

### Judicial inquiry called

The government has announced that a Judicial Enquiry will be held into the matter of the exemption from payment of \$250,000 in land speculation tax granted to Ronto Development Co. of Willowdale. When this question was discussed in the Public Accounts Committee last December, the then Minister of Revenue admitted that the decision to grant the exemption might have been based on insufficient information. It had been his understanding that the company was in serious financial trouble, and that the 2,300 housing units under construction would not have been completed had the exemption not been made when the company sold land near Brantford to George Wimpey (Canada) Ltd. for \$12 million. Opposition members argued that Ronto was apparently speculating, and proceeded part way with the project only to avoid the tax. The Minister admitted that the Cabinet decision was based on a report from his staff, on the sole basis of a letter from Toronto lawyer Eddie Goodman.

Recently the Public Accounts Committee decided that the best way to clear up doubts about the tax exemption was to refer the matter to a select committee for a full investigation. However, the committee was subsequently technically dissolved, pending the re-opening of the Legislature. The Government has indicated that a Judicial Enquiry is considered to be the best forum for a full investigation into the tax exemption and the question of whether or not any undue or inappropriate influence was brought to bear.

At the end of March, the Ontario Nurses Association released a report "Let us Take Care - A report to the people of Ontario" which portrayed the province's hospital system as being wasteful and misused by both doctors and the public. The Minister of Health was indicated he will direct Government consultants to meet the administrators of seven Metro Toronto hospitals cited in the report, to ensure that the waste and misuse described by the nurses is ended. However, the Ministry has no immediate solution to the problem. A nurse at Etobicoke General has been fired after criticizing the hospital, and the Minister has declined to intervene in this matter, saying that the customary grievance procedure should be followed, because a collective bargaining agreement is in effect.

The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has announced that a one-man enquiry into whether aluminum wiring is a fire hazard is to be conducted to answer "questions in the public mind as to the reliability and safety of this type of wired electrical circuit". This type of wiring was widely used during the 1960s, when the price of copper rose sharply.

We have this week released a policy paper outlining the position of our Party in the field of small business - a sector which has been given little assistance by the provincial government. The problems and needs of small and large businesses are not the same. Small business is flexible, able to adapt quickly to changes in the market, possesses great potential for technological and other innovation, and employs between 50 and 60 per cent of all Canadians. It is labour-intensive and can create new jobs much more quickly and cheaply than capital-intensive industries. We believe that a legislative commitment to small business should be undertaken - similar to the U.S. federal government commitment.

The lack of managerial expertise and entrepreneurial spirit have had serious results for the viability of small business, and we have proposed the establishment of entrepreneurial advisory centres, to be funded by the government and administered by the private sector. Shortage of capital also severely restricts the start-up and expansion of small business. We propose allowance of a full tax deduction against other income for investment in venture capital corporations for small business start-ups and expansions by both corporations and individuals, and provision for government sharing of losses actually experienced by financial institutions on loans provided to small business. At present, the burden of payroll taxes to pay the increasing costs of social welfare programmes falls most heavily on small firms. There are no income compensating public policies to offset this drain on profits, which in turn restricts capital formation and therefore the ability to finance growth.

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4-LB CELLO BAG **99¢**

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SEVERAL VARIETIES TO CHOOSE FROM  
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FOR A BEAUTIFUL LAWN — A&P'S OWN OXFORD PARK  
**Grass Seed** 2-lb bag **2.59**  
4-LB BAG **4.99**

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**Kleenex Towels** **89¢**

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**WHITE BREAD**  
14-OZ LOAF  
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BUY 4 LOAVES SAVE 40¢

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**RAISIN BREAD**  
16-OZ LOAF **39¢**  
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MONARCH—CHOC. CHIP, SPICY APPLE RAISIN, BANANA NUT  
**Deluxe Snack Cake Mix**  
SAVE 20¢ 13-OZ PKG **69¢**

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FACIAL TISSUE — ASSORTED COLOURS ACTION PRICED!  
**Lady Scott** box of 150 sheets **53¢**  
RAINBOW SAVE 12¢ PKG OF 210  
**Rite Serviettes** **1.29**  
A&P—PLASTIC  
**Garbage Bags** pkg of 10 **88¢**  
MOTHERS ACTION PRICED!  
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LIQUID LAUNDRY—1/2 PRICE SALE!—1 LITRE PLASTIC JUG  
**Wisk Detergent** **83¢**

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HIGHLINER, FROZEN, BOSTON (5-LB BOX 3.29)  
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GOLDEN SKILLET, FROZEN, HEAT & SERVE 1 1/2-LB BOX  
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