

Three drillings, inexpensive protection

Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur has come out fighting over what she describes as an "atrocity" committed by regional council two weeks ago.

Her action means that council will face a notice of motion at its next meeting which could bring the garbage debate back to where it stood two months ago.

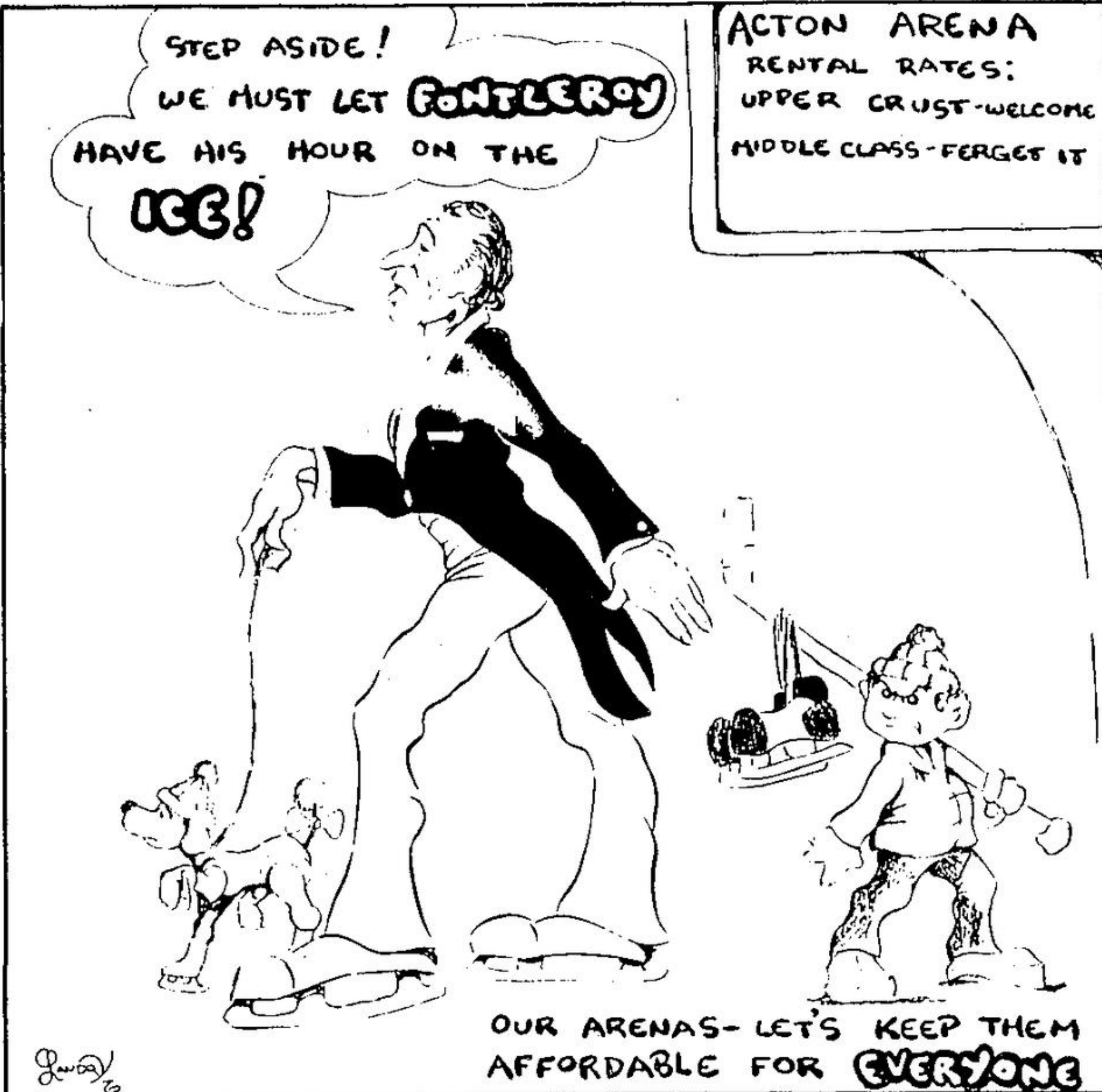
More than a month has passed since council sought cost estimates for drilling on three sites considered for regional landfill. Two of these sites were later dropped, subject to satisfactory data coming for site F. In effect, site F became the council's decision on the location of a future landfill site.

While a lot of debate work, study, and citizen participation went into the

ultimate decision, the role of regional council has been less than the best that could be hoped for. The latest decision was made when two of the three Milton representatives were absent.

Answers to basic questions raised by at least one member of council have been scoffed at.

Hindsight being what it is, some members of regional council have conceded that information should have been drawn initially from as many alternative sites as possible prior to any decision being made. That being the case, the decision made by council a month ago compounds this error. Drilling on all three sites seems a very inexpensive way to ensure public concerns are adequately protected.



On being lost in red tape, dead and resurrected

BY GERRY LANDSHOROUGH

It's time again for potpourri, a regular feature of this column. Here we travel the globe to bring you a sometimes serious, but mostly not so serious, tongue-in-cheek look at this wonderful, wacky world around us.

First we're off to Washington where poor Mabel Schoonover has been trying for months to convince the U.S. government that she really isn't dead.

It appears that according to Medicare, Mrs. Schoonover is the late Mrs. Schoonover, a fact which certainly seems to have her upset.

It all started when she received a letter addressed to the estate of M. Schoonover. Having checked in the mirror, Mrs. Schoonover knew a computer error when she saw one. However, the Social Security Office told her it would take 60 days before they could declare her alive. To which Mabel replied "it didn't take 60 days to get me dead." What do computers know anyway - definitely a case of processed today - gone tomorrow.

Away to Montgomery, Alabama now where Helen Garofola also has problems. She isn't dead - only forgotten. Mrs. Garofola got out of the family car at a service station to use the rest room - when she returned the family car along with her husband was no where in sight. Five hours and 200 miles later her husband Sam realized she was no longer in the car. After Helen and Sam were once again reunited she said "he must think I'm invisible - when he wants a home cooked meal, I'll show him invisible." Picture this little scenario. Yes dear - right away dear - right you are dear - how far ahead to the next service station... dear.

Next stop London, England, where Ron Griffiths received a real down-to-earth send-off courtesy of the Fairfax Arms. Ron died of a heart attack over his pint of bitter - did the landlord Frank Ames draw the shades - dim the lights - close the bar - send the regulars home? You bet your sweet bippie he didn't - that's not the way it's done at the Fairfax Arms. They laid Ron out on a wall seat with a cushion under his head - beer drinking and domino playing continued as usual. Dart throwing, however, was suspended - the dart

board was situated just beside the body of the dearly departed. One regular said respectfully of the dearly departed (yet still undeparted) Ron - "I don't think I've ever seen him sitting in front of a pint so long without touching it." Somehow we get the feeling that the boys down at the Fairfax Arms take their drinking and domino playing seriously: Ron would probably have it no other way. Here's looking at ya!

Away to The Hague for another Canadian first. Canada may import moped helmets which have failed European safety tests. Helmets which fail tests cannot be sold in Holland but must be exported and Canada may be lucky enough to get some. The test consists of dropping an eleven pound steel ball from six feet - twice yet! Even though the tests do sound a bit tough reject helmets for Canada doesn't have a good right to it either.

Do check your helmets for a "Made In Holland" tag, then be sure to drop an 11 lb. steel ball on it from six feet up reject... reject... reject.

Away to Vancouver where local police are "hot" on the trail of a "phone freak".

Some chap is apparently travelling around setting pay phones on fire. "We want to nail him as soon as possible" said a local police officer, "or else there won't be a useable phone booth left in this city."

Perhaps the police department could get together with the local phone company and come up with a "hot line" number to use if you happen to notice anyone setting your local phone booth ablaze.

Now for the latest in dumb blonde stories we wish you away to Stockholm where a woman phoned her local bank and declared "this is a robbery put 10,000 kronor (\$2,340) in a bag... I'll be picking the money up in a while and I'm armed." When she showed up she was arrested. Surprise... surprise... surprise.

Munch now for this sad tale of woe. Bruno Kirkenback, a 23-year-old student claims he was beaten by two men outside a tavern then carried up a four storey building

and dropped down a chimney. Police are investigating the case. Sounds like your regular Saturday night "stack up" to me. Ohooooo.

Last, but not least, we wish you away to Canberra, Australia, where one of Australia's most respected naturalists Rex Gilroy insists that the "Yowie" is not a myth but alive and well living in seclusion. What's a "Yowie"? Well you have your Himalayan "Yeti" - your North American "Big Foot" - your Indian "Sasquatch" and the Aussies not to be outdone have their "Yowie".

A Yowie is an eight foot hairy ape that walks on two feet with a loping gait. "The creature is a sort of great ape and very frightened of humans says Gilroy. That's why there so scarce says I - remember you saw it here first.

Potpourri goes to no expense in its continuing efforts towards items of national importance.

Oh no, here he is again folks - we thought this week we just might get away but the Maharishi Sometimes Yogi has once again caught up with us, and if we know the Maharishi he is about to impart words of wisdom on us.

Take it away Maharishi. Remember that though it is written where there is smoke there is fire, this cannot always be said of the barbecue.

I can't believe it. He's done it again. But why here. Oh well.

'Till next week, keep on smiling.

On The Home Front

Happiness is: A child's toy list

SUSAN DE FACENDIS

Without one word of exaggeration, on Saturday, September 11th I returned home from a hard day in the saltmines (earning the marmalade to go on the morning toast) to be presented with a Christmas list by my youngest child.

Quite apart from the fact that I was tired and hurrying to get a meal on the table, I still felt Teresa's sense of timing left much to be desired with the temperature still hovering around the 70 degree mark.

However, when I found the time to read her carefully printed list, painstakingly copied from the Christmas catalogue, in order of preference no less, I really psyched out.

"Bionic woman!" I exclaimed. You already have a bionic mother and there's simply not room for two of us in one house!"

Now it is not that I really consider myself bionic - but rather that my family appears to believe that a mother should be. A case of wind her up and watch her run.

And while the bionic woman is advertised as emitting a ping noise when her head is turned from side to side and mine merely makes a decided clicking sound (the result of a long ago whi plash) is there a mother anywhere who doesn't have a fully operating bionic ear?

Years of careful training, beginning with an uncanny knowledge of her infants muffled 2 a.m. cries, to gaining an almost psychic awareness when her kids are planning some whispered devilment, develops any mothers hearing to the point where she can practically hear the grass grow.

But after all, and can you blame me? - I was not about to admit to Teresa that I was afraid of bionic competition.

It is quite possible that 'Jamie' could traverse back and forth between her mission control centre (\$19.99) and her bionic beauty salon (\$12.99) with the greatest of ease, and still have time to make the beds, whip up a fantastic meal, vacuum, clean windows, polish the silver, listen to the children's homework, hold down a couple of part time jobs, endlessly insert rolls of toilet paper in the little holders and still manage to look gorgeous and relaxed at the end of it all.

However, if she is all that capable, I don't want to know about it - and she's certainly not going to get the opportunity to practice in my house. I could finish up out of a job.

I wonder if I could persuade Teresa to put the Six Million Dollar Man at the top of her list instead?

Halloween safety

Caution is urged this weekend as ghosts and goblins take to the streets of Halton Hills. Many drivers unfamiliar with the earlier dark hours because of the change to standard time may not be able to see the little people as they stroll the streets in search of treats.

The safety of the youngsters can be greatly improved by using make-up instead of the traditional mask which can slip and cover the eyes or obscure side-vision.

The Ontario Association of Optometrists suggests that adults, as well as the children, use a "retro-reflective material" that can be all applied in iron-on patches or sewn onto costumes to ensure that they can be seen from front, back and sides.

The association also urges parents to ensure that when using make-up instead of masks that non-allergic type is used and it is applied by an adult to avoid getting make-up particles or applicators in the child's eyes.

What do you think?

Ontario Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell has asked the Herald to provide a public forum during Energy Conservation Week, Oct. 31 to Nov. 6, for readers to express their comments and concerns about energy conservation.

The Herald takes this opportunity to ask its readers to forward letters to the newspaper, but please, no pseudonyms. Mr. Timbrell assures us that all published letters will be personally answered.

"It is my hope that by having an annual energy conservation week, we can encourage as many people as possible to begin thinking about their own consumption habits and, hopefully, become motivated to

practice conservation themselves," he says.

What do you think?

In a lighter vein . . .

Truthfulness

A politician running for office was incensed at remarks which had been made about him by the town paper. He burst into the editorial room and exclaimed, "You are telling lies about me in your paper and you know it!"

"You have no cause for complaint," said the editor. "What would you do if we told the truth about you?"

On Parliament Hill

Throne speech offers little

By STEWART MACLEOD
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Traditionally, a throne speech outlines the government's legislative program for a new session of Parliament and reflects the mood of the country as MPs return from their ridings for another season of debate.

But this latest offering doesn't tell us very much. And, as a result, no one seems to know what Parliament faces in the months ahead. And I suspect that this includes the government.

There has always been a certain amount of vagueness in throne speeches, but this one appears to be a prize-winner in that respect. As a result, you can interpret it just about any way you wish.

There is little information on specific legislation. Take the now-burning issue of national unity as an example. There are two pages on that subject and in that space you would expect to learn something about what the government has in mind. But the most significant paragraph I can find says the "government will place a very high priority upon the promotion of better understanding among French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians."

OLD HAT

Other comments on that subject could have been gleaned from any previous throne speech over the last 10 years. "Canada is a diverse country" we are told. "Unity can result only from a recognition of that diversity, and not from any attempt to impose rigid uniformity. In matters of language and culture, it is important to recognize the personality of the various parts of the country without departing from fundamental principles of justice and generosity, which should apply everywhere."

Even when the speech makes an attempt at specifics, the government writers can't resist the temptation to throw in a bit of poetry about Canada. In mentioning some forthcoming amendments to the Immigration Act - a very practical document - we are told

they will be designed to accomplish all of these things:

... Promote Canada's regional and urban development goals, promote family unity, achieve a balance between immigration levels and employment opportunities, and preserve Canada's reputation as an open, tolerant society which welcomes the energy and cultural diversity of people from all parts of the world.

If all this can be achieved with one batch of amendments, we'll be in good shape. DIDN'T ATTEND

In previous years, I attended all the background briefings associated with the throne-speech that's when officials actually talk about legislation. But this time I deliberately avoided attending, just to see what I could learn from listening to the speech and later reading it.

That's when I decided it didn't tell us very much.

"The government attaches continuing importance to meeting the aspirations of Canada's native peoples and, in particular, to the just settlement of their land claims," was one observation.

"Of equal importance to the social well-being of Canadians is an adequate supply of affordable housing in a satisfactory community environment," was another.

"It is not in Canada's economic, political or moral interest to allow the gap to widen between the wealth of the few and the poverty of the many," was still another.

And "there is a growing awareness among Canadians of the need for more careful conservation of vital energy resources such as petroleum and natural gas."

Matter of fact, the throne speech consists almost entirely of obvious statements which could have been read by any cabinet minister on "The Nation's Business." Then the previous session of Parliament could have continued without all the trappings of an official opening.

From here and there

Why penalize teens?

Attorney General Roy McMurtry has rejected one foolish proposal in favor of another - one of his own.

The first recommendation was from the Traffic Injury Research Foundation of Canada which looked at the shocking statistics related to teen-age drivers and decided the province ought to ban these youthful motorists from the roads between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Mr. McMurtry's alternative is a two-year probation period for new drivers during which they would be likely to lose their licenses after accumulating only half of the demerit points now required for a suspended license.

Neither proposal gets to the heart of the matter - how to get dangerous drivers off the road. It is not good enough, in fact, it's a bit too much like Big Brother to apply blanket prohibitions to an individual portion of the motoring public. If the night ban on driving makes sense for teenagers, it makes sense for adults. Most impaired driving accidents occur between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. If all driving was banned during those hours, we might eliminate drunken drivers completely or create a whole new drinking pattern that would give us mid-day impaired drivers.

A night ban is unfair to the many responsible young drivers who have legitimate reasons to be out after 9 p.m. They are

entitled to more consideration than that. If they are considered old enough to drive, that privilege should extend to all times. If they aren't capable to drive at night, they ought not to be given licenses at all.

The probation period proposals is an admission of the inadequacies of driver education and licence testing. If these two steps on the path to becoming a qualified motorist are fulfilling expectations, this is the place for improvements - not the addition of a third step.

The fight against dangerous drivers start with improved driver education. It includes tougher licence testing and it is backed up by the courts meting out the stiffest penalties allowed to get bad drivers out from behind the wheel.

It is a scandal when convicted impaired drivers are found in no time back on the road having suffered only the mild inconvenience of losing their licence for a short period. Worse still are the token fines given for persons caught driving while their licences are suspended.

Such offences are not only crimes in themselves but they amount to the most flagrant contempt of court and as often as not the person with the disqualified licence is also impaired at the time of the second offence. Why are such persons not dealt with more harshly? (Sarnia Observer)

Queen's Park

Tory election strategy starts now.

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

The election campaign is underway - at least as far as the government is concerned.

Starting about ten days or so ago a steady flow of political speeches began appearing from Premier Davis and his cabinet ministers.

And these aren't just routine mid-term political speeches.

They are election speeches, and incidentally they are beginning to roughly form for us the shape that the government campaign will likely take.

THE STRATEGY

First of all the apparent strategy is to dismiss the Liberals as a party which doesn't stand for anything and even changes its mind on what it thinks it stands for.

The focus is leader Stuart Smith: "In Stuart Smith's case there may be more cause for charity than being unkind" (Premier Davis), and "Stuart Smith has more positions than Masters and Johnston" (Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell).

And then the practice is to ignore the party.

The concentrated attack is made on the NDP.

And the emphasis here is on free enterprise against socialism.

Not that socialism is referred to very often per se. The word is mentioned from time to time but the main tactic is to dwell on what might happen under alleged policy of an NDP government.

With business audience particularly there is talk, of course, of takeovers and stifling of free enterprise. But with more general audiences pictures are drawn of increased spending with relevant increased taxes ("raise cigarette tax by 1 percent, increase tax on cigars and pipe tobacco by 50 percent, increase liquor excise taxes and increase motor vehicle registration fees"). FREE ENTERPRISE

Most fascinating is that it would seem that the government intends to go on an all-out free enterprise appeal.

This has been prominent in the speeches. What about such a theme with workers? The PC's apparently believe they will be able to convince them they are better off under free enterprise.

This might seem to be a tough nut to chew, but the party could be banking on the fact that not only business but the general public is getting fed up with controls.

A fey note. Davis invariably says "I like Stephen Lewis". Stephen Lewis invariably says "I like Bill Davis".

And then each has at the other. (Stuart Smith is unlabeled by either.)