

# A typical press gallery squabble

By Stewart MacLeod  
Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

OTTAWA—Since reporters frequently fight among themselves, no one pays much attention to those little squabbles in the Parliamentary Press Gallery. But the current dispute could have some far-reaching implications regarding the daily coverage of Parliament.

At the root of the dispute is that long-awaited plan to televise proceedings in the

House of Commons. And one of the offshoots is that television and radio reporters are up in arms over suggestions that this live coverage may eliminate the need to interview individual MPs after the daily question period.

In the middle of the dispute in Charles Lynch, president of the press gallery who is being accused by some of his electronic colleagues of strengthening these suggestions. Mr. Lynch, of course, is losing no opportunity to express his views while new side issues keep developing, petitions are

circulating, and people whisper nasty things about each other.

In other words, it's a typical press gallery squabble.

But this one is more interesting than usual because it does raise the question of how the public will view Parliament when television cameras are mounted in the Commons at a cost of \$3 million. And this could happen as early as next year.

Resolution Soon  
A resolution will be presented to the

House next month calling for the entry of the cameras and when this is approved - as it will be - a committee will be established to implement the plan.

Much of the work has already been done by an outside firm. And to inform MPs of how a televised Commons will appear on your screens, the firm made a film on the subject, showing how the cameras will operate, how the lighting will be installed, and how individual MPs will come across.

The film was shown to all party caucuses with encouraging results.

But when it was displayed to the parliamentary press gallery the results were decidedly different. Electronic reporters said the whole tone of the production indicated that live coverage would replace the interview, complete with their forest of microphones, that now bring MPs to television screens. And what annoyed them most was that their president, Mr. Lynch, was on the film appearing to support this thesis.

Without going into the subsequent shouting, it's fair to say the film presentation ended without rancorous, sustained applause.

One of the basic problems in the press gallery is that print journalists and electronic journalists have totally different requirements. Since the print people require only a pencil they can operate effectively within the Commons chamber. But cameras and microphones are not permitted there, so electronic reporters must have some special arrangements.

Until a few years ago, cameras were set up outside the chamber and after the daily question period MPs who said something significant inside were asked to repeat it for the benefit of radio and television. But when the lobby became a snaking mess of cables, cords and cameras, former Speaker Lucien Lamoureux decided that better facilities had to be provided.

Special Room  
So a special interview room was established one floor below the cameras - it is called 130 - and MPs were invited down there to repeat their statements. And often they were saying a great deal more than they said in the House.

This meant that the print journalists were in danger of missing new material. So they began following the electronic reporters to monitor the conversations. And gradually, what began as a simple repetition became a full-scale news conference.

The whole exercise is called "the scrum" - and it's a fairly descriptive word for it.

Anyway, amid all the concerns and anger, some of the electronic reporters are circulating a petition which will later be presented to all MPs, calling for a continuation of the present interviewing process. "We don't want this television proposal sold on the basis that we are going to stop interviewing," says the CBC's Terry Hargraves.

It's a lovely little scrap, but somehow I don't think the electronic journalists have too much to worry about. The MPs run Parliament, and show me a politician who doesn't like being interviewed.

## Hydro is not above the law

The sheer gall. Do you want to hear how our so-called public corporations operate?

Ontario Hydro—those friendly folks who continually keep bumping up their rates to local Hydro commissions—want that 500kV corridor through Halton Hills.

But they aren't prepared to go through the hassles and frustrations that any other corporation—private or otherwise—must, by law, go through.

No sir, Hydro wants to be able to do whatever they want, wherever they want.

In short, they wish to be above the Official Plan of Esqueping, the primary method by which municipal authorities are able to control the future development of this area.

Hydro wants a free hand, unbound by such menial things as rules and regulations that apply to everyone else, to do whatever their planners want.

And they're willing to spend a lot of money trying to gain that special status.

First they brought their lawyers out here to fight the Esqueping Official Plan amendments before the Ontario Municipal Board.

When the OMB flatly turned them down they decided that where everyone else is forced to stop, they would go further, right to the Ontario Cabinet.

So now their lawyers are once again preparing briefs and presentations for the Cabinet, all with the hope and expectation they will get what they want.

The Cabinet had better not grant it, if the public is expected to retain any of its already slim belief in the principle that government stands for the people and not for big business.

Besides what affect would such an about-turn have upon the prestige and respect of the OMB? A very serious one.

Besides, what affect would such a turnabout have upon the prestige and respect the OMB has earned? It would be a serious setback to a body that has carried a lot upon its shoulders and carried the job well.

The infuriating thing is that every time Hydro files a brief, either to the OMB or now to Cabinet, Halton Hills, knowing full well that we are in the right, must have our lawyers draw up counter-presentations and briefs.

With all due respect to our counsel, legal representation these days does not come inexpensively and, unlike other courts, legal fees are not recoverable should Hydro lose its case before the Cabinet just as they were not recoverable when Hydro lost its OMB presentation.

We are paying to disprove a frivolous stand by a public corporation.

Even more frustrating is the knowledge that next time we pay our Hydro bill we are paying a small fraction of Hydro's legal bill. So we're caught paying at both ends of a legal tug-of-war that shouldn't have begun in the first place if Hydro had come down from its high and mighty position and realized that it's no better than the next guy when it comes to our municipality's rules.



## Queen's Park Commentary

### Minority government staying out of trouble

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

TORONTO—Minority government is a super-sensitive government, or at least the one here is.

If any illustration of this is needed we have the incident of Bill 4.

This bill would have amended the Public Commercial Vehicles Act to try and get truckers operating without PCV licences off the road.

Through questionable "leasing" arrangements these truckers, and apparently there are a good many of them, have been able to avoid PCV licensing.

And freed from the controls and responsibilities that such licensing has they have been under-cutting regular carriers by 10-15 percent.

The bill actually went through second reading, with the NDP supporting the government.

But representatives of the non-licensed truckers raised a storm. They threw figures around which got the Liberals so excited they asked that the bill be let stand.

The government not only did this, it withdrew the bill. And then it announced it was appointing a select committee to inquire into the PCV Act.

The Ontario Trucking Association

present as case which blows the non-licensed group sky high.

Over the years the Trucking Association (it was formerly the Automotive Transportation Association), has been noteworthy, particularly for its accuracy.

But this wouldn't have much bearing in the present minority situation. The big thing is to stay out of trouble where possible.

Foreign Students  
The move by Universities' Minister Harry Parrott to increase the fees for foreign students in our universities and colleges is long overdue.

University education is one of the best bargains in the province.

It costs \$5,000 a year to educate an undergraduate, and for this he pays \$580.

It is all right to so highly subsidize Ontario students and students from other provinces (a good number of Ontario students go to university in other provinces) but there is no reason why the Americans and Englishmen should get such support. As it is they will be paying less than a third of their education cost, even under the new fees, and U.S. universities uprate Canadian students who use them.

And remembering back it was not so long ago that the universities were jammed and it was difficult to get into them, particularly the professional schools, and still student places were being occupied by foreign students.

## Viewpoint

# Some real crazy ones for you

by Gerry Landsborough  
If you're a regular reader of Viewpoint, you know by now that I am a born optimist. We enjoy life to the hilt, and though we see all the reasons for gloom and doom and kamikaze squads we still prefer to accentuate the best of what life has to offer.

Yet even though we think optimism, we still look on certain happenings that not only make little sense, they can temporarily take the shine off the most promising of silver linings.

The following examples come under the headings of "sheer stupidity" or "man's continued inhumanity to his fellow man."

A psychologist, Dr. Monty Gustafson in Wyoming sees no reason for the public to get upset over the use of cattle prods on retarded children. The prods are used as a means of controlling excessive behaviour in the retarded. A cattle prod produces an electric jolt and is used to move the cattle along.

Now we can see the point of needing some kind of control over excessive behaviour in retarded children. However children—even retarded children—are not cattle. The process is one of dehumanizing people and in this way we take something away from the human dignity of all of us.

With drugs being used for every conceivable purpose these days one wonders why sedation wouldn't be preferable to a cattle prod. At any rate in my book cattle prods are for cattle, not for people, and retarded people are still people. By today's standards who's to say who and what is crazy?

No one loves dogs more than I do. We become excessively attached and yet in the final analysis a dog has to come after human beings. Though in defense of my canine friends I have known many that behaved on acted with more humanity than many humans. The case of Cyril La Breeque, skipper of a fishing schooner who has been charged with manslaughter in the deaths of two crewmen, is one of drawing the line between animal and human.

Captain La Breeque refused to throw his dog overboard after his schooner sank off Atlantic City two years ago, and rotate his crewmen in the water. The trial is now in progress.

We have probably all wondered at some time or another what we would do about choices in a disaster that meant some would have to be taken over others. It's best always a decision to make without mercy. Yet between humans and a dog there should be no choice and I speak as one who has loved dogs dearly.

In this column we often look at the penal systems and the degradation to human life it imposes in many instances. Here's the reverse for you. In the San Diego Metropolitan Correctional Centre a new kind of federal prison is in operation.

Glass entry doors, carpeted lobby and halls, giant ferns, coloured T.V.'s private gym and snacks that can be prepared in micro-wave ovens. It costs the U.S. taxpayers \$14 million. It is here that Patricia Hearst will be sent to serve out her term. There are no bars and the prisoners wear coloured jump suits.

Now, we cannot see how going to the cement holes offered no rehabilitation, yet we cannot see how going to the extreme opposite in the other direction will fair any better? What ever happened to a happy medium?

Take heart folks, as it goes in the U.S. so it follows here. More tax dollars to supply luxuries that many working people (the taxpayers) can't afford for themselves. Human dignity yes; micro-wave ovens no. Like the man said "it doesn't pay to be honest, but at least you can still sleep nights," unless the thought of mis-spent taxes keeps you awake.

Here's a really crazy one for you. Pam Midgley was surprised by a man who confronted her on an Etobicoke street wearing nothing but a towel around his head and carrying a shotgun. She started to scream and he hit her. She was released from hospital after being treated for a cut head. Picture the one; and some people still believe that we lock the crazy ones up.

## On The Home Front

### Does it make sense?

As a wise, hockey playing philosopher once said, "you never know when somebody up there is going to do it to you" - and ain't that the truth.

Unfortunately the number of "doers" appear to be on the increase and those of us on the receiving end seem to be getting "done" more and more frequently.

While government controls on wages appear to have worked very well to the disadvantage of all but a select few, I certainly can't see much happening in the way of price controls. We are simply having to stretch less money a whole lot further, to cover even the basic necessities of life.

If it is not the government, inflation, your husband or children doing it to you, it will be the mosquitoes within the next few weeks, and if they don't sock it to you, how about those killer bees?

Should water seep through the walls or pour in around the window frames of that brand new \$80,000 home you just purchased console yourself with the thought that it will reduce the fire hazards of the aluminum wiring they tried out on you as an experiment.

While diseases are killing off trees and foliage and locusts infest our farming country, nuclear reactors are being sold to countries where cannibalism is considered a solution to overpopulation. Doesn't that though help you sleep more peacefully at night? - and all you thought you were going to get was horsemeat hamburgers at the Olympic games this year!

If of course, you were suddenly horrified to discover that our department stores are sticking you with an unbelievable 18 percent

Remember our "great Canadian wagon train" adventure of last spring? Well only one wagon is left from the original 21 that started out. A brother and sister team from Toronto, John and Barbara Houghton, are the last wagon still intent on finishing the journey. We can't seem to move backwards in time no matter how hard we try, though the dream of escaping the "rat race" is at one time or another held in all of our hearts. Still we wish good luck and God's help to the last wagon.

We'll leave you this week with what we feel is the best quote in a long time. That rebel, Marlon Brando, was commenting on how he enjoyed the physical work of building a house by hand in Tahiti made of grass sticks and palm trees. "Work ethics are funny things," he said. "The Tahitians couldn't give three-ninths of two pieces of lizard droppings about working." Never heard it put quite that way before Marlon.

Till next time.

interest on your charge account, quit worrying, maybe a gaily painted witch doctor, located in some far corner of the world, will push a button and boom! - all problems solved instantaneously.

Don't think that it is only people who are being "done" either. How about those mad scientists nacked in the U.S.A. who are producing naked chickens?

It appears that some wag discovered that 25 percent of the protein in chicken produces, goes into feather growth. A flash of sick inspiration and presto - bald chickens with a higher protein content.

However, so far the idea has backfired. These poor little "starker" chickens are not only neurotic but also cold, and their hyperactivity is resulting in a bunch of skinny chickens with massive goosebumps.

Our bleeding hearts penal code allows child molesters and rapists weekend passes and Dr. Margentaler wins a humanitarian award for lucratively relieving us of our errors in judgement, despite an abundance of would-be adoptive parents. Maybe Jack The Flipper, should be posthumously nominated for the next one, for so kindly removing all those shady ladies of the night from society's midst.

As the unfortunate lady in England recently and painfully found out - even a bedspring will do it to you upon occasion and I'm now fully expecting my baby peas, bravely rusing their little heads in the vegetable garden, to get zapped with yet another snowfall.

We are, regrettably, all players in the rigged games society sets us up for and we're all being taken for a rusty ride. Are you willing to gamble that your nice, shiny new Ford will outlive the car payments?

## ...My Thoughts...

# GDMHA's decision on face and mouthguards a wise move

by Colin Gibson  
Herald Sports Editor

This reporter heartily congratulates the Georgetown District Minor Hockey Association for the stand it has adopted concerning the wearing of dental and facial protectors. At its annual meeting on Sunday, the association has made it compulsory that all players registered with them be outfitted with the required protective devices for the 1978-79 season.

The group has taken a bold stand, one which undoubtedly will see brickbats hurled their way, but one which, in the end, can only further the good of minor hockey in Georgetown. Earlier this year, Tom Pashby, a North York eye specialist released the results of a survey he had conducted over a two-year period concerning eye injuries. He revealed that in the previous two seasons, 57 youngsters across Canada lost the use of an eye while playing hockey. It was also revealed

that another 25,000 minor league players have effective vision in only one eye, so that an injury could leave them totally blind. The Georgetown minor system was fortunate this past year in that while there were several eye injuries sustained, none were of the serious nature. Association president, Joe Pentesco, puts this revelation in its proper perspective by terming it, "sheer luck". Dr. Pashby hit at the crux of

the matter as it concerns the minor system when he commented, "Minor hockey should become a recreation activity again, rather than a hockey factory." This view more than likely, is shared by the Georgetown association and by taking the stand that they have, they have endorsed this philosophy. A brochure, prepared by the Ontario Dental Association was similarly circulated at the annual meeting and several important facts emerge.

According to the ODA, studies of minor hockey injuries have shown that the mouth is the most commonly injured area of the body. Tragically, it is reported, many of these injuries have unfortunate consequences because, teeth, even though they can be skillfully restored by dentists to their original appearance, cannot heal themselves like other parts of the body. Dental injuries are therefore, permanent. The GDMHA has endorsed

the findings of the Ontario Dental Association by instituting the aforementioned changes. Before anyone jumps up and starts talking about the ruining of the game or being forced into added expenses, perhaps it would be advisable to peruse the ODA's closing remarks. "The ODA urges you to ensure that adequate head and mouth protection is a basic part of your family's hockey equipment. It could make a difference for a lifetime."