Politics and editorials: each a responsibility

To the editor of The Herald:

To be in public life is to be visibly involved in important issues and therefore in controversy.

Fair enough. After all, the only way to avoid criticism is to do nothing.

Your elected representatives all understand, and accept this as part of their job. As true as it is in general, how much moreso it is for members of government who must take positions on all issues, and most of all for the leader of the country.

Debate is welcome and hea-Ithy. However, for it to be meaningful and productive, both sides need to feel that their integrity and motives are well regarded. Facts are more

useful than emotional or partisan reactions, while judgements and interpretations are sometimes misleading.

A special responsibility exists for the news media with its power to communicate widely and influence the public. Sometimes the thin line between hard news and editorial comment seems blurred in times such as these. There sems to be a tendency to criticize more than praise. It is widely known as the scapegoat theory. Everyone gets it in turn, business, labour, the professions, governments, even the media itself.

Nor is the leader of the country, our Prime Minister, spared. He is the symbol of all that happens, of all that is good

and bad. He is only one man but he is fair game. His very appearance and statement are

critical. In our parliamentary system the national leader must appear often, in the House of Commons and in the medla, and he does. Recently Prime Minister Trudeau appeared on TV for his year-end interview. His two main subjects, national unity, the economy, and how they are related. Public reaction appeared favorable, however some editorial comment was interesting and deserves a reply, even at the risk of being branded an apologist. Let us call it a difference of

interpretation. It is said that the PM "should be a concillator as well as a leader, must listen as well as

lead". As a hardworking MP cluded with the provinces remy judgement is that our PM cently. I saw no mention of spends most of his time listenthat in some editorials, There ing to Parliament in question are many other examples. period, to provincial premiers, Too often it is forgotten that to citizens groups, to caucus, to the federal government must

cabinet ministers, to party take a strong position on behalf leaders, to civil servants, to his of the weaker provinces and own advisers, to the public, to regions, while the stronger foreign officials, to consultants ones prefer to go their own probably to his wife and childmerry way. Too often it is ren, certainly more openly forgotten that Canadian people than a President. He listens move from one province to well and remembers. He both another and expect the same seeks and offers ansers. When standard in each, a form of all that is done, he does what national unity for which the any leader should do, he mafederal government must askes the best decision he can sume some responsibility. and goes on to test it out in These too are issues of unity

practice. Scarcely a bill or action goes through Parliament without hearings that stretch the limited time available, and without modifications and amendments in response to the democratic process. Our sytem would permit nothing less. However there comes a time to wrap up one piece of business and get on with another.

On national unity, Mr. Trudeau's position has always been clear. No separatism, no two nations, no special status. On that he has the full backing of The Liberal Party. Beyond that, a great deal is negotiable, such as the major changes in ial language of their choice). financial arrangements conoppose their objectives. None answers are clear. The goverseems to have any better alternatives. Surely that is proper leadership.

Some people tend to call arrogance what other people call strength. Some leaders are not called arrogant, neither are they considered strong. Arrogant is a term tossed around loosely these days for either emotional or partisan reasons, even by people who have not checked its meaning in the dictionary. If it is to be applied to people who have strong sincere stand on something, in the face of strong opposition, then it should be applied to many strong-minded people in our

society. Including editors. As for debate on important issues, there is as much as time and common-sense allow in one of the federal societies in the world. As for votes and elections, the majority of Canadians do not seem to want them prematurely when they have produced a clear-cut majority government democratically. Let us simply hope that when the next election comes along in due course, all parties and their leaders will have as clear and firm positions on the issues as the Prime Minister is accused of having. As for polls, even people like Premier Williams Davis admit that elections are

the only real polls. For now, the Trudeau government's mandate to govern is clear as of July 8, 1974. For those who would continue raising the Issue of wage and price controls in this connection the

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nment resisted controls longer than any other party, then brought them in temporarily only in the face of worsening inflation and the reluctance of Canadians to accept voluntary restraints. Controls are now succeeding dramatically with the support of most Canadians challenges.

and provincial governments.

Any other course would have

been considered rigid by the

same editorial critics. Let that

As for the rise of separatism

elected only on a mandate of

better government, not of sep-

issue be put to rest.

pretations another.

in recent years, the facts Bea Shawn 1816 should be obvious. It is supported only by a determined 1/2 PRICE minority. The vast majority of Canadians, both of French and **WEDDING GOWNS** English want to keep Canada New Spring Foshlons Are in united. The P.Q. were finally HOPPERS WORLD BRAMPTON

aratism. In a country as big and complex as Canada, regional differences always exist and should not be exploited for partisan or personal reasons. There is no evidence that Canada is any less united than before, in fact the optimists would say more united by its

Facts are one thing, inter-Dr. Frank A. Philbrook Member of Parilament

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Woman questions decision to hold by-election for post

To Electorate of Halton Hills: As a citizen of Halton Hills and having participated actively in the past election in an effort to seek a seat on our local council, I believe in our democratic process of municipal government. I believe enough to want to be a part of it-enough to want to contri-

bute to it. However, my faith has been somewhat shaken in relation to some of the men who are the pillars of our society—the leaders of our community-the law-makers of our town.

I feel I have been discriminated against: perhaps because my qualifications were in doubt; perhaps because I am a woman; perhaps because of my lack of influence with council.

Why must I be forced to enter a second election in less

than four months in an effort to was wrong; fine, let it now Ward 4?

If the answer is: "Our democratic process of government!" Then I definitely ering "both vacancles." agree; however, in this case,

Because council did appoint a member of our local council to the regional council without considering any other qualifled applicant, I feel that it discriminated directly against me by ignoring my right to gain the vacant Ward 4 chair; I lost by a mere 120 votes.

During the past three years. when a vacant seat has appeared, there has been no doubt in the action taken by council. The person next in line—the runner-up in the last election was appointed. What changed the minds of council this time? Perhaps in the past council

gain a vacant scat on council in rectify its mistake. However, council should be consistant in its approach and act in a democratic way when consid-

> As much as the regional post should be filled immediately, a "stand in" could be used until all the parties interested and qualified for the position were considered, and then the appointment made. Consequently, council could decide if there were a vacant seat in Ward 4, and then call an

I feel that a clearly stated by-law regarding similiar situations should be adopted. Would a second election have been called if I had been an influential experienced man?

> sincerely Marilyn Serjeantson

None of the opposition parties More than wish needed for waste

To the editor of The Herald: hydro problems. ("Hydro, Garbage solutions on M.P.P.'s list of wishes") ("Town Her-

I realise it is difficult being heard when an M.P.P. is not a member of the Official Opposition.

The Bradley-Georgetown Hydro Line is a disgusting example of Ontario Toryism. The route was signed, and sealed in May of 1974 by the

unbelievable in this day and question (the tests were made by the people recommending

the site) long term landfilling is not in our best interests or in our childrens best interest. Our elected representative should be working towards legislation outlawing garbage sites of over five years duration. He should be telling the people in the area of Site "F" that if and when the buildozers come, that he will be standing hand in hand with them in opposition. Had I been elected that would have been my stand, and if I am elected in the future that will be my stand. Civil disobedience is a serious matter, but the protection of our heritage calls for extreme measures. This is no election gimmick on my part, my name is high on the list supporting the People or Plan-

and national importance, and

he has taken a clear stand on

them as every party leader

should. These are reasons why

there must be a strong central

government. Decentralization

and balkanization of this huge

country can only serve to

weaken it, as some would do

either deliberately or unwit-

Other key issues he has

spelled out consistently for

national unity are equal econ-

omic opportunity (for both

individuals and regions) and

bilingualism (so that all Can-

adians can address their nat-

ional government in the offic-

It seems to me that an elected representative should be doing more than wishing for solutions to the garbage or

Davis Cabinet. The garbage problem, long term (20 years) garbage dumping at Site "F" is utterly

age, and wishing for a solution will not change the minds of those who are proposing this environmental disaster. Regardless of hydrogeological tests, which are subject to

es in the Pickering area, and I have stood up and been counted in many communities across this Province. I support the old adage "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride." William A. Johnson

Issue not stealing kids, but why cults attract them strictly enforced. The issue is and joined these groups of To the editor of The Herald: In response to the editorial not "look at them stealing our their own free will. Maybe we

on deprogramming.

I don't believe that attacking the "moonles" or "hare krishna" is the issue at stake here. I have no association with these groups ner do I wish any but I feel they only represent a problem we have within our own society. These groups are not "hippie" cults "but heavily disciplined religious organizations with rigid moral codes

In reference to the Dec. 76

Since a municipal election of

that nature will no doubt be

more than a week away, I see

no reason for being refused

campaign (via the press) at

have similar feelings, may I

stress that I am still very

capable of functioning on my

own, and that this letter was

Unfortunately, many of

these issues should have been

brought to light at the meeting

just prior to the elections Dec.

76. However, the time element

that night was the primary

problem, and in retrospect,

perhaps this route will reach

more people. I should en-deavour to stick to the issues

and avoid attacking any in-

dividual - though my feelings

of frustration at this point

make it more difficult to

compose myself. And since

"attack" is the common

language which is more easily .

understood by some, perhaps

We are all aware that in-

volvement means work; there

is much less exertion in

There are issues which have

never been resolved and never

will be while we have people

sitting in office who never

cease to "pass the buck," or

whose favorite phrase is "the

budget won't allow it," or

frequently thrown to the

parents, who in turn throw it

back to the teachers. And

while this goes on it may get

halfway to Burlington by

carrier pigeon ... Then

someone says, "Who is our

Trustee?? And how do we get

to talk to him? And when we

do, how do we get him to

represent us, and then see to it

I recall at the meeting

hearing a Trustce say he had

24 hour telephone service, and

that our needs are met?"

Whose problem is it? It is

"that's not my problem."

it should be considered.

"drifting with the tide."

compiled by none other -- .

municipal elections:

this time.

childre i" but rather "why are say these children are being our children leaving their "brainwashed" by these homes to join these religious groups"? These groups are obviously filling a need for these children that we can't. What is that need? It would be better for us to ask why the children go than be involved in "stealing" the children back from these groups. After all decide. these children left their homes

comfortable few.'

solved --? If there have been no

further complaints regarding

the buses, then I say the

mission was accomplished --

the buck was passed with "It

all takes time, your concern is

being considered and we'll get

back to you," and of course,

"the budget". (The taxes have

been collected, long live the

budget!!!) All perfect alibis to

turn-off most people. I, for one,

am still waiting for that call.

As the wife said to the husband

when he lost his blankets on a

chilly winter's night, "Fear

not, the comforter cometh."

I'm afraid there are few

parents and children who have

had any comfort from the

absurd bus service, much less

some words of comfort from

the people who are responsible

for the service. However, I will

share one remark made by a

knowledgeable individual,

not on school buses." A good

relationship with a parent does

not begin, nor grow, with a

"they stand on city buses, why

Reader election observations To the Editor of The Herald: in the next breath stated he flippant remark like that. And had received only 5 calls in the it is common knowledge that a past year. I receive more calls

good relationship with parents

groups because we're afraid.

Who is brainwashing ourselves

into believing these groups are

evil because we're afraid to

face the fact that these groups

supply an answer to our child-

ren that fills needs that we

can't fill? I put it to you. You

Bill Clint

than that in one day (but then I am not on the job, 24 hours a We're not interested in day, and set up my priorities, casual remarks, lack of and get the jobs done acconcern for our children. cording to the greatest needs). disregard for our needs. We this privilege of a private From my experience, after are looking for someone who attempting to call the same places value on our needs, gets person repeatedly, without the job done, and takes credit While many parents may success you re-direct your for it only when it is done. dialling finger tusually to the Many people have worked next level upward). Which very hard to improve brings me to the next issue . situations, and certainly it was our board office in Burlington an insult to the generous and whom I tried to contact in late dedicated group who did a fine November 76, only to learn our lob, only to hear someone else direct line was no longer in

take the credit for it. service. Now, I can read the We do have a problem and in writing on the wall and it the final analysis, feet free to differs from the reason given lay blame wherever you for the service being disconchoose. If it's to the parents, I (the parent) plead ignorance. "Don't call me, I'll call you; We go to school for every other Thou shalt not disturb the profession and we must always provide proof of our I wonder what tactics one qualifications before anyone must employ to engineer this will hire us. But the most inconvenience? It certainly profound profession - the would require time and effort. parents, upon whose shoulders Just think, with all that time rests society - nobody even and effort on our hands, our asks us to recite the A.B.C. bus problems could all be Somebody, somewhere,

A. Frazer

must surely be saying, "Oh. I

Group hopes council listens

To the editor of The Herald: So the preliminary report is in on the suitability of Site F as a garbage dump. Isn't it stranger - the result is exactly what I predicted it would be, two months ago. Now the group that is pushing this dump has some real information to use. Of course It's too bad that the members of Reglonal Council have no such information on any of the other possible sites, which would permit them to make an intelligent, informed decision.

So now we know that Site F is sultable, cheap to use and accessible. So very accessible, with good roads into it, and a busy rallway line along one side. Why, garbage could be brought in from anywhere, by rall, upon payment of a suitable fee. No wonder the consulling firm, from Toronto. could expect only "minimal nuisances" from the use of the site. It's a public works department's dream. Unfortunately, a dream such as this would soon become a 2,500-acre nightmare.

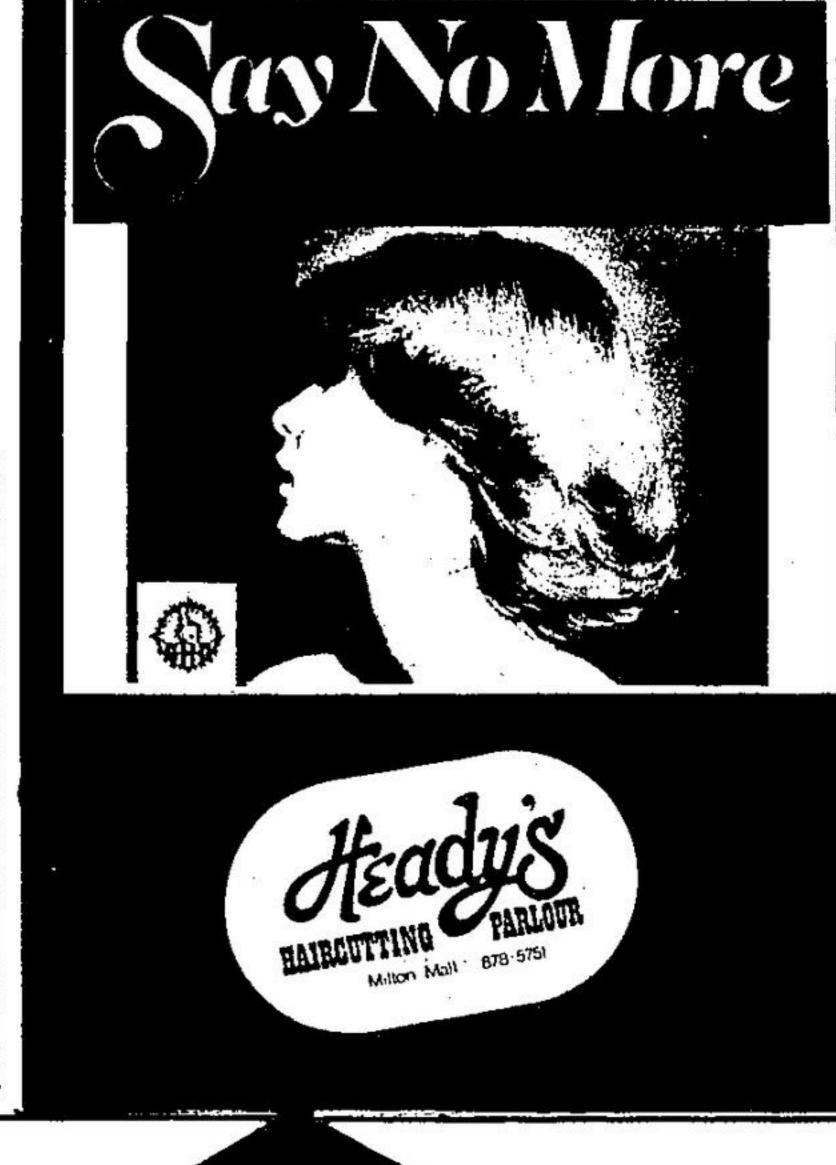
Mr. Raftis rightly states that Council must make some hard decisions soon on long-term plans for garbage disposal. Those decisions must be based on facts. All available facts, on all available methods of garbage disposal. Our group is working very hard to supply as much information as we can to members of Council, to augment the single line of facts provided by the group pushing Site F. We hope they are listening.

Eleanor Hadfleld



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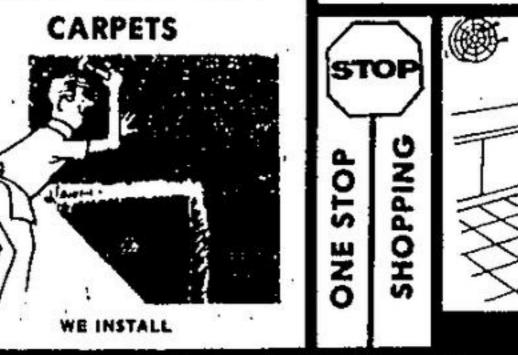


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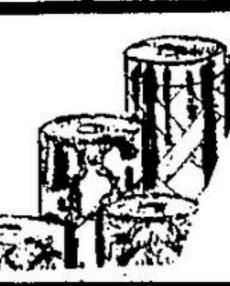
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CALCULATING DROP OFF

The skills of calculation by Halton students drop off quickly when they use electronic calculators, says trustee Bill Priestner.

Calling for a report on the regulation of their use in schools Mr. Priestner said the devices are used in various classes and not just in math classes. It has been two years since the board threw out teaching by rote, he said. And he added: "If the batteries wear out, we're in trouble."