

ANGERED AT STALLING TACTICS

ICG reinforces stand to delay corridor

GRAND VALLEY (Special Staff)—Residents along the proposed Bradley to Georgetown 500 kV hydro transmission corridor have reinforced their stand on delaying implementation of the construction phase of the project.

Angered by what they consider stalling tactics by Ontario Hydro and the provincial government in implementing an independent study to resolve what they consider to be a problem, the landowners have confirmed stalling tactics of their own, Bill Mann, chairman of the Interested Citizens (ICG) said.

David Coleman, chairman of the central association, which is one of three area associations under the umbrella of the ICG, told about 75 people here Wednesday the government is wasting consumer dollars by not having the study done in the first place.

"This association is not interested in shifting the corridor from one property to another," he said. "We are after an independent study."

The group has listed five tactics it is employing to stall the corridor and copies will be sent to all property owners along the proposed route.

They are:

- post your property with no trespassing signs.
- refuse permission to hydro

surveyors, property and forestry appraisers and soil testing technicians to enter your land.

request a hearing of necessity within 30 days of the receipt of your notice of expropriation and support legal costs by contributions.

fight for fair compensation in the courts under the new Expropriation Act.

COMPENSATION

The new legislation requires hydro to pay reasonable legal appraisal and other costs actually incurred by the landowner for purposes of determining compensation payable.

To raise the money for legal costs, which have been very high, Mr. Mann said, the ICG will canvass owners along the corridor in East Garafraxa, East Luther, and Erin Townships asking for \$1-per-acre or a minimum of \$50 from property owners in the townships.

Mr. Mann estimated the cost of the opposition to the corridor at "astronomical" figures in excess of \$50,000 which does not take into consideration the time lost, or minimum wage costs for work carried out by the active members of the association.

He said he had personally paid more than \$5,000 into the organization. Others have made contributions out of pocket too numerous to

calculate, he added.

The ICG is still paying previous legal costs involved in an Environmental Hearing Board hearing which amounted to about \$12,000 he said.

Under the Expropriation Act up to \$200-per-owner can be allocated at the discretion of the hearing board chairman, Mr. Mann said.

Dick Howitt, a Halton Hills lawyer and central association lawyer told the meeting hydro can not just take away their land "they way they could in the old days."

"LEAP FROG"

He said landowners wishing a hearing of necessity must reply within 30 days of receipt of the notices.

Peter Fallis, of Durham, a lawyer with the Grey County corridor committee, another association under the ICG umbrella, said the utility is playing "leap-frog around you and will squeeze you out. It's time they were put in their place."

The study carried out by hydro is solely a hydro study, and not as independent as the citizens wished, he said.

Mr. Mann said the hydro ploy is to demote hearings of necessity in the Durham area and then later in Halton Hills. The hearing for land along the section from Colbeck to Erin Township will be held last.

Should approval be given for the expropriation along the two sections at Durham and Halton Hills then it will be difficult to delay the expropriation of lands through the central corridor.

Leonard Manion, of RR2, Conn, near Mount Forest, told the meeting Ontario Hydro and the government is playing a game and "you won't get rich."

Seven acres are being expropriated from his land at a price of \$450 an acre plus rebates for "injurious affection", entitlements and disturbances allowances totalling \$11,694 and an easement of \$3,331 which includes compensation for two and a half hydro towers on his land.

RELOCATE BARN

Mr. Mann added in a telephone interview that Mr. Manion has also been offered one-third of the cost for the relocation of a barn on his property to "an area which is less convenient."

Mr. Manion said two towers will come within 200 feet and as close as 65 feet to his home.

A petition was passed during the meeting pledging support and co-operation of property owners with Ontario Hydro so long as an independent, non-hydro study is carried out and approves the Bradley to Georgetown hydro transmission corridor.

Report From Queen's Park



by Julian Reed MPP, Halton-Burlington

In mid-June, Murray Gaunt (L. Huron-Bruce) and Ed Good (L. Waterloo North), with two Members of the New Democratic Party attended a Parliamentary Symposium commemorating the Centennial of the Quebec National Assembly.

This Symposium was attended by parliamentarians from all the provinces, and representatives from England, France and the United States. Under discussion were two major topics: (a) the member of parliament - legislator, mediator or ombudsman, and (b) Parliament - the institution and the image it projects.

On these topics a number of different viewpoints were expressed, not only by foreign parliamentarians, but also by members representing the various provinces. It was generally conceded that the role of the member as a legislator, while most interesting, was not highly visible to the constituent. The point was also made by several delegates that in many instances, hours of debate take place on legislation about which the final outcome is a foregone conclusion.

The Government in power brings in legislation, drafted by civil servants, which tends to reflect the views of the government members, and it is the responsibility of opposition

members to try to make the public aware of the implications of such legislation.

RESPONSIBILITY

position members meet with varying degrees of success, not only in parliament around the world, but also in the legislatures here in Canada. It is, of course, also the responsibility of opposition members to improve and where necessary, oppose such legislation. In this respect, it was felt that the opposition members meet with varying degrees of success, not only in parliaments around the world, but also in the legislatures here in Canada.

One of the frustrations of such debate is that the mood of the minister piloting the bill through the legislature or parliament is frequently a more important factor than the validity of the amendments in achieving a change in the original legislation.

At the Symposium, the delegates from Ontario represented the only jurisdiction where a minority government exists. Obviously, the role of the legislator is very different and more challenging in these circumstances.

There was general agreement among the delegates that a member's work as a mediator between government and constituent, and also as an ombudsman, is of very great importance. The inability of the public at large to fight a way through government bureaucracy appeared almost universal. It was felt that parliamentarians are progressively being called upon more often to assist those who have problems with government bureaucracy and red tape.

IMAGE

The image of parliament and parliamentarians was the subject of considerable discussion. American delegates referred to

Watergate and other scandals which have been much in the news. Most delegates were in agreement with the idea that the image of parliamentarians needs to be improved.

While the actions and attitude of the news media does have a considerable influence on this image, it was generally felt that in the final analysis the behaviour and conduct of parliamentarians creates the image projected to the public.

Some suggestions for improving the image of parliament were the inclusion of television and radio coverage of debates, return to better parliamentary procedure and behaviour

within the legislature, and a need for greater communication between government and the people.

While the purpose of the symposium was not necessarily to come up with solutions to problems being experienced by parliamentarians, our delegates believe that the discussions held in Quebec City will almost certainly generate a greater awareness of the responsibilities of elected representatives.

Please contact our Milton office at tel: 878-1729 during the hours from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. You could also contact the Queen's Park office at tel: 965-7896 for assistance.

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Pick-your-own berries draw crowd

The July sun sucked on the overripe berries; birds scavenged the last of the fruit. Strawberry season was over for another year.

"We had a bumper crop," said Mitch Hunter, owner of a pick-your-own strawberry farm in Norval. "Last year we couldn't keep up with the demand, but this year, the pickers couldn't keep up with the berries."

Between 200 and 300 customers patronized Hunter's daily during the month-long strawberry season.

"Through the week, a lot of people come out from the Georgetown area," said Hunter, "and on the weekend, we get Sunday drivers from the city."

Because most people come mornings and evenings, Hunter stays open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.

WAITING CUSTOMERS

"One day we had customers waiting at the gate at quarter to seven to get in," said Hunter's employee-brother-in-law Bill Oates.

What makes pick-your-own produce farms so popular? It's the fact that customers save about 25¢ a quart if they pick their own berries, Hunter said.

Like other specialty truck farms, Hunter grows five varieties of strawberries, to extend the season and provide the customers with a choice. Sparkle berries for example, are best for freezing and while other types vary in size and sweetness.

Most pick-your-own farm customers buy in bulk. Ann Smith of Rexdale said after her family enjoys a feed of fresh fruit, she will freeze the rest. Other strawberry lovers make jam or preserves.

When Ann joined other pickers in the fields last week

there were still hundreds of berries fit for consumption on Hunter's nine acres of plants.

Oates said that within a week, depending on weather condition, the berries would be overripe and the plants would be ploughed over.

Without moving out of position, he picked four quarts in 15 minutes Friday morning.

DOESN'T EAT BERRIES

"I love the small of strawberries, and they look beautiful out in the field," said Oates, "but I don't eat them."

Neither does Hunter.

"Not after 12 years of growing them," he said.

For Hunter, berry growing is a business, and a profitable one.

"I make more money running a pick-your-own operation than I would if I sold the berries to the stores," he said. "July 1, two years ago, was our all-time high for profits. We made \$2,700 that day."

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION BY THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS TO DISPENSE WITH A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

- The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills intends to apply to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval of the following work:
 - The construction of an extension to the present existing Municipal Administration Building located on Regional Road No. 3 (former Township of Esquesing Municipal Offices) for Municipal purposes to accommodate all Departments into one Central Municipal Complex at an estimated cost of \$900,000.
 - The sum of \$600,000.00 to be raised by the sale of debentures payable out of the general rate over a period not exceeding 70 years.
 - Balance of \$300,000.00 to be financed by sale of Municipal owned properties and lot levies.
- Application will be made to the Ontario Municipal Board for an order to dispense with the assent of the electors to the undertaking of the said works. Any ratepayer, may, within twenty one days after the first publication of this notice, send by post prepaid to the Clerk Administrator of the Town of Halton Hills at the address given below a notice in writing stating his objection to such approval and the grounds of such objection.
- The Ontario Municipal Board may order pursuant to the statute that the assent of the electors shall not be required and may approve of the said works, but before doing so it may appoint a time and place for a public hearing when any objections will be considered.

DATED at the Town of Halton Hills this 2nd day of July, 1976.

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BUSINESS MEN IN THE NEWS

For Harold Fobert who came as a housebuilder in Georgetown from Toronto over 20 years ago, the real estate business was a means to an end to his main ambition—housebuilding.

However, the recession in 1963 forced him out of the house-building business temporarily, he says. "Temporarily turned out to be 13 years," he adds with a laugh.

At that time when the house market was tight and builders were having difficulty selling homes, Fobert says he entered the market to prove that homes could be sold. The consequence of knowing houses inside and out meant that in a year after beginning alone, he was able to purchase the building his offices are in on Guelph Street, Georgetown.

Now Fobert has a sales force of 25 with offices in Milton and Brampton and deals in properties throughout Ontario. Although the bulk of business is still in homes, he says: "We do quite a large amount with developers and industrial and commercial properties." Some of the sales force specialize in industrial and commercial properties.

The secret of his success, Fobert believes, is that he does not take a short range view of business.

"We don't make a deal just for the sake of that deal," he says. "We're concerned with repeat business and steady referrals. We're not interested in ripping somebody off. That's the philosophy of the company."

Fobert is a member of the Ontario Real Estate Board and the Multiple Listing Service. After three years of study at York University in Toronto, he became a Fellow of the Real Estate Institute.

"We believe we're in a service business," Fobert says. "Provide the service and you do all right. If you don't, you won't."

"We're always saying to be number one," he adds, "not in numbers but in quality."

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