

# Report from Queen's Park

by JULIAN REED  
M.P.P. (Halton-Burlington)



ACTON LEGION CHORALIERS belted out a few healthy tunes at Pub Night on Saturday. A good crowd attended the festivities. Ted Hansen conducted the group.

The Residential Tenancies Act has been given approval in principle and has now been sent to committee for study. This legislation, which would permit the eviction of tenants for breaking a landlord's "house rules", has been strongly criticized by tenants and opposition party critics since its introduction on October 30.

At present, landlords must obtain a court order to evict a tenant, but under the new bill a landlord can establish "house rules", and if they are broken, can apply to the new Residential Tenancies Commission, which can tell the tenant to move out. This bill also extends rent controls on the majority of rental units at least until the end of 1979 and changes the rent review system.

In connection with the deaths of 22 Hamilton foundry workers, who died from lung cancer, the Minister of Labor has described the actions of medical officials in his ministry and the Workmen's Compensation Board as "careless". The Minister stated that he had met officials from his Ministry's occupational health and safety division and the WCB and learned that the investigation was not carried out because of a breakdown in communications.

He continued "In reviewing the co-responsibility I must say... the breakdown in communications is difficult to understand. Nevertheless, this misunderstanding did arise and was not brought to my attention until I commenced my investigation". This breakdown in communication has led to a further delay in the WCB's decision on the 22 claims for compen-

sation made by the widows and families of the foundry workers who have already been waiting for more than a year for a decision.

In July 1977, the board received a copy of a 10-year study by Dominion Foundries and Steel Ltd. which discovered that foundry workers over 45 years old are four and a half times as likely to contract lung cancer than workers in other parts of the plant. Dufasco officials have pointed out that these lung cancers may be the result of operations and processes in the foundry 20 years ago that no longer apply.

Dr. William McCracken, executive director of medical services for the WCB, said in an interview that he sent the study to the Labor Ministry's occupational health and safety division with a request for a detailed evaluation, and asked for an analysis to determine whether any other studies show an increased incidence of lung cancer in foundry workers elsewhere in the world. The extent of the Ministry's involvement was to send a list of occupational health studies in foundries to Dr. McCracken last June. However, Dr. McCracken was under the impression that the ministry was continuing a detailed investigation and held off doing anything about the claims before the board until the probe was completed.

The Minister of the Environment maintains that some industries will be forced to close or curtail operations if Ontario's don't accept certain methods of liquid industrial waste disposal. "I know we've got to come to a conclusion. Industries are

going to be up to their ears in waste and nobody will be manufacturing."

The public is apparently unwilling to accept what the Minister calls proven processes for the disposal of industrial waste. He quoted comments such as "Not in my backyard... put it where there are no people. Let it go where the people who get the jobs and benefits from the industry live" and said "If I tell people, 'Here is a technically proven method: I can burn PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) safely at a temperature of 2400° degrees, people feel there must be some better way. I'm appalled by the fact that even if I present a technically feasible way (to dispose of liquid wastes), it won't sell politically."

**Hospital increase**  
Hospitals cannot expect a bigger increase in capital or operating funds next year, the Minister of Health has told the Ontario Hospital Association. Capital budgets have, in fact, been pared from last spring's approved \$115-million to \$98-million for 1978-79, and next year's total is unlikely to be more than this year's, according to the Minister.

On the average, operating budgets for the coming year cannot be increased by more than 4.5 per cent and "a much harder look at the whole system" will be needed to achieve even this, he said, warning the hospitals not to budget for deficits which "is a shortsighted practice that could lead to serious consequences".

Any hospital running a deficit will find it will have to foot the bill.

## Halton reacts mildly to Jesus film note

Halton Board of Education reacted almost without comment to a request from Ontario Education Minister Bette Stephenson to ban the film "The Jesus Trial" from local schools.

Director of Education En Lavender introduced the item on last Thursday's board meeting at Burlington by saying he had not seen the film, but that he talked to one trustee who had.

"So many people have taken it (the memo) as censorship," Acton and Esquering trustee Bert Hinton told the gathering. He continued by saying a film is like a book, and schools do not have to get involved in situations which have a chance to promote friction.

Education Minister Stephenson stated she directed the Ontario Educational Communications Authority not to make the film available to schools, even if they ask for it. "I would ask for your (Halton's) co-operation in ensuring that 'The Jesus Trial' not be shown in any schools within your jurisdiction."



Bette Stephenson  
The film, produced by the educational authority, is being shown on television despite a request by Reuben Baetz, Minister of Culture and Recreation, to Post-Post the telecast.

## Halton plans to repair north's flawed bridges

Two regional bridges in north Halton have weaknesses which require street road limits, municipal officials revealed recently.

Two other bridges in the south are in the same shape. Replacements are in the works for the bridges in the north, according to Halton's public works director Robert Moore. His department designed replacements.

One of the suspect structures is on Tremaine Road south of the entrance to the Kelso Conservation area at Milton. The other is just west of Stewarttown on Regional Road 15. The bridge near Stewarttown has a two-ton limit, according to Moore.

Replacement of both bridges has been approved by Halton Regional Council and work is expected to be finished next year.

Oakville has two bridges with serious flaws. One is on the Fourth Line, half a mile north of Burhamthorpe Rd. and the other is on the Lower Base Line, about a half mile west of the Fourth Line. In addition a CPR bridge on Snake Road in Burlington is being looked at.

Region officials indicated they did not know if the Halton bridges were included in an Ontario survey which concluded nearly a third of the bridges in the province are unsafe.



POPEYE AND HIS MUSIC helped with the entertainment at the Acton Legion pub night.

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### X-country ski-a-rama

The Ontario Ski Association in cooperation with Operation A.C.T.I.O.N., the Recreation and Parks Department and the Georgetown and Acton YM-YWCA is presenting a "Cross-Country Ski-O-Rama" Tuesday, December 5 in Gordon Alcott Arena—free of charge. From 4-7 p.m. displays will be set up and people are encouraged to drop in, browse, ask questions, bring your own skis for tips on waxing, find out where there are local rentals, trails and instruction.

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