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Drinking:
an election
issue in 1975

The province of Ontario is in the
midst of an election campaign, yet
hardly a voice has been raised to
demand some action to curb the
growing social impact of alcohol
abuse.

The statistics are clear and
becoming clearer by the day: The
health and social costs of alcoholism
are running more than \$135 million a
year in this province; alcohol-
involved traffic collisions are adding
another \$130 million; alcohol has been
implicated in more than 40 percent of
boating drownings, and in one of
every two auto deaths.

Soon, liver cirrhosis — almost
half of it of an alcoholic origin—will
become the fourth highest cause of
death of young and middle aged
males in the country.

Since the lowering of the legal
drinking age to 18 years, evidence has
accumulated showing the deleterious
effects of heavy drinking on growing
numbers of teenagers.

In one Ontario city, the year after
the lowering of the drinking age, 18-
year-olds were involved in 300 percent
more traffic collisions than in the
previous year, and 19-year-olds in 348
percent more.

In concert with this trend, the
alcohol merchandising forces continue
to step up their activities, the
ultimate goal appearing to be nothing
short of saturation.

In the recent past it has not been
popular to speak out against
liberalization of controls governing the
sale and distribution of alcohol.
Certainly when legislation extending
the right to drink to all persons over 18
years was introduced, there were few
voices of protest. But the results of
that action are now coming home to
roost.

Some jurisdictions have ex-

pressed concern that lowering the
drinking age has produced more
problems than anticipated. And they
are now considering reversing their
earlier permissive legislation.

Whether or not that is possible,
politically, can not be determined
until the issue is aired publicly.
Certainly, however, it should not be
immediately discounted. It deserves
a good and thorough discussion.

Perhaps there were mistakes
made when the law to lower the
drinking age was invoked. But, it
might be a bigger mistake not to
examine the results of those actions in
the light of subsequent experience.

There now seems some evidence
that people themselves are becoming
concerned about the extent to which
alcohol is impinging upon the nation's
health. There is some indication of
public support for a policy that would
provide more judicious control of a
drug that, when used immoderately
has the potential for great harm.
There are several courses open to the
social policy-maker concerned about
the growing abuse of alcohol. All of
these should be thoroughly investi-

gated. But at the very least, a
moratorium should be placed on
further moves to liberalize the sale
and distribution of alcohol, until the
public has a clear and cogent picture
of exactly what that liberalization is
costing, in terms of money, and in
terms of human suffering.

Politicians usually have the knack
for seeing which way the mainstream
is heading and then charging out front
to "lead."

This may be one of those times
when a little imagination, and a
certain amount of guts, may put the
campaigner out at the head of that
crowd.

—The Journal, published by the
Addiction Research Foundation.

Citizens Band
places first in
CNE competition

From the files of the Herald:
Five Years Ago

Mayor Wheldon Emmerson announced at
Monday night's council meeting that he will
not seek re-election in December. Mayor
Emmerson stated that his reasons for leaving
are strictly personal and that he has no
dissatisfaction with political life. On the
contrary, he will miss the thrill and excitement
of an election. Mayor Emmerson
has served 11 years on town council.

The Kincourt Senior Citizens apartments
were officially opened this week. The 24-
apartment structure on Hyde Park Drive was
initiated by the Georgetown Kinsmen Club.
The apartments will be strictly reserved for
senior citizens.

Georgetown police have charged a
juvenile and a youth following a theft of \$310
from Thompson's Hardware Store on Main
Street. The money was taken after closing
hours Friday night by the juvenile who hid
inside the store and waited until the manager
had locked up for the night.

After an absence of three years, the
Georgetown Citizens Band, re-organized just
six weeks ago, entered the Canadian
Exhibition's band competition on Sunday and
took first place. In winning, the band took
home \$400 and the Whaley-Royce Trophy.

Ten Years Ago
Georgetown's Citizens Band won \$400 and
the Whaley-Royce Trophy at the Canadian
National Exhibition, Thursday. Georgetown
topped the four entries in Class 3 with 168
points. This is the second consecutive win for
the Citizens Band.

Ankonian of Malden St., owned by W.F.
James of Georgetown, was named Grand
Champion Steer at the Canadian National
Exhibition's inter-breed steer competition,
Friday. It is the second successive year that a

steer bred by Mr. James has won the honour.

Work has begun on the long-awaited two-
lane bridge on the west side of Glen Williams.
The new structure will replace the present
single lane bridge.

A new store, "Park's Confectionery" will
open its doors this Saturday. The store will
stock bread, groceries, cigarettes, candy,
magazines and jug milk from Steen's Dairy.
Owner of the new store is Dennis Kenny of 126
Prince Charles Drive.

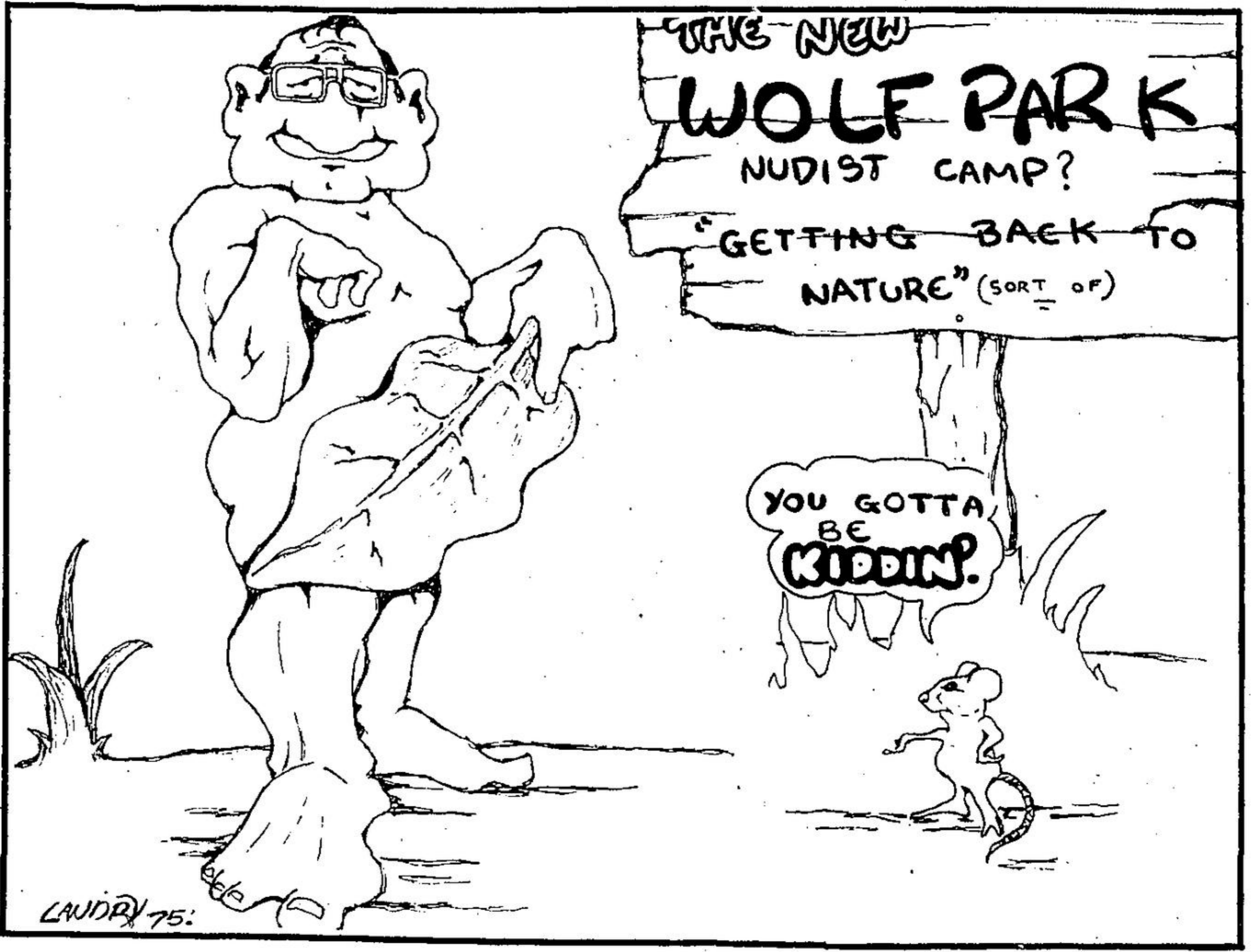
Halton County's 1,338 farms produced
\$14,948,075 worth of farm crops, livestock and
produce in 1964 to reach a new, all-time high
production record for the county. Statistics
were revealed this week in a report submitted
by the Ontario ministry of agriculture.

Fifteen Years Ago
Remembrance Park has been the name
chosen for Georgetown's new park where the
war memorial was recently relocated. Credit
for the name goes to 11-year-old Roger Smith.
The name submitted by him in a contest open
to local and district school children, was
judged by a Legion judging committee.

Carolyn Blehn, winner of a \$400
provincial scholarship, received an additional
\$100 scholarship from the University
of Western Ontario this week. The University
gives awards to each student entering the
university who has received highest marks in
individual subjects.

Eight hundred and twenty-eight
members of the Georgetown Junior Fire Brigade
endorsed Georgetown's Community Swimming
Pool as the most fireproof structure in the
municipality!

Forty-nine couples have registered to
compete in a "Married Couples" Match on
Labour Day at the North Halton Golf and
Country Club. The 18-hole match has the
Langdon Trophy as a prize.



Viewpoint
Castration: Is it the answer?

by
Gerry Landsborough

This week Viewpoint looks at some of the
contradictions of everyday living in these
strange, unsettled times.

The President of the Canadian
Association of Fire Chiefs, Major William
MacDonald, wants the federal government to
order that smoke detectors and sprinkler
systems be installed in all new homes. The
250 fire chiefs were told at their recent
convention that fire deaths could be "virtually
eliminated by modern technology" but that
society doesn't want to pay the cost.

Recently in Guelph a coroner's jury
recommended all hotels and commercial
establishments have sprinkler systems
installed after the panic in a fire in a Guelph
hotel led to the death of two people.

Why not?
In Surrey B.C., Peter Campbell, 19, was
ordered confined to prison indefinitely after a
court ruled that he could not control his
sexual impulses. He attacked a 43-year-old
secretary in a hotel parking lot, two days
after he was acquitted of the murder of a 21-
year-old Vancouver woman. The court was
told by psychiatrists that he showed no
remorse or concern for his victim.

During approximately the same time
period in San Diego, Calif., a Superior Court
Judge Douglas Woodworth authorized two
frequent child molesters, who were

pronounced incurable by psychiatrists to be
castrated; if not the men would be sentenced
to life in prison.

It cost over \$10,000 a year to keep a
prisoner — \$12,828 per prisoner in Alberta last
year.

Which of the two methods is more
humane? More feasible? What about the
right of a person to walk down the street
without fear? Why not?

The Ottawa General Hospital recently
bought a \$380,000 brain camera. This
machine is used to diagnose brain tumors.
The scanner was purchased with the
hospital's emergency fund because they felt
it was that necessary. The scanner was hailed
by radiologists as being the greatest
X-ray. The hospital is asking Queen's
Park for help in operating the scanner which
is \$140,000 per year. Queen's Park is haggling
about the money meanwhile the machine is
sitting unused.

The brain scanner is a wonderful
invention of technology, designed to save lives,
but saving lives costs money. What price is
human life?

A man recently fell to his death over the
Bloor St. viaduct in Toronto. After two
months the body has still not been identified.
The man has the appearance of a wino. What
price is human life?

Ronald Edwards of London, England, one
of the "great train robbers", was freed after
serving nine years of a 15-year sentence. He
found a job selling flowers on the street.

Flower selling didn't pay off however and
he's back in prison for theft. He served nine
years in prison. Why does rehabilitation fail?
Why is there such an improper balance in
sentencing? Why is crime all over the world
on the increase? Since we know what prisons
do not rehabilitate why haven't we found
other alternatives?

Why not?

The education system in Ontario has
undergone great changes. Unfortunately,
however, change is not always for the better.
In Etobicoke in Toronto, Grade 5 students are
going to be supplied with calculators. Yet
educators have found that students in high
school and university don't know the basics.
Why would they supply machines to public
school youngsters before they even have a
basic knowledge of mathematics?

If you use a machine to solve problems
for you, what happens when you haven't got it
with you? If you don't learn to use mental
ability to solve problems what will be the end
results? We are heading towards great
division in the mentality of our people:
schools for the brilliant; schools for the slow.
Where will it end? Calculators should not be
used in public school, possibly not even in the
early years of high school. People have to
learn young how to solve problems. People
have to use their mentality or that mentality
will soon disappear.

A report from Transport Minister, Jean
Marchand, shows that 25 percent of night
drivers are drunk; 1 in 20. How nice. If rapists

or muggers don't get you a drunk driver will.
Lowering the drinking age was a big mistake.
Statistics show the increase in teenage
alcoholism. Why are drunk drivers found and
charged and then back on the road again?
Why aren't the penalties severe from the first
offence? Is the money gained at the liquor
store more important than human lives? One
in 20 is far too dangerous. Why not change the
law back?

Why not?
The following is very important to anyone
who wants to live in a reasonable and
democratic society. The average life of the
world's greatest civilizations is about 200
years. The following sequence of events have
been noted.

- From bondage to spiritual faith
From spiritual faith to great personal
courage
From courage to liberty
From liberty to abundance
From abundance to selfishness
From selfishness to complacency
From complacency to apathy
From apathy to dependency
From dependency to bondage

If the above holds true and we are to go
forward can we stop our own self destruction.
If democracy is for the people—all the people—
can't the people take their heads from the
sand and be heard. WHY NOT?

Queen's Park Commentary
Davis leading the way in campaign

BY DON O'HEARN
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

TORONTO—At election times one wonders
why anybody ever wants to be a politician.
The effort hardly seems worth the
reward — any reward.

Last week, for example, on Tuesday
Premier Davis, left his home in Brampton
shortly after nine o'clock and headed for
Mississauga East, some 20 miles away.

Between then and 10 o'clock that night he
was always on the move, making a total of 23
stops.

He visited an elderly citizens housing
project, a home for the elderly and a day-care
centre, spending 20 minutes or so in each.

He toured two large shopping plazas, he
and his wife going into every store, from
boutiques to taverns and shaking hands.

He main-streeted in three communities
and spent another half hour or so in each of
three candidates' campaign headquarters.

Then at night he made a major speech at
the nominating convention of party whip
Doug Kennedy in Mississauga South.

GO, GO

On Wednesday he had a radio interview in
Toronto at 8 a.m. Then he had cabinet all
morning and in the afternoon had to prepare
himself for the premier's conference in
Newfoundland.

He left his office at 5.30 for the flight to St.
John's and landed there at 11 o'clock
Newfoundland time.

On Thursday he left St. John's at 3.30
Toronto time and didn't get back to Toronto
International until 10.30 (the only flight out
was a milk run from St. John's to Halifax.)

On Friday he was back in Toronto early
conquering four ridings and then had to rush
to make an air charter flight to Ottawa for
meetings at night.

Then, following a day's campaigning in
that area, on Saturday he campaigned by bus
back to Toronto via Kingston.

Sunday he had the day off.

NEED PHYSIQUE

All leaders, of course, are following
similarly tough election schedules.

But the premier has the toughest one of

all, for besides campaigning he also has to
run the affairs of the province.

Also the strain on him must be greater for
he has everything to lose, while the op-
position leaders have everything to gain.

How he does it, how any of the leaders do
it, is something to be marvelled at.

One thing certainly called for is a
remarkable physique. Somehow all three
leaders seem to have it.

The NDP gets credit for the first really
smart move in the campaign.

They got Gordon Sinclair to interview
Stephen Lewis for the party's free-time
telecasts over the CBC provincial network.

This almost automatically ensures them
the biggest audience these free-time shows
have ever had.

Sinclair is a big draw and assurance of a
good show.

Also his incisive and often abrasive style
of questioning does get out answers.

And the answers are most often to
questions that are on the public mind.

Lewis is probably the only one of the
three leaders who could handle shows such as
this well.

The premier would probably be able to
provide answers, but they likely would be
partial and indecisive and he would risk
the probability of coming across as both coy
and evasive.

Bob Nixon, from what we know of him,
would perhaps lose his temper within a few
minutes. And if he didn't he might have such
a job controlling it that he could register as
fumbling.

But Lewis with his quick mind and wit,
and his new relaxed attitude, should score
well.

He won't win on every point by any
means.

You just don't do that with Sinclair.
But overall he will get across his mental
ability, which is his greatest strength.

And has he the knack of speaking in a
tone of confidence he may be able to do a
good selling job on his party.

They should be good shows. There are
four of them in all, of 15 minutes each. The
first one is next Tuesday.

NIXON AGGRESSIVE

A Toronto columnist did a piece last week

in which he said that Bob Nixon was "on the
defensive."

The piece was put together before the
writer had really seen Nixon in action, and
after doing so he probably had second
thoughts.

Rather than being on the defensive, the
Liberal leader is very much on the offensive.

In the very early days of the campaign he
was on the defensive on the integrity issue.
But since then he has been almost entirely
aggressive.

A big Nixon problem is that he is a poor
speech reader. When he is winging it off the
cuff he registers. But when he switches to a
prepared text he stiffens up.

Election notes: Liberals:
It isn't the Liberals, it's the "Nixon
party", at least with Premier Davis.

The Premier never refers to the Liberals
by name, it is always the "Nixon Party."

This, of course, is part of the premier's
election strategy, in which major feature is to
down-grade the Liberal leader.

...

The party fell down on its big hope, a

strong roster of name candidates.

In the end a great many of its hopefuls,
such as former federal ministers Herb Gray
and Bob Stanbury, and mayors such as Vic
Coppes of Hamilton and Phillip Cosgrove of
Scarborough backed off.

The last opinion polls which showed a
severe drop in public support could have been
the killing factor.

It has come up with some good
candidates, such as Des Newman in Durham
West, and some strong and active younger
men and women, but it is generally agreed
that the PC's have outdone it in enticing flag
bearers.

...

In the regional and suburban areas the
party is in better shape.

A good many farmers aren't happy these
days and Nixon knows how to talk to them.

And a good many suburbanites are in
areas which have recently been switched to
regional government. There is a good deal of
resentment against this and Nixon is doing
his best to capitalize on it.

Don't forget the little shop
The following excerpt from a daily
newspaper column was submitted by Charlie
Crimes, a downtown merchant.
SMALL STORE OWNERS
LEFT IN THE LURCH
Dear Al: I'd like to ask the American
people a few questions. It's a matter of
economic survival to me as well as millions of
other "little people" who have small stores.
Who do you ask for credit when things are
tight? Who do you ask to take ads for your
organizations, yearbooks and programs?
Who do you ask for contributions for your
church suppers, raffles, etc.? Who do you call
after hours when you need a special item?
Who do you ask to put up your posters for
special events?
It's your local, hometown small
businessman. After all, he's your friend, your
neighbor.
But when you want to make a purchase,
how often do you drive past his place of
business and go to a giant store thinking you
might save a few cents, without giving your
local merchant a chance or even comparing
his prices?
We are competitive with the biggest
stores, as far as prices go—and our services
are often better. But we can't survive much
longer. When we go, you'll miss us—TOO
MANY TO NAME
Dear Too Many: Your letter reflects one
of the major social and economic problems of
our times. It's becoming more and more
difficult for the small, independent
businessman to survive. I wish I knew the
answer.