

Everybody's mad at me — lay off!

All right, all right, everybody I apologize. It seems that I've been getting people's backs up all over the country: Small businessmen, bank managers, accountants, news editors.

Jim Ross of Exeter, whom I kidded (I thought gently) after he'd written some pretty fierce right-wing stuff in an original letter, sent off a veritable depth-charge of a second letter, this time with his business letter-heading, and raked me, the educational system, welfare, and everybody in general who makes him fork over taxes, over the coals.

He's a self-made man, and proud of it, and I admire that, but he's awfully angry about a lot of things, like a great many people in this country, including me. Cool down, Jim. The rest of us pay school taxes too, even though our children are long gone. And I'm sorry the teachers and postal workers in town are angry with you. I hereby order them to stop regularly at your store.

I'll admit that you probably pay nearly as much in income tax as I make in salary, but that's proportionate. About \$2 of every four I make goes in taxes of one kind or another.

Bank managers are on my neck, too. Just because I called them clueless. I did add that most of them were nice chaps, but they didn't read that part. What I was getting at was their extreme caution, their dependence on head office, their general insistence on an arm and a leg for security, before giving a loan, although that has changed since I went to the well and came away

by
Bill
Smiley



thirsty. Now they practically force loans on people. No wonder, at the interest rates they take.

Apparently I had an unkind word to say about accountants, too, for I got a gentle and even friendly letter from Paul F. Nind, Yellowknife, NWT, who carefully pointed out the difference between Chartered Accountants, the real villains, and Certified General Accountants or Registered Industrial Accountants, most of whom have to take a five or six year program of home study to earn their designations.

I quote from his letter: "Dear Mr. Smiley: You have a great writing style and I have enjoyed you, your grandchildren, your yard, home and sometimes golf game for many years, but please do your homework before you wrap all of us accountants up in the old newspaper and throw us out with the garbage."

He was kind enough to send me a booklet about Certified General Accountants. I have read it, and done my homework, but too late. Sorry chaps. It's the C.A.'s who are the leeches, not you.

But not everybody hates me. Ken Jackson of Port Colborne dashed off a

breezy and friendly letter: "I find your letter in our weekly Port Colborne News the only bright spot in another dreary week."

Ken, ex-Navy, and now working on the locks, would like to write a book. Why not, Ken? Give it a whirl, even though author Hugh Garner in a nice note suggested you stick at tying up ships. Any damfool can write a book nowadays. Not suggesting that you are one. That's the first thing I'm going to do when I quit teaching, and a great many people will testify that I'm a damfool.

Let's go back for a moment to the people who are down on me. I mentioned news editors. The Toronto Star's Saturday edition editor called, and in dulcet tones, wondered if I would write a column for the paper, as they were doing a feature story on me. I wasn't keen, but agreed. He thought they could manage, in these depressed times, a fee of \$200. That's about half for MacEachin and half for me.

I wrote the column, which turned out, purely by chance, to point out the weaknesses of the three Toronto daily newspapers. It was fairly trenchant, but right on the nose. He called again, and this time, in aggrieved tones, said they couldn't run it, because, well, you know, in these difficult times for newspapers... etc.

No wonder dailies are going broke across the country. They're chicken. And then the guy had the gall to run an

old column of mine, transmitted by phone to a stenographer. He sent a cheque for \$100. I almost sent it back and told him what to do with it, but couldn't be bothered. Chicken is chicken, however tasteless.

But all was not dark and bleak. David Crowther of Walters Falls wrote me a letter congratulating me on my mention of newspapers not stepping on the toes of their biggest advertisers. He then launched into an attack on the large chain food stores which is too involved to explain here.

Then he congratulated me on my column entitled Pity the Poor Banks. "Last year," he wrote, "I borrowed only \$11,000 (on a good credit rating) as a mortgage on my small business. To do so I had to put a lien on my house and car and my wife had to co-sign the loan. I wonder what collateral Dome Petroleum gave?" I wonder, too. Mr. Crowther also suggested students should spend the fifth year of high school, not there, but in travelling or working. I thoroughly agree.

Anyway, I came out about 60-40 on hate letters. Not bad. Just a little worse than that six-five abortion the Liberals are trying to stuff down our throats.

At any rate, maybe I should stop being abrasive in this column and attack only politicians and kids under five, who can't read yet. About the same thing. What do you think?



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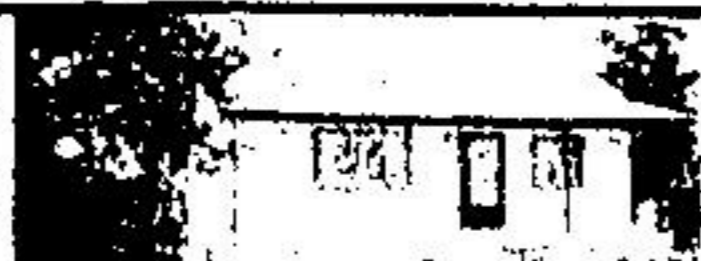
I have parcel for you! .98 acres, 90 acres, 40 acres or 2 acres. Call Damian Nikic.



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131 MOORE PARK CRES.
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

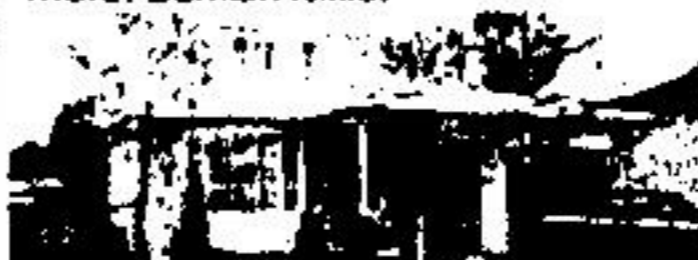
Come and see this immaculate home on large 60 x 150 lot. Many fine features as: Main floor family room, finished lower level with bar. Listed at \$89,900. Damian Nikic.



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Come and see this immaculate home finished from top to bottom. Nicely landscaped lot large financing at 13.80%. 6 appliances plus much more. Damian Nikic.



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Private fully fenced yard, finished lower level, 2 bathrooms, walkout from kitchen plus much more. Damian Nikic.

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A) Detached home. B) Approx 1/2 acre. C) 3 Bedroom D) Carries approx. \$410 with mortgage and taxes. Peter Thornton.



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3-Bdrm (2-up) 62 x 132 lot. Lovely land. Great Mortgage. Peter Thornton.



GEORGETOWN 5-BEDROOM (3-UP)

Ravine lot 63 x 140. Fireplace in spacious rec room. LR-DR comb. Preferred financing. Peter Thornton.

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Approx. 1750 sq. ft. Landscapers delight. 8 room ranch bungalow. Peter Thornton.



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ERIN ELITE

\$72,000

Sidesplit home with main level fam. rm. with fireplace & w/o. 52 x 130 lot. Peter Thornton.



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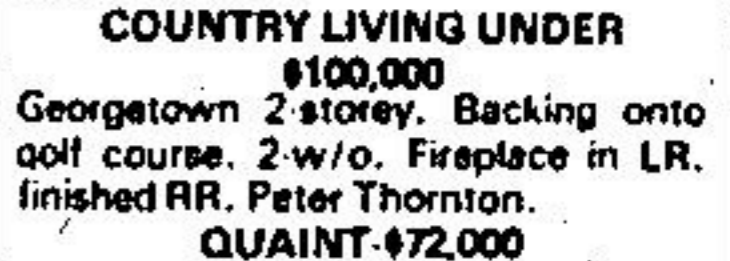
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Nine rooms. Approx 1/2 acre backing onto golf course. Good financing. Peter Thornton.



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4-Bedroom area of fine homes. 8 room home on 60 x 130 lot. 2-car garage. Peter Thornton.



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Your Royal Trust Representatives for
Georgetown, Acton, Erin and surrounding area

Damian Nikic 853-0136
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Together we can
help you better.

