel & Co.*

Chartered Accountants

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Suite 304  
GEORGETOWN

877-6984



A MOTHER'S work is never done. Baby ducks, swans and birds at Fairy Lake all need the careful eye of a parent these days.

## Regrading approved

Some regrading of land to create a drainage swale in the Silver Creek floodplain has been allowed by Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Thursday, CVCA approved R. E. Cliphsham Surveyors, Georgetown, application to regrade land on seven lots in the floodplain. Cliphsham made the application on behalf of Rosset Brothers Construction.

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## Big lake at Bronte now open

Bronte Creek Provincial Park's Recreation Complex opened its swimming lake on the July 1 weekend.

One of the largest man-made lakes in Canada, it is in operation from 11 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. on weekends. The cost for swimming is 50 cents per person, while children in arms are free. Shower and change rooms are available as well as 10 cent lockers to store your picnic supplies.

Also available at the recreation complex are eight tennis courts and a free multi-purpose court. The charge for the tennis courts is \$3 per court per hour.

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