

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader says controls are wage controls

To the editor of The Herald:

After reading a letter which appeared in your Aug. 25 issue by Dr. F.A. Philbrook on inflation, I would like to show the other side of the coin.

After eight months of living

under the Liberal government's Anti-Inflation Program, it appears that the Canadian public have realized that the Anti-Inflation Program is strictly a WAGE CONTROL program, and that is unfair and unworkable.

The Gallop Poll shows that most Canadians do not approve. Sixty-seven per cent of those questioned felt the controls were unfair on prices and sixty five per cent thought they were unfair on incomes. Half the people interviewed were also convinced that the program will NOT be a suc-

cess. The program does not control the prices because it exempts the three areas of inflation which affects the average Canadian. Three items which make up 74 per cent of the Consumer Price Index, are Food, Housing and Transportation;

all three of them are excluded from the jurisdiction of the Anti-Inflation Board. Food prices at the farm gate are not subject to price controls, but due, to the surpluses in the supply of beef, pork and dairy products the cost of food has only risen 6.2 per cent in May of this year. But the chairman

of the Anti-Inflation Board, Jean-Luc Pepin, and the former vice-chairman, Beryl Plumtree warned Canadians that food prices will likely rise substantially later this year. The same will be true of imported foodstuffs such as coffee, citrus fruits and winter vegetables.

Housing costs for the same period have risen 11.6 per cent which is considerably higher than the 9 per cent increase for the entire CPI. Price controls do not cover INTEREST RATES, TAXES, LAND SPECULATION or the cost of HEATING A HOME.

Private transportation costs are up by 11.3 per cent due to the substantial increase in car insurance and the increase in gasoline prices. Unfortunately this is only the beginning. All energy costs are outside the price controls. So the cost of OIL, GAS, COAL and ELECTRICITY can be increased without the consumer having no court of appeal.

Part of the government's restraint program was a cancellation of the cost of living increases in the family allowances for this year. This means a loss of \$54.00 for the average family. We can now look for an increase in the costs of FOOD, GASOLINE, HOUSING, plus a possible increase in TELEPHONE RATES, in LOCAL TAXES, WATER and ELECTRICITY. One of the reasons given for imposing the Anti-Inflation Act was to reduce unemployment. The results have been the opposite. We have over seven hundred thousand persons unemployed.

A system of controls which applies to only one section of the population is not only unjust but is also ruinous for the economy in the long run. When the average family finds its pay cheque will not buy as much as it did six months ago, there is no alternative but to buy less goods and services. The results is a drop in sales and business activity, which leads to more layoffs.

An incomes policy which applies equally to ALL sections of the economy could work. If the vested interests of Canada were required to play their part. But the kind of policy to which the Trudeau government has subjected the Canadian people in recent months is DEMONSTRABLY A GHASTLY FAILURE.

Bill Cumpsty
Main Street
Halton.

Inflation program is "inconsistent"

To the editor of The Herald:

I am a taxpayer, a working man and a citizen of Halton Hills, and recently I have begun to notice that our Federal Government is becoming more inconsistent regarding their policy of wage and price controls.

I appreciate the concern shown by Prime Minister Trudeau for the control of inflation and I did support, in part, his policy of wage and price control.

However, over the past year

I have been confronted with price increases which, in my opinion, are contrary to the policy established by Mr. Trudeau. He formed the anti-inflation board which was supposed to control wages and prices or at least limit the increases to approximately 8 per cent. It appears to me that the A.I.B. is only controlling wages. For example, one of Trudeau's own government departments, the Postal Dept., is raising the cost of stamps from 8c to 10c effective Sept. 1.

1976 an increase of 25 percent and again on March 1, 1977 a further 2c to 12c which is, according to my calculations, a 50 per cent increase in price within a 6 month period. What is the A.I.B. doing about this? A further example is: the property tax on my home has increased over \$100.00 since the same time last year. This is approximately a 20 per cent increase in a 12 month period. Where is the A.I.B. ruling concerning the 8 per cent increase in prices?

Another example is also a local one concerning Halton Hills residents who subscribe to Cable T.V. The price has gone up from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per month effective Sept. 1, 1976, and this price increase is 20 per cent in one year. Why doesn't the A.I.B. do the job its supposed to do, control prices as well as wages. I realize Cable TV is a luxury and at this rate of inflation, one which I can no longer afford. There are many more examples to numerous to

mention where exorbitant price increases are being ignored or condoned by the government.

I feel, as a taxpayer, that it is time for the government to face up to these inconsistencies in its policies or face the results of the silent majority of Canadians when they speak up at the upcoming election.

Yours truly
John MacLean
48 Shelley St.
Georgetown.

MP says report on land classifications reveals one-half of one per cent is prime agriculture

To the editor of The Herald:

The Canadian Government has just shed some light on a subject of prime importance for people all over the world as well as for Canadians. I hope that you will be kind enough to publish this letter so that my constituents in Halton may be ASSURED of the opportunity of sharing this information.

A report on land capability for agriculture just released by Environment Canada is the first in a series aimed at encouraging sound use of various

lands for agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and recreation. Another report in the series will show how the land is actually being used.

The report reveals that only 10 per cent of the land in settled parts of Canada is suitable for agriculture, and only one-half of 1 per cent is prime land.

Acting Environment Minister Romeo LeBlanc commented that "Despite the importance of our crops for domestic use and to help feed a hungry world, first quality agricultural land is being lost

to urbanization and other non-agricultural uses at a disturbing rate."

"This report, and the maps upon which it is based, show the amount and the location of agricultural lands of varying capability. Our objective in publishing it is to provide provincial governments, other organizations and individuals with information that will be of great value in making sound land use decisions."

Mr. Romeo LeBlanc added that the problems involved in preventing agricultural lands

from being overrun by cities are complicated by the fact that human settlements have traditionally developed in areas where much of the best agricultural land occurs.

The report covers about one million square miles of mineral soils in settled parts of Canada. Other areas were excluded because either climate or topography makes them incapable of sustaining economic agricultural production.

Total acreage for each province is shown in seven classifications that range from land with no significant limitations for crop use to land which can't be cultivated or used as permanent pasture. There is a separate category for organic soils.

The Canada Land Inventory process begins by assessing an area's capability for agriculture, forestry, wildlife or recreation, and recording the information on maps.

An analytical system and computerized data bank - known as the Canada Geographic Information System - facilitates transmission of information on land capability into numerical data that can be analyzed for resource studies and land-use

planning. This information is available to the provinces and industry, and also to regional and local governments that are creating zoning plans for specific land uses.

The mapping and field studies have involved 12 years of co-operative effort by more than 100 federal and provincial agencies, several universities, non-governmental organizations and private companies.

Copies of the report are available from the Lands Directorate, Environment Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0H3. Land capability maps are available from federal government bookstores.

Recently also, for example, the problem of trying to preserve our key Niagara Region fruit and grape lands from being covered by blacktop and buildings. The Globe and Mail lead editorial of August 7th came out in favour of agriculture over urbanization and industry.

As your MP for Halton, I would like to hear from you on the subject, both directly and through the Halton media.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Frank A. Philbrook,
Member of Parliament,
Halton.

Legal opinion on water issue needed

Finance committee last week delayed the report to allow treasurer Ray King time to clarify one proposal and seek legal opinion on the matter.

Mr. King told council that under the present system, the charge-back to Halton Hills by Halton Region for the \$70,000 project would be paid for by the Georgetown water service area.

He wishes to clarify whether the water line can be considered part of a municipal project or whether it is simply an extension of the existing water distribution system.

Mr. King added a possibility exists that a \$200,000 surplus in Georgetown water funds held at the region could be used to pay for the

project.

However, Coun. Pat McKenzie remained unsure whether the funds still remain. He told the committee he believes the funds were used in 1975.

A legal opinion is required on the possibility of having the region charge-back the cost to the Georgetown water service area and then having council assess the costs by debenture over the entire town.

All members of committee agreed that the cost should be shared equally among the four town wards.

Due to press deadlines the result of last night's meeting are unavailable.

Four enter annual 4H calf show

Four people from Halton Hills will try their luck at winning 75 silver dollars in the 4-H dairy competition at Orangeville fair Saturday, at 1 p.m.

Local entrants are Marie Murray, Acton; Bill Robinson, Georgetown; Donna Stewart, Hornby; and Terry Laidlaw, Norval.

They will compete against over 64 competitors representing 15 counties in the annual 4-H Dairy Silver Dollar Competition sponsored by

United Breeders Inc. Judges will award points for calf showing, a quiz on cattle, and an essay submitted prior to the contest on the topic of "The Human Element in Successful Dairy Farming."

First prize winner will receive a silver championship tray piled with 75 silver dollars. The reserve champion's tray will carry 50 silver dollars while an award of 25 silver dollars will go to the competitor with an honourable mention.



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