

## But Darcy, is the region really an improvement?

Sorry Darcy, we still don't believe in regional government.

It was nice of you to come out here and try to once again clarify the economics of the situation for us. We in the press certainly seem to misunderstand the things that you've been saying.

How in the world could we ever misunderstand your telling the rural taxpayers that they've been getting a "damn good bargain, but it's going to come to an end"?

The imbalance (?) between rural and urban taxpayers provides a length argument in itself which, ever since the first farmer asked the first town dweller what his tax bill was, has never been nor will ever be resolved.

But it was encouraging to hear that regional government would "enable neighbouring urban and rural communities to share both the benefits and the costs of community resources in an equitable manner." "Mind you it still hasn't happened, as any south Esquimes resident will tell you, but at least you have your goals to aim for.

Then you told us those interesting statistics about regional government not creating more government. The number of government bodies have been cut by almost one-quarter in newly regionalized areas.

But you didn't mention what that had meant staff-wise. Are there more or fewer personnel now than before? It sure seems like an awful lot of people are crowding those two floors he region rents down in Burlington and now they're asking for more space.

Our lower tiers have amalgamated with the result that our new middle tier has increased. And our top tier, regional government, is growing faster than we can provide secretaries for.

But you could foresee this problem occurring regardless of regional government or not. The county, you told us, was inevitably going to expand its staff. But to such an extent?

The county might have been a bit slower in adjusting to this new phase of growth Halton has been experiencing in the past five years but would a slower approach have been all that bad?

That's what gripes us most about regional government. It's based largely on the premise that the old system couldn't cope. Granddad can't handle what grandson, straight from university, can.

We happen to think that granddad has accumulated a lot of experience in his years and you don't just put him in the rocking chair for the sake of giving grandson a chance.

And for that inference that one tier government is still threading its way through the corridors of Queen's Park, let's hope you're not going to throttle granddad simply to keep him quiet and out of the way...permanently.

We realize that this, to use a favorite term of yours is "simplistic" but that happens to be what we are; simple folks with mortgages, a tiny front yard and a pay cheque that's not going to get any bigger than what the Anti-Inflation Board is going to allow us.

And we're trying to figure out, from way down here, an immense subject that you folks in Queen's Park and Bay Street have barely been able to rationalize and explain among yourselves.

From way down here, Darcy, regional government means a very expensive system for which we are getting very little that we weren't getting before.



## On Parliament Hill

# Clark has a good idea now

by Stewart MacLeod  
Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

OTTAWA—There was a familiar ring to that statement by Conservative Leader Joe Clark—(that, when he becomes prime minister, he will initiate a meaningful reform of Parliament.

Aspiring prime ministers have been promising this since Confederation. And while some went on to tinker with the rules, Parliament and its procedures haven't changed dramatically over the last 100 years.

Remember the pledge by Lester Pearson to overhaul the Senate so it would become "more relevant?" And remember how, in 1968, Pierre Trudeau said there would be Senate reform, with provincial participation in the appointments? Even Sir Robert talked about it in 1911.

And now Mr. Clark is saying he would make the Senate more representative. "I am quite prepared to contemplate provincial participation in the designation of some members of the Senate."

In view of the hazy history of promised Senate reforms, we won't dwell on Mr. Clark's ambitions in this respect, but his

other thoughts on parliamentary reforms are certainly worth a second glance.

"I as prime minister, am not losing to be frightened about a Parliament that has the power to look into what I am doing," he says.

Power To Committees  
I think it is well past time that we vested in the Parliament of Canada, in its committees, some independent power to initiate investigations on their own." He said the opposition now had no opportunity to undertake meaningful initiatives, and he went on to say that the present parliamentary system can be modified "by borrowing from the American model" and the result will be greater efficiency.

It would be difficult for even the government to argue with the new Conservative leader. It is true that the opposition has little opportunity to undertake meaningful initiatives, it's true that the powers of committees are too restricted, and it's true that the more independent American committee system has a good deal to be said for it.

But it's also true that, traditionally, opposition leaders have not shown the same inherent interest in parliamentary reform once they move to the government side of the

Commons. A prime minister, weighed down with the heavy responsibility of office, can hardly be expected to preoccupy himself with providing the opposition with greater opportunities to attack the government. In the past, governments have tended to concern themselves only with those reforms which speed the legislative process, while the opposition concern has been to increase the time available to criticize legislation. The objectives are scarcely compatible.

Previous Attempts  
The last major procedural changes were made in December, 1968, by the fresh-faced Trudeau government which announced it was strengthening the committee system. Instead of tying up the Commons with an examination of government spending estimates, this job would go to a committee. And all non-tax bills would also automatically go to the committee, instead of being examined by a committee-of-the-whole-House.

It was going to be a monumental breakthrough. Parliament would churn out legislation like a sausage factory, while MPs would make big names for themselves questioning witnesses in committee.

But it didn't work out that way. The 20-member committees, with frequently changing members, never managed to upstage the Commons.

And without enough reporters to go around, the media often ignored them. In the meantime, politicians, quick to realize that the Commons was the only forum for national publicity, began making use of second reading—which used to be routine approval in principle—for major speeches on just about any subject. The reform accomplished nothing.

Now, a parliamentary committee is having another look at the problem, and one of its revolutionary ideas is to have the whole House debate some of the government spending estimates. At least this system had a trial period of 101 years.

As I said, Mr. Clark's thoughts on parliamentary reform are certainly worth a second glance—largely because, if he ever became prime minister, he is going to have to live with them.

wifely perfection, the superb hostess, the president of the P.T.A. and...Hey! Stop the world, I want to get off, the cuke is being sliced too many ways.

Excuse me therapists everywhere, but maybe you should combine some practicality with you Garden of Eden illusions. Speaking just for myself, after a full day of perfection plus the constant nagging worry of ring-around-the-collar, I need sleep, not a trip to the moon.

If anything is going to cause men more problems, it will not be women's lib, but the exhortations of therapists demanding an impossibly high performance level. Can anything be more calculated to kill responses between people, than having to aim for a certificate of merit each time?  
So, some people get turned on more than others? So what? Will we next be subjected to vegetable therapists if we don't happen to like green beans?

I am tired of having to be a superwoman in every facet of my life, as I am sure the majority of us are. With every commercial appearing on television demanding perfection in our laundry, our teeth, our cooking, our appearance, I become more enraged.

Magazines and newspapers combine to inform us how to be the perfect mother, the inspirational working mother, the pinnacle of



Resting on the patio...Eskimo style

## Viewpoint

# Do you recall at all...?

by Gerry Landsborough  
This week Viewpoint leaves its regular format and steps back in time to share some nostalgia with you as we all remember the "good old days."

Recently a dear little old grandmother said to me "You know to listen to my granddaughter tell it, you would believe that her generation discovered or invented sex as something we just didn't have in my day." "Why sometimes I can't even understand what she is saying. The words just don't seem to mean the same things as I understand."

How right you are grandma, even though I've a few years to go before I reach the grandmother stage I too can remember when.....

grass was something you walked on instead of smoked

pot was something to cook in instead of smoked

rap was a knock at the door instead of a conversation

turn on was something you did with a dial or rap instead of a state of high with booze or drugs

cool was a condition of weather

shades were something to draw to keep the sun out instead of eyeglasses or sunglasses

threads were little bits of yarn or cotton instead of a new piece of clothing

Can you remember Roy Rodgers King of the cowboys and Trigger? Gene Autrey and Champion? Randolph Scott and good old Hopalong Cassidy? Imagine a movie today with a title of Hopalong Cassidy? It would have to be a pornographic picture.

Remember when movies were something the whole family went to and no one felt to blush?

Can you recall the little beanie fed caps and sticking pop bottle caps all over them...the more the better?

And of course radio...how I remember radio. "A cloud of dust and the speed of light and a hearty hi-ho Silver...the Lone Ranger rides again." How about "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men" and that crazy laughter "The Shadow" knows.

Amos and Andy with the Kingfish and the rest of the gang.

Gang Busters complete with sirens and bullets and the "good guys" against the "bad guys." There were so many: Lux Theatre, Fibber Magee and Molly, the Fat Man, The Falcon and who could forget "its time to close the croaking door and the bone chilling squeak as another episode of Inner Sanctum went off the air. All brought to you with unequalled colour and sets as only "your" imagination could provide.

Can you recall drapes? zoot-zooter pants with long gold chains? cinch belts that are coming back again and angora sweaters for the girls? How about penny loafers and white bucks?

Remember the Easter Parade when everyone wore white gloves and m'lady always appeared in the frilliest of Easter Bonnets with flowers, feathers and ribbons, all the latest in spring finery.

Fire Cracker Day the 24th of May and if we don't get a holiday we'll all run away. Everyone celebrated the Queen's birthday and flags flew everywhere.

Remember when the school teacher was Miss Butterworth and her idea of a swinging night was to sip tea and to plan how to run off 19 dittos for her pupils for the next morning? Miss Butterworth never did seem to need a highball to unwind. But then again she didn't have to face the "now" generation.

Can you recall the clip, clop, clip of the ice truck and the kids running after the milk wagon and the bread man? and, of course, "Rags and Bones - Rags and Bones" as the rag man made his way down the streets with his wagon full of junk? We were always taught that the rag man parked his wagon, changed clothes and went home to the rich side of town but to this day I really can't say if its true.

How about "twenty-three skidoo or boop, boop, boop"? Does your mother know you're out, Cecilia?

The voice of the old smooth one himself, who else but Bing Crosby. Remember Eddie Cantor? Burns and Allen? not to forget Kay Star or Kate Smith? Then it all changed with the coming of the Polka, shimmy and shake, rattle and roll, Elvis Presley and none of us will ever be the same.

How about a D.A. or a bustle back? Keep you guessing?

Can you remember the excitement when someone on your block was said to have "coloured T.V." and everyone hurried to watch it. It was a sheet of plastic with blue at the top for the sky, pink in the middle, and green on the bottom all of which were placed over the black and white and "Viola" instant colour.

Remember Sweet Pea? Jasmine? or Lily of the Valley?

How about the Coontails that hung from car antennas? Now I ask you why would anyone want to fly a coontail in the breeze. My how times have changed.

It's fun looking back but time always moves ahead and to be honest I wouldn't want to return to coal furnaces that produced ashes that had to be put out for the ashman. No hot water and sometimes outdoor plumbing. A time without the colour turquoise when wine and green were what you got, like it or lump it.

Someday we will laugh at Dr. Spock and recall Watergate as spectators to history and we will all chuckle at what today seems, oh so very fashionable.

## On The Home Front

# We're experimented to death

by Susan DeFaciendis

Ever since early man first scrawled graffiti on cave walls and expressed his desires by clubbing a well-endowed girl over the head to take home to meet mother, the field of communication has been rapidly growing.

While communication within marriage still has not progressed much beyond the "Me Tarzan, You Jane" stage, in all other areas we are being flooded with the how, when and where of everything from planting zucchini to beating the stock market.

Where is it all going to end? We are being "experted" to death. Grandmother did a pretty good job of raising her family, can we honestly say we did as well following the dubious advice of experts, instead of our reason and logic?

I remember one incident, about 10 years

ago, when my two small children were literally driving me crazy inside a department store. After all reasoning with them had failed, I hauled off and slapped both of them, hard. They went into shock and my remorse was immediately as great as my previous anger had been, but while I am quite sure this action would have been condemned as brutal by the behavioural experts, my children never again misbehaved in a store.

Sex therapists are the latest tip-off artists to encroach into our personal lives. Nothing makes me more angry than having so-called experts tell everyone what level of achievement should be reached.

Why should a woman be made to feel guilty about whether her responses measure up to expert standards - and on what basis are these standards set?

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wifely perfection, the superb hostess, the president of the P.T.A. and...Hey! Stop the world, I want to get off, the cuke is being sliced too many ways.

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## Queen's Park Commentary

# 19 is a good age

By Don O'Hearn  
Queen's Park Bureau  
Of The Herald

TORONTO—It is hard to find much argument with the main recommendations of the Jones report on Youth and Alcohol that the minimum drinking age in the province should be increased from 18 to 19.

Not only have we all heard our own stories about the growth of drinking in the schools of the province but the report itself had official figures which should convince any doubters.

For instance between 1970 and 1974 the number of Grade 9 students in the province using alcohol increased from 53 percent to 71 percent.

And there was an alarming increase in the number of traffic accidents involving young drinking drivers.

Along with this both the reports proposed age limit and the rationale behind it makes sense.

The theory behind the 19 year limit is that this is the age when most students have finished secondary school and the objective is to get liquor out of the high schools.

The thinking, and this also must be agreed with, is that once any category in the schools is drinking then almost inevitably this is going to spread down through the schools.

ARF Human  
There are other things in the report that must be agreed with, and some even to be praised.

One, for example, is that all liquor outlets must carry non-alcoholic beverages and sell these at not more than one-third of the price of a mixed drink.

But the observer has to take issue with the fact that the whole document seems to be basically an emanation of the Addiction Research Foundation.

One does not argue in principle against the ARF.

Since its inception it has done some very

constructive work and has made a definite contribution to better drinking conditions and patterns in the province.

But also the Foundation is composed of human being and in many cases very dedicated human beings.

And very dedicated people tend to be zealous, and one-sided.

Over the years this is the one consistent criticism that has been able to be made of the ARF; that it is perhaps too much in love with some of its own thinking and proposals.

For instance it would "educate" more and more and more.

Yet there has never been a solid weighing of just how effective education is.

At least this one observer would have more respect for Jones' if there was a bit less ARF in its line and more evidence, some evidence, that it had been more willing to challenge his theories and proposals.