

O'CONNOR'S OTTAWA

Last week was one of the most significant and interesting in the short history of this minority parliament. There seemed to be an air of finality among the parties as they staked out positions and then dug in to maintain them. Like armies before a major battle, the scouting, the cold war tactics, the negotiations, the small skirmishes were over and the waiting lull before the battle began.

But we are not soldiers at war. We are politicians charged with the responsibility of running the country in the best interests of everyone. For those who argue that the primary objective of the parties should be to operate in a spirit of co-operation, it was a bad week. For those who feel the parties should represent distinctly different political philosophies and positions from among which the public may choose, it was a good week.

A drastic monthly increase in the cost of living, combined with a new Gallup Poll showing the PCs up and both the NDP and Liberals down, prompted a crystallization of positions among the parties.

The NDP produced another "shopping list" indicating its minimum price for continued support of the government.

Nothing escapes inflation for even its price has gone up. It now includes strong measures to combat the rising cost of living—something the PCs have been railing for since before the last election.

Further, both of the opposition parties made it quite clear that they were not prepared to be stalled on the point. We wanted either an opportunity to debate the situation in the House—that is, an opposition day, or alternatively a commitment from the government to

bring in an anti-inflationary budget prior to the end of April.

No soap, said the government. The budget will be brought down around the middle of May, with no guarantee that it will fight inflation in any other way than at present and above all there will be no opposition day prior to the budget.

The PCs and NDP agreed that the situation was so serious that we must stay in Ottawa and do something. We would therefore vote against any Easter adjournment. The government, knowing it would be defeated, withdrew the adjournment motion and here we are, locked into a standoff.

It seems to me that the government is only delaying the inevitable. The rules of procedure require that it give the opposition 13 opposition days by the end of June. If the budget is tabled May 15, the budget debate will occupy the balance of May. There are 20 sitting days in June this year, of which 13 must be given to the opposition, leaving only seven for normal government business. If the government is not defeated on the budget, a most likely possibility, it seems highly doubtful that it could survive the barrage of 13 opposition days in one month.

It is argued by the opposition parties that 15 months have passed since Mr. Turner's last budget...The government should face a test of confidence on the effects of that budget before introducing a new one. The only problem from the government's viewpoint is that during that 15 months, the cost of living has increased 15 per cent, hardly a record on which to fight an election.



NEW SUPERINTENDENT FOR AUTHORITY

Harold Cruikshank, of Orangeville, who recently became general superintendent of the Credit Valley Conversation Authority, is welcomed by the outgoing superintendent Ray Hall, of Erin. Mr. Cruikshank has been on the authority staff as area supervisor at the Orangeville Reservoir Conversation Area for the past three years. He replaces Mr. Hall who has his own business in Erin. Mr. Cruikshank has been involved in the local community for many years.

Community Library Open To Public

More than 200 persons attended the official opening of the Eramosa Township community library last Wednesday evening at the Rockwood Centennial Public Library on Pasmore Ave.

The library, a co-operative venture between the Wellington county board of education and the Eramosa township council is open to the public today.

John Gallin, chairman of the Eramosa Library Board told the audience that the concept of a community library was new to the area but not to the province.

"This is the first one in the area," he said. "The concept is basically to get more use of the school facilities for the community and a library resource centre is an ideal use."

He explained that the library had a "reasonable stock" of books, with funds from the budget remaining to purchase others.

"It's difficult for us to know

Mentally Retarded Sponsors Country & Western Show

A cabaret country and western show, scheduled for April 27, is being held at the Credit Valley Club in Norval. The show has been organized by the Association for the Mentally Retarded, in order to raise money for a residence building for mentally retarded in Hornby, Ontario.

Should the show in April be successful, the AMR will organize similar shows later in the year.

Cecil Martin, the official receiver for the Credit Valley Club, has done much to help the

AMR. The Tinkerbell Nursery, featured two weeks ago, uses the facilities provided by the club every Friday, for no charge. Similarly Mr. Martin volunteered the services of the club for the cabaret show.

Information regarding tickets and seating can be obtained by calling the Credit Valley Club, in Norval. Already booked to appear are Harry Hibbs, Roy Payne and Carol Campbell.



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READER'S FORUM

Letter Of Regrets Not Sent To Family

Sir: Regarding Lorena Zulian's letter to the editor as president of the Student Council, M. M. Robinson High School may I be allowed a couple of observations.

First, regret is expressed to the editor that a stone was thrown through our window. We'd be more impressed with the sincerity of that expression of regrets if it were directed to us whose home was stoned.

Second, by some strange logic we are told that this was "a cowardly act of aggression against everyone in our community." It was our children whose sleep was broken by the shattered glass being scattered across their beds.

Thirdly, the last paragraph is composed of two sentences which note the "distorted criticisms of our school" and "Rev. Campbell has the right to express his opinions." How is this for a personal opinion of M.M.R. which the students there have apparently not heard heretofore:

"Meantime you may assure the staff and students at M.M. Robinson that in my opinion there isn't a better high school in the province of Ontario and I have already offered my apologies for any hurt that I have caused anyone in the process of presenting my protest and calling for a renaissance in our school system. Surgery may be painful and inconvenient but better to suffer while seeking a cure than to die because we didn't."

"It is my hope that M. M. Robinson will become known far and wide as the educational centre from which sprang a great renaissance in Ontario's public education. "Finally, please convey this word to those who were prompted by distortions and misrepresentations in the press to lash out at me personally. (At that point we'd had a couple of obscene calls.) Be assured that I understand and of course forgive. I admire your school spirit. You have a school for which you should be proud."

That was written on February 28 to the principal of M.M. Robinson by Rev. Ken Campbell. I'm still saying it today as many heard me on the Con Stevenson show say it yesterday morning on CKOC. Maybe if you'd heard me say it on February 28, there wouldn't have been a stone-throwing incident to regret.

And I see where the two teachers responsible for the visit of two lesbians and two homosexuals to a grade 12 health class at M. M. Robinson high school, are greatly "exercised" about avoiding "distortion, dishonesty, or misinformation."

During an open-line program on radio station CKOC, Hamilton, yesterday morning, one of the lesbians involved in the above-mentioned incident, phoned Con Stevenson and me to set the record straight as to the circumstances by which they'd been invited. She was most emphatic in declaring that indeed the teachers responsible had known well in advance that the gay lib was coming to M.M.R. on that day.

According to Mr. Craig's account of their unexpected arrival (Feb. 28th letter to the Board of Education and to the press), someone's distorting the facts and it isn't Ken Campbell. Apparently it isn't Mr. Craig either. Someone on

CTC Hearing Isn't Local

Sir: It was stated in the Toronto Globe and Mail, on Friday, April 12 that the Canadian Transport Commission hearing with respect to the proposed abandonment of the Beeton Subdivision, north of Georgetown, will be held in Brampton commencing May 13.

We were surprised to note the hearings will be held in Brampton, not Georgetown, where most of the people with concerns in this matter reside. No doubt a firm location and time of these hearings will be published soon by the Canadian Transport Commission, Ottawa.

A. H. Eyres
Toronto

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