

Georgetown Out of Focus With the Theatre Chains

It is an unfortunate paradox that Georgetown's chances of getting a movie theatre grow slimmer as the town grows larger. The old bromide that "them what has, gets", seems to apply to this part of the Golden Horseshoe when it comes to theatres - witness the Brampton-Bramalea area - and, since Georgetown doesn't have, it appears we won't soon get. Ever since fire made a hollow shell of the old Roxy on Mill Street in 1957, Georgetown has been hoping some theatre chain would look this way and see dollar signs. At that time the population was less than half what it is now. But while Georgetown mushroomed so did our neighbours, particularly to the east and south, and it has been places like Burlington, Oakville, Brampton and Bramalea that have seen new movie houses popping up with each new shopping centre. And as the number of cinemas within easy driving distance of Georgetown customers increases, the theatre chains' interest in establishing a Georgetown theatre cools another degree - if indeed it was ever warm. When The Herald recently

pulled the major theatre groups regarding a Georgetown theatre, we could get only one to say they would consider looking at the potential one more time. Georgetown Market owners are aware of the void and have been beating the bushes regularly in an attempt to fill it. Municipal politicians who included a plank in their 1972 platform stating they would do whatever possible to get Georgetown its long-sought theatre are dealing with private enterprise. You can promise and produce pools, arenas, and auditoriums, but you can only suggest loudly to Odeon or Famous Players where they should put their next screen. Next time you phone your favourite movie house to find out what's playing, you might just ask that pleasant voice on the other end of the line for head office's address. Mail from Georgetown theatre-goers to the logical places may just draw their attention back to this little corner in north-east Halton where the natives have gone without their hot-buttered popcorn for 16 years.

Brutality Touches Us All

Generally, these columns carry comment on local or regional topics... those things which most directly affect the lives and lifestyles of the people of Georgetown and area. However, the recent cases of sheer brutality in Canada's west, involving the shipping back to Indian parents the bodies of their children in plain cardboard boxes surely merits some reaction from all of us. Briefly, the situation is this: reports from Edmonton state that in at least two instances the bodies of small Indian children who died in hospital were sent back to the parents wrapped in plastic in cardboard boxes. Apparently, an

autopsy was performed on one of the children without parental consent. The protective instinct of parent toward young is no less strong in man than it is in any wild animal. This arrogant affront to the dignity of the Slave Lake Indian family will be long remembered because it involves a child. It is this sort of thing that breeds a militant response and spawns lingering hatred. People talk today of Canada's "Indian problems." Based on the inhuman conduct of those people who package children's bodies in cardboard boxes, we'd be more inclined to call it a "white problem."

Dastardly Sight

Clarence Campbell was not very successful in sparing all of us here in Georgetown and around the country from the dastardly sight of the Stanley Cup champion Canadiens doing what they always do with champagne in their dressing room. Mr. Campbell, president of the National Hockey League, had decreed that no television cameras

would be allowed into the dressing room where the champagne was in evidence. But after Canadians won it on Thursday, there was the champagne. Apparently, Mr. Campbell had not objected to TV commercials for beer during the game itself. Beer, yes. Champagne, no. Class discrimination, perhaps?

Candid Comment

According to the Financial Post, the West is dry and that spells trouble ahead for wheat exports, Prairie incomes and Liberal fortunes in a new election. It seems rather strange to us that so much doom is not only forecast, but treated as a reality, before farmers in the West have even planted their crops. We have never heard of a crop failure so early in the year.

had formally become law opens all sorts of possibilities. Perhaps Georgetown has been ignoring potential revenue. If we followed the province's lead, we could set a policeman on one of our uncontrolled street corners and charge pedestrians with crossing against the light. If anyone protested that there was, in fact, no traffic light at that corner, it could be explained that a light is planned and we are charging people in advance. But, of course, that would be silly.

The provincial government's decision to go ahead with collection of the 7 percent sales tax before it

ECHOES

10 YEARS AGO

Georgetown councillors got what they expected when they discussed with Esqueing recently the possibility of the township trading the 9th Line to the county for the 7th Line. "Too costly to maintain" was the Esqueing verdict, contained in a letter read to the town council Monday, May 13. Esqueing said its entire road budget would not be sufficient to maintain the 7th Line. The town is anxious to have a better access road to Highway 401 and had approached Esqueing on the advice of Queen's Park which said it would make the 9th Line a development road if the switch could be made.

Two Georgetown High school students saw a flying saucer this week. It was reported as an exceptionally bright object that hung in the sky for about two minutes. Then the orange coloured disc picked up speed and made an oval and then disappeared from sight. This is not the first time these unknown objects have been seen and the American Air Force confirms reports of Flying Saucers.

20 YEARS AGO Frame house, on pavement, 6 rooms residential section, new furnace, hot air heating, hardwood floors, new cesspool. Price \$3,500. Taxes \$48. Frame house, Charles Street, 7 rooms, hydro and bath, good garden, beautiful location overlooking park, immediate possession. Price \$2,100. Brick house, hydro, on pavement, insulated, 8 rooms, hardwood floors, water inside, 3 piece bath, close to high school and bus, terms. Asking price \$3,500. Low taxes.

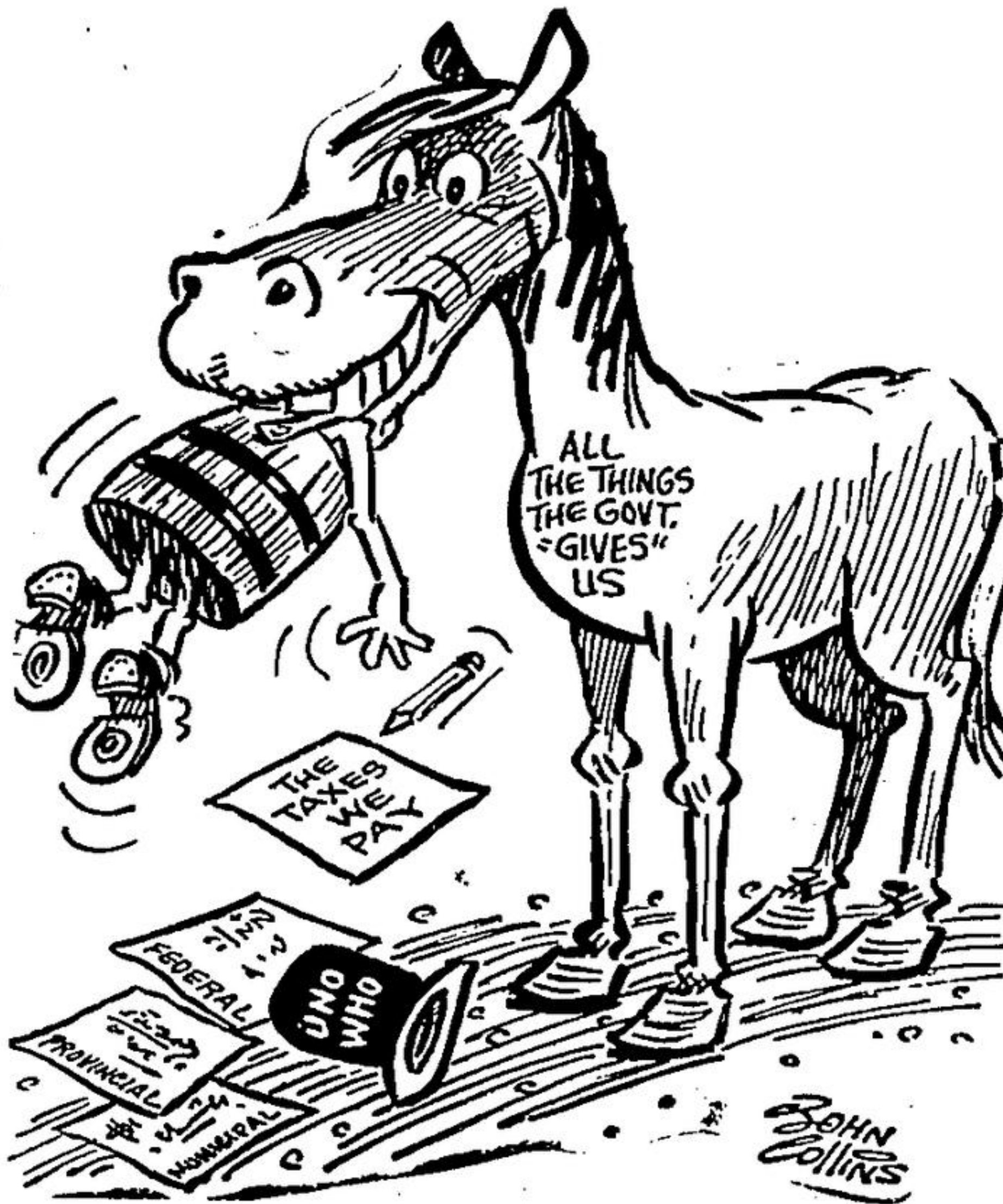
Editorial—The auditor's report for the Town of Georgetown has now been printed, and copies of same are in the hands of P. B. Harrison, of the municipal building. Whether or not the town has had a good year should be and is, a matter of personal concern of every taxpayer in the town. It is our money that is being handled and the reports are printed for the one purpose so that you can see how every cent of it is being invested or spent. A copy is yours for the asking. During the year outstanding taxes were reduced by \$7,354.59, and out-standing water rates reduced by \$24,000. The auditor comments: "The continuous reduction in tax arrears resulting from the changes made in the method of collecting is very gratifying and the tax collector is to be commended. It is hoped that there will be no let up in this collection effort as the tax arrears in Georgetown still appear unnecessarily large." Victory Bonds owned, less bank loans, same, were increased by \$18,000. The Debenture debt was decreased by \$23,071.60.

The Bruce Trail, which will provide a 350 mile nature hiking area from Niagara Falls to Tobermory, is closely associated with this part of Ontario. The trail, in fact, crosses the town reservoir property at Silvercreek on its path from Kelsa Dam to Terra Cotta. Monday, Jan Smith, representing the trail organization, asked council's permission to use the Silvercreek crossing. It was granted.

Credit Valley Conservation Authority has recommended a conservation week featuring displays and talks and Georgetown is the trial area. This is to be held in September.

20 YEARS AGO

A \$1,000 donation from Georgetown Lions Club will boost Georgetown's financial campaign for a swimming pool if the fact-finding committee decides to go ahead with the project. At a directors' meeting last week, the Lions decided to forego this year's Stay-at-Home Camp and donate the money which would be spent on the camp to a swimming pool. The club has also offered a building lot on Water Street beside the post office as a site for the pool.



THE TIME OF YEAR YOU LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH

Queen's Park

Will Davis Be Hurt By Party Dissent?

by DON O'HEARN QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU OF THE HERALD

TORONTO—Unless there is a marked improvement in party welfare between now and when Premier Davis next goes to the voters, he may find that a number of his long-time members are no longer with him. The dissent in Conservative party ranks is extraordinary and probably quite beyond what you might expect unless you happen to be close to it. As an example, one veteran member, a dedicated Conservative of whom you would hardly believe anything except complete loyalty, is talking retirement. This man actually has had more than 700 letters from constituents in the past while protesting government policies and actions.

In itself this represents an extraordinary expression. But what makes it very telling is that the letter was not confined to one subject. A good many were objecting to the tax on energy but others were taking exception to action in other fields. They represent a widespread dissent. GET OUT This particular member says that if the situation continues he will have no choice but to retire. He does not intend to face a bad defeat. He is by no means alone. Others are talking the same line. And what makes the situation particularly serious for the Premier is that the members are concerned not only about the public feeling but are unhappy about the premier himself.

POOR ADVISORS?

It is common to hear members say that the premier is unavailable to them. That except for caucus they can't register their opinions and complaints. They also don't like the advisors around the premier. He brought in a new group of top men and the members feel that these men are not experienced in politics and that he listens almost exclusively to them. Then there have been some of his actions they feel are politically bad. A notable one has been the government's refusal to table the logs of its aircraft. The feeling among private members is that this has only built up a situation which otherwise probably would have amounted to very little. So there is a bad feeling in the back benches and it could result in real harm to both the premier and the party.



BILL SMILEY

Bill Fondly Recalls Old London Haunts

What would you like to see if you were going to England this summer? The changing of the Guards? The Tower of London? Shakespeare's home town? Winchester Cathedral?

This is not yet a burning question around our house, but I've been giving it some thought. Somehow, tramping around with a clump of tourists while some guide spouts off a bored monologue doesn't appeal to me.

I spent many a leave in London during the war, and never did get around to seeing anything historical, beyond a few ancient pubs. And when I think of the south of England, and the north of England, and Scotland, all that comes to mind is piles of picturesque pubs.

I did spend an afternoon in the cathedral at Chester. But that was because I was with a girl, and it was cool and private in there. And the pubs weren't open yet.

I spent a month within a stone's throw of ancient Kenilworth Castle, and didn't get near it. The castle was in the opposite direction to an ancient and venerable thatch-roofed pub, out in the country.

Another two months was spent near Shrewsbury, one of the very old county towns, no doubt crawling with history. All I can remember are two pubs, the Red Lion and the Old Post Office. When we didn't go there, we nipped across the nearby Welsh border to the little town of Oswestry, where there was a pub with a roaring open fire and a constant game of Tip-It, an old game that is as psychological as poker.

One of the few historical sites I did visit was in the old market town of Dumfries, in Scotland. The site was—you guessed it—a pub where the hard Robbie Burns spent most of his evenings when he lived near there. I felt pretty cultural about that.

When in London, do as the

Londoners do, was my motto. And you don't find them standing around gawking at the guards or limping on weary arches through the Tower. You find them in the pubs.

Sound like one long, alcoholic orgy? I hasten to assure you that it wasn't. It was a matter of choice, not a boozier's delight.

You could hang around the officers' mess. This was a bleak, draughty place with a few ancient magazines. The only source of heat was a fireplace with about three bits of coal sputtering in it, and standing in front of it, or three or four fat senior officers with whiskies in hand.

Or you could get on your bike, with a few kindred souls, and huddle off through the rain to the pub. There you found warmth, both physical and social. Girls—Navy, Land Army, WAAF, Local colour. Games—darts or shove-ha-penny. And if you hit the right night and knew the barmaid, there might even be spam sandwiches. The ale was incidental.

Well, which of the two would you have chosen? No question, right? However, that brings me to my present predicament. I can't very well take my wife all the way to England and expect her to be wildly enthusiastic over nothing but an extended pub crawl.

Somehow I can't see her being ecstatic about bicycling through the rain to get to The Gate Hangs High, up in North Wales. It has room for twelve customers and we used to get about thirty in there. She might enjoy the Cheshire Cheese on Fleet St. Or the Wagon Shed, at Harley, the Nag's Head, behind St. George's Hospital on Kittygut St., or the Star and Garter, St. John's Wood.

But one later thing, pub becomes much like another after a while, unless you just want to get in out of the rain, or unless you have memories.

What it comes down to is this. If a man's going back to his old haunts, he should leave his wife at home. Otherwise, he'll hear something like, "What in the world do you see in this place? The "Golden Lion" my foot. It looks inure like a brindle dog. When are we having lunch at Claridges?"

So, I guess the only choice is to leave her at home. I'll miss her but I won't be lonely. I'm going to call a couple of old buddies, Jack Ryan and Bill Proctor, who have sentimental memories of the same pubs. Take them along.

Whoops. Ryan has six kids. Might be a bit awkward for him. And, oh yeah, Proctor took his wife to England a few years ago, introduced her to some of his old girl friends. He's forbidden ever to go again.

Oh well, I guess me and the Old Lady can sit and feed the pigeons in Trafalgar Square. Or go to Bournemouth and watch the old women whizzing around in their electric carts.

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FORUM FOR READERS

LANDFILL SITE

Editor, The Herald Dear Sir,

An interesting meeting takes place on May 22nd in the council chambers, municipal offices. It's the public hearing for approval of the new sanitary landfill site. I wonder how many of the residents know the area involved, 13 acres of pleasant sloping land with two creeks running through it, part of the Credit Valley. It is presumably doomed to desecration in a manner similar to the present dump. I would encourage anyone who thinks that landfill is an acceptable garbage disposal scheme, to visit the Georgetown dump now nearing capacity. Walk in from Maple St. starting close to Deltacraft furniture factory by the Credit River.

As you walk through the trees below the dump you will see the streams of stinking black ooze emerging from the heap and running into the river. You will see the masses of junk which have blown and rolled into the woods. One can only guess at the amount of garbage which has gone into the river over the 12 years during which the dump has operated.

Finally, on climbing to the top of the landfill you will be confronted by piles of uncovered waste, free to rot and harbour vermin instead of being promptly and thoroughly buried under clean fill. Make no mistake,

fill is used but not at all times adequately or promptly. As if pollution of the Credit is not enough, the overloaded sewage plant is making an even worse mess of Silver Creek.

It is said that the percolate from the new dump site will go via a tile drain system to the sewage plant. That's interesting. What will an already overloaded sewage plant do with that extra flow? I understand water analyses for Silver Creek are showing coliform counts of around 1,000,000! Compare 2,500 when they ban swimming; four when they advise chlorination of drinking water.

You would think that the council would unanimously ban further building permit issue until the additional plant capacity is installed, but with Alice in Wonderland type logic they decide to ban occupancy permits.

Will the council pay the mortgage interest while the newly-completed houses stand empty? The councillors place themselves in an untenable situation from which they will be forced to withdraw. I wonder if Deputy Reeve Sykes thinks the O.W.R.C. would sanction a 209 suite apartment as insignificant infilling. (Refer Herald 10 May). It would only give rise to a mere 20,000 gallons per day in extra sewage.

I suggest that a restructuring of priorities is required, so that the town puts its housekeeping in order and stops polluting

water courses which belong to us all. The councillors show scant regard for the exhortation on our licence plates "Keep Ontario Beautiful"

Yours faithfully, John Mitchell, RR5 Georgetown.

MULTIPLE VOTE

Editor, The Herald.

Further to "Strictly Personal" of May 10, with which I wholeheartedly agree, are you aware that under the Ontario Municipal Elections Act, real estate men, developers and land speculators have a good chance of legally voting two, three and even more times in one municipal election?

The fact this privileged class exists came to light in our last municipal elections. Scrutineers discovered that one man had apparently voted three times, once for each time his name appeared on the voters list as a property owner within the municipality of Georgetown.

As the Municipal Elections Act states categorically that each elector is entitled to vote only once (s. 47) with serious penalties for not complying (s. 94), this apparent misdemeanor was brought to the attention of Police Chief Swantz. Chief Swantz found his hands tied in that there was no "legal" evidence that it was actually that man who voted and not an imposter.

At this point, we elected not to pursue the matter but rather pointed out in a letter to MPP John White, Minister of Treasury Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, this flaw in the act and/or law and indirectly suggested amendments such as a voter must sign before casting his vote. (This signature would guard against imposters as well as providing easy legal proof should the infraction occur again.)

Mr. White, in a letter of reply dated March 14, 1973, said, among other things: "However, if a mistake is made in the preliminary list and a person does appear on more than one polling list, the person can legally vote more than once."

Mr. White also pointed out there are ways to correct this mistake before election day (s. 26 of the Act). However, these ways are involved and time consuming. So it remains that since the preliminary lists are drawn from the tax roll, the developer has a good chance of getting his name down more than once. Then, providing no one with time and money notices, come election day the developer can happily vote as often as his name appears.

We little guys who own only our mortgaged homes don't have this chance. We can vote only once.

I agree with your premise: it's the little infractions against democracy that pave the way to a Watergate. Mrs. W. J. Smith, Georgetown. (Mrs. Smith was a candidate for deputy-revee in the last municipal election.—Ed.)

Are Mail-Order Guns Too Easy To Acquire?

TORONTO—Shirley Whittington of Midland, Ontario had a notion that guns were too easy to get so she ordered one by telephone and proved her point. "Last week," she wrote in a recent issue of The United Church Observer, "I phoned a national department store and ordered a semi-automatic 22 rifle with an attached telescopic sight. The store's catalog warned me that 'Guns are not sold to persons under 17 years of age', but the girl who took my order didn't ask me how old I was or indeed, if I was who I said I was."

The following week the gun was delivered to Mrs. Whittington's door. "Not to me," she writes, "but to my door. I found it jammed between the screen and the inside door, in spite of this three by five inch warning pasted on the front of the package: Attention, Guns and/or ammunition. Merchandise must not be given to persons under 17 years of age. Merchandise must not be left at the door if no one is at home."

Mrs. Whittington admits that tougher gun laws "won't end the sickness, but they would make accidental shooting and impulsive murder less common", and she points out that countries with tougher gun laws than those of the United States, have a much lower murder rate per 100,000 people.

"Those who are determined to break the law will find some way of getting a gun. But tightening the law will make it harder for criminals to get guns, and will prevent many accidental firearms deaths", the article concludes.

O'CONNOR'S OTTAWA

By TERRY O'CONNOR (PC-Halton)



The parliamentary standing committees are where much of the real legislative work, that is in the in-depths analysis of legislative programs, and most of the action is in this Parliament.

There are 24 committees of the House of Commons corresponding generally to the departments of Government. They are in effect microcosms of the House itself usually comprising 19 members, divided eight Liberals, eight Progressive Conservatives, two N.D.P. and one Creditist. As in the House itself most issues are settled in a spirit of cooperation and in the interests of passing worthwhile legislation. However, when major philosophical differences of opinion arise—the ones which dominate the headlines—things can become pretty heated.

One of the first items of business before the committees in a new session is the spending estimates of the various departments. Their budgets and proposed programs are detailed in "The Bluebook", a several thousand page nightmare of small print, dotted lines, brackets and figures. The minister of a relevant department appears as a witness before the appropriate committee and is subjected to often harassing cross examination of each expenditure. He brings along a phalanx of senior civil servants—26 in the case of Transport Minister Jean Marchand and 18 for Solicitor-General Warren Almond—who, so help me, all look exactly the same.

The minister must know and explain to the satisfaction of the committee members how each dollar

will be spent, the reasons for increased expenditures and why new programs are being developed or old ones dropped. The format is much less formal than the House, almost conversational, and the opportunity exists for individual backbenchers and groups of backbenchers to air their views and get to the bottom of problems.

The committee has the power to reduce or cut out particular expenditures. The ministry desperately needs the money to run his programs. When asked sensitive questions or is caught in a contradiction he usually squirms, huddles with three or four officials, scratches his head, anything to satisfy the questioner and gain his voting support for the expenditure.

I am regularly a member of two committees, Justice and Legal Affairs and Privileges and Elections. As with most members I substitute on others when matters of interest are under scrutiny. Again as in the House the N.D.P. has generally voted with the government members on sensitive matters even to the extent of compromising previously sacred party positions. For example, they voted to award the necessary funds for the Pickering Airport expropriations this year.

Attempting to pare government spending is a tough hassle. Those 26 civil servants have to have something to do this year you know. If you have a problem, idea, comment or criticism, or if you simply wish to get in touch with me, please stop by or call my Riding Office at 326 Lakeshore Road East, Oakville, 844-0222.

WONDERFUL PARTY

Editor, The Herald.

You were kind enough to publish a welcome to Canada notice for my wife and I, also to announce that a 93 birthday celebration was to be held at home for Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Morrow.

I am pleased to say that the party was a wonderful success and there were 67 of the family there. A grand time was had by all and Mrs. Morrow played the piano for the singing for about an hour. My wife and I leave with sad hearts. The Canadian people will always remain in our hearts for their wonderful hospitality and kindness. They are second to none.

I would also like to pay a compliment to the guitar playing of Mr. Ron Harker and also Mr. Jack Morrow. The remainder sang with gusto. The dear old lady whom I am privileged and proud to call "mother" was in wonderful spirits and received lots and lots of flowers and presents.

Goodbye Canada and you can be sure my wife and I will be calling on you again soon. With deep sincerity, I am,

Yours fraternally, John Hui and Lillian, Georgetown

Bible Today

"Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be". Deuteronomy 33:25

The good Lord will meet you at every stage of life and every situation with more than sufficient. "My grace is sufficient for thee".

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye". Colossians 3:13

Inclined to hold a grudge? Perhaps you had better think a little on the grace extended you. "If ye forgive not, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you".