

Ontario mortgages future through mismanagement: critic

Ontario is mortgaging its future through mismanagement of pension funds such as the Canada Pension Plan and this action is "irresponsible",

David Peterson, Liberal financial critic in the legislature charged Monday. The practice is "actuarially unsound", he told the George-

town Rotary Club, predicting that it will lead to a negative cash-flow for provincial budgeting if continued.

"The treasurer has said he will balance the budget by 1981," the MPP for London Centre said, "that's because it's the last year he can go to the Canada Pension Plan to borrow to finance his deficit."

The record of the Conservative government in the past seven years, and particularly the past two years, is a complete turnaround from the sound management of the Robart years during the 1960s, Peterson said, when a deficit of \$3 million was cause for concern.

The present Ontario deficit is about \$7.5 billion.

Because of the large deficit which is costing about \$1 billion a year to maintain in interest payments there is little room for flexibility and continued use of the federal pension plan and internally-run pension funds such as the municipal employees and teachers which offer lucrative interest rates will result in taxpayers paying more in interest costs than can be borrowed.

To finance the operation of these funds there could be a need to increase premiums in the future, he said.

"We are living now by mortgaging our potential to produce wealth," Peterson said, and that assumes "that our children will work harder than we did."

Governments have been leaders in overconsumption and he called for a return to budgeting increases in spending that do not exceed the ability of the province to keep pace through the increase in the gross provincial product. "We need to say we will not spend more than we can generate in real wealth."

He advocated a policy of "zero-based budgeting" which would force ministries to justify not only increases in ex-

penditures but on-going programs annually. Studies should be carried out prior to implementation of new programs thoroughly showing the consequences not only in financial terms but also in social terms.

Peterson said he sees a chance to trim big government by reducing the size of the 26-member cabinet to 20 and "possibly 18" members reduc-

ing substantially the cost of government and its bureaucracy created inside each ministry.

Among programs he considers essential to the future good of the province is deregulation of the average person's life. More than 344 boards, commissions and agencies now control aspects of life through orders-in-council which do not have to be debated or approv-

ed in the legislature.

With an obvious reference to Halton-Burlington Tory candidate George Gray, also chairman of the turkey producer's marketing board, Peterson said these boards range from the Liquor Control Board to the turkey board.

The regulations approved through order-in-council in most cases only provide work for lawyers and accountants who specialize in understanding them.

He said Premier Davis believes "there's too much government in our lives," but, "who created the government in the first place?" Peterson says there's no such thing as a consistent government policy. Too many debts have to be repaid to supporters after 34

years in office and this has led to the large size of the cabinet—a large which provides a lucrative retirement pension—and then appointment to a board of commission. Peterson argues strongly for controls which prevent retired government civil servants or legislature members from drawing both a pension and a government salary at the same time.

No issues have emerged in the present election campaign but Peterson expects that financial mismanagement, high unemployment, education and energy will surface in the next month. He believes the next review legislation which caused the government defeat two weeks ago has been "defused."

MAJOR SOCIAL DISRUPTION PREDICTED OVER UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

Shattered illusions and lack of employment by today's youth may sow "the seeds of major social disruption" in Ontario unless record high levels of unemployment are reduced.

David Peterson, London Centre MPP said Monday, youth today will not tolerate much longer the system which provides incentives for education and no jobs for fulfillment.

While cautioning that he's not an alarmist, Peterson said discontent, anti-government youth should be assisted in finding jobs, possibly through organization into jobs available while in the education system.

Ontario is faced with about 140,000 unemployed youth out of a total unemployed of about 300,000.

He cautioned that every revolution in history has been started by an educated unlanded class who have been unable to fulfil their potential.

Too many youths are being trained as nurses, teachers and other professions and can't get jobs today, he says.

Planning department into committee room

Halton Hills planning department, described as the town's most cramped quarters, will occupy approximately 40 per cent of the committee room upstairs in the town's municipal office on Trafalgar Road.

The use of the committee room, which will be divided with portable partitions, is only an "immediate, short-

term solution," Coun Roy Booth said. Planning department's occupancy of the room is not part of a five-year plan, he said.

Coun Booth felt that the committee room could be made suitable for about \$500. As for the bulky records of plans of subdivisions and registered plans, some of which must be kept for 25 years, besides storage matter from the clerk-administrator's office, they could be stored in rented space or even the empty town building on James Street (the former Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service quarters), the finance committee heard.

The committee also passed a recommendation that the James Street building, which the Red Cross Society in Georgetown would like to have, should not be rented until the town determines whether it needs it.

The committee was told that the town office, formerly Esqueping Town hall, was designed for a staff of six. Town planner Venditti's staff will soon rise to five plus two students now at work until the middle of September. The Trafalgar Road building also houses the mayor's office and the clerk-administrator's department.

Mr. Venditti pointed out to the committee that the committee room was cold in winter, but hot in summer, inadequately lit, would split the planning department in two and would also result in cramped committee meetings.

Mr. Pritchard said the committee room is often used by other groups. Last week, for instance, it was used four days as an assessment review court, he said. Council has yet to face the problem of what to do with facilities for staff, Mr. Pritchard said.

In reply to Coun. Booth, Mr. Pritchard suggested that space be rented to store records and files until council resolves the issue.

Committee members also felt that the ceiling, which now is a series of tiered slats partially concealing the duct work and the rafters, would need to be insulated.

Finance administration committee's recommendation will come before council Monday, along with reports from other department heads on their space requirements. All department heads are expected to be in attendance.



DAVID PETERSON AND JULIAN REED.

GROWING RESENTMENT OVER ELECTION CALL

David Peterson says there's a growing "resentment" among voters to the unnecessary cost of a provincial election which could run as high as higher than \$50 million.

Speaking to the Georgetown Rotary Club Monday the MPP for London Centre said the \$20 million cost of the election has already increased to between \$40 and \$50 million through lost revenue associated with the implementation and then the withdrawal of tobacco and retail can container taxes contained in the April 19 budget.

He said the Liberal Party recognized in September, 1975, that the people wanted a minority government which would work through co-operation of all parties in the legislature, but the only reason the election was called is because polls showed the government in a favorable position.



OPENING DAY

Janice Hawthorn went fishing last week. 1977 Ladies Opening Day last Tuesday (May not by choice, but by circumstance. The 21 and Janice was just one of the many girls North Halton Golf and Country Club held it who turned out to tour the links.

Contract

Varian Associates, Ltd., Georgetown has won two federal contracts worth \$294,044 to provide the transport and defence departments with electronic tubes, the department of supply and services has announced.

It was among 415 unclassified contracts worth 10,000 dollars or more that were awarded by the department to Canadian companies.

Council urged to buy Acton parking property

Parking problems seemed to be the order of the day as Halton Hills Works Committee heard briefly from two Acton groups as its Monday night meeting.

Paul Neilson, of Acton, appeared on behalf of the parking authority to ask the committee to urge council to make an offer of purchase for the Leslie Hotchens property.

He pointed out that it has been for sale since last summer and might slip through the

town's fingers if something isn't done soon. The town needs more municipal parking and the site of Hotchens Bakery would make an excellent lot, he stressed.

Although \$42,500 has already been budgeted for the purchase the committee was reluctant to proceed until they had affirmative replies from Acton property owners in the downtown area that they would be willing to bear an increased tax burden to pay

for the lot. Henry Helfont asked the parking authority be provided with a small place to use as its headquarters and where meter repairs could be carried out.

He also asked that council grant the authority money to meet its expenses. He says the authority has been losing money and feels that since the town receives any revenue the authority collects, the town should foot the authority's debts.

Other recommendations which the Authority presented to committee include making Willow Street one way south from Bower to Church, making John Street one way north from Church to Bower, forbidding turns at Willow and Mill street except for emergency vehicles; the suggestion that angle parking become mandatory on these streets, and enforcement of a one hour parking limit on Mill Street and Main Street, and a two hour limit on side streets. They also suggest that the town work towards a highway bypass from the Fourth Line to Crewson's Corners.

Don Lindsay and Bill Yundt represented the parking and traffic committee of the Acton Merchant's Association later in the same meeting when they also requested enforcement of parking limits on downtown Acton streets.

They went so far as to suggest that a by-law enforcement officer be hired to see that the parking restrictions are enforced.

Both men pointed out that store owners and employees are the big offenders at parking on the main streets.

"He has asked his employees to use off-street parking but when no one else does it his employees soon return to their old habits too," Lindsay said.

"Unless we have a by-law and have it enforced we aren't going to get any further than we have in the last 12 years," said Lindsay.

Lindsay suggested that students could be hired to ticket offending cars and hoped that once car owners had had to pay for having their cars towed away a time or two they'd learn to use off street facilities.

Lindsay also suggested that parking be allowed on only one side of Mill Street but pointed out that until some alternative parking space such as a municipal parking lot on the Hotchens property was found, it would be impractical to restrict parking to just one side of the street.

Actonians voice opposition to old townhall's demolition

More than 70 angry Actonians affirmed unanimous opposition to council's proposal to tear down the community's 96-year old former townhall at a meeting held in the building Thursday.

The Works committee recommended that the townhall be torn down when studies showed that \$180,000 would have to be spent to restore the building constructed in 1881. The committee opted instead for a \$20,000 demolition expenditure, which would make room for a badly-needed expansion to the adjacent firehall as well as providing a parking area for the volunteer firefighters. The expansion is expected to cost \$20,000.

The former townhall currently serves as headquarters for the Acton detachment of the Halton Regional Police and as a drop-in centre for senior citizens.

Ward 2 Coun. George Malby inadvertently became a target for angry criticism of council's sudden proposal at the meeting when it turned out that all three Ward 1 councillors were unable to attend.

Although Chamber of Commerce secretary Betty Eastwood pointed out that the meeting was not intended to incite any emotional attacks on council, several persons in attendance clearly held their elected representatives personally responsible for what was generally considered a proposal to remove Acton's last link with a proud and historic past.

Coun. Malby explained that works committee chose the least costly among the only

alternatives it could devise and pointed out that the building was neglected for 20 years until recently.

"Professional firemen wouldn't put up with what our volunteers have put up with for the past 10 years," he said, "But, quite frankly, I'd like to keep the building."

Chamber President Louis Charlebois began the meeting by stating the Chamber's objection to council's sudden readiness to "pass bylaws that could affect the lives of Actonians" without allowing any time for public input.

"We realize that the firemen deserve better accommodation than they have next door, but that's not the point," he said. "Usually, the councillors drag their heels (when making decisions), but all of a sudden, they're going a thousand miles an hour."

Mr. Charlebois said council dealt "unsympathetically" with Coun. Les. Duby's motion for a one-week postponement of the final decision and concluded that Actonians are being "railroaded". Coun. Duby's motion was carried after much debate.

Rest Home Proprietor Katherine Kelly agreed that council was procrastinated on plans to purchase Hotchens Bakery for an off-street parking lot but wasted little time planning the townhall's demolition.

Mrs. Eastwood explained that a ministry of culture and recreation representative visited the town hall this week and reported that the building was "worth keeping". The representative related instances of dilapidated townhalls in other

towns, such as Exeter, that have been successfully restored, some with the financial assistance of Wintario or Ontario Heritage Foundation grants.

Mrs. Eastwood and Cory Van Merkesen noted that old buildings are maintained with pride throughout Europe as important cultural reference points.

Vic Bristow, while asserting that Acton has "the best fire department in the whole county," argued that "there is no reason whatsoever why they should tear down this building." The structure itself could be utilized by the firemen, he said, while at the same time accommodating community recreational needs.

"We in Acton have got nothing left of the old days," Mr. Bristow said. "Maybe if we can preserve this building some of those old days can be revived again."

Fred Allen of Acton high school's Grade 12 urban geography class pledged his school's support for the citizens' aims. After lengthy class discussion he said, the students had agreed that the destruction of the townhall would mean the loss of yet another of the few historic and cultural centres remaining in the area.

Similar support was offered by John MacDonald on behalf of the Esqueping Historical Society. Esqueping Township he said, lost its own townhall in a fire 10 years ago. He urged the Actonians to maintain the structure and suggested the town planning department may soon provide the means through a Municipal Heritage Act.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor of The Herald: On Friday, April 29, 1977, HALTON PRO-LIFE officially opened their new office at 1471 Ontario Street at Brant. We were very pleased to have Regional Councillor, Ben Cipriotti officiating at the opening ceremonies. The office is open 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For the last five years HALTON PRO-LIFE has maintained a workshop in a member's home. The requests for material and information has increased steadily to the point that more space was needed. It was felt that an office and a telephone listing, rather than word of mouth, would provide the public with easier access. The search for office space began.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many organizations, businesses and individuals who worked so hard to make this office a reality. The donations in time and money spent on scrubbing, painting, building, furniture, equipment and rent has made our move so much easier.

We would like to extend an invitation to the people in our community to visit our office and see the wide range of materials and books that we have available.

Yours for Life, Linda Ciancone, President, HALTON PRO-LIFE.

To the editor of The Herald: "I" Am Sincere The politician says Sincerity Rolling from the lips Lake God given truth The liev Is that Sincerity Guarantees Truth Hope I Am Sincere Said the attender of the Raack As the inquisition Converted the sinner I Am Sincere Ranted the invading hordes As they forced the infidel By sword

To accept The faith I Am Sincere Screamed Hitler As millions fell To the master race I Am Sincere Proclaimed the marxist As millions Died To spread the truth I Am Sincere said Kennedy Nixon As fire bombs Fell Scouring for life The children Yes Believe me I Am Sincere (You frighten me)

Jack R. Martin RRS Georgetown

In my election campaign last November many people lunked of poor communication between themselves and their elected representatives. Effective communication is the key to any successful organization and this is even more important when it comes to municipal government.

I believe there is room for a forum for an exchange of ideas in a more informal atmosphere than Council, that is why I have organized a Ward 4 meeting at the Gordon Aleut Meeting Room on Thursday, May 19, 1977 at 8 p.m.

Why have the meeting? Well, I hope we can have a positive exchange of ideas and concerns. We, as your elected representatives, will outline what has taken place on Council over the last few months and where we hope to go in the next few months.

We hope you have some positive ideas to input in order that we know we are proceeding in the direction the majority wishes. At the very least, we want you to have the opportunity to be better informed about how your tax dollar is spent.

On behalf of Marilyn Serjansan and Mike Armstrong may I extend an invitation to everyone to come out and get involved.

Yours very truly, Peter Morris, Councilor WARD 4

Section of constituency designated as rural

There are 54 rural areas designated for the election including most areas of Esqueping Township, Stewarttown, areas south of Acton, areas north of Steeles Avenue, areas in north Burlington and areas of the new town of Milton, returning officer Roy Coulter said Monday.

In rural areas anyone missed by the enumerator can be accompanied by a neighbour whose name is on the voter's list and the deputy returning officer can allow the person to vote after swearing them in at the poll.

Halton-Burlington is a large riding and since there are only about 326 enumerators recording names of those eligible to vote in the provincial election June 9, Mr. Coulter received special permission to classify 53 areas in Halton Hills as rural.

"Enumerators have to reach the rural areas by car, which slows the process down," he said.

Mr. Coulter said anyone who returns home and finds a slip in their door is required to contact him at the returning office at the Milton Curling Club, 65 Millside Dr.

The onus is on the voter to retain the slip left by enumerators. The slip represents the voters right to

vote. Any incorrect information should be corrected by a deputy returning officer.

A special enumeration for people missed the first time begins May 16, and revisions in the list will be made from May 23 to May 28. Offices will be located in sections of the riding and advance polls will be held June 4 and June 6 at places to be announced later.

All local candidates are required to present lists of 100 people on the voting list who are supporting them by 11 a.m. May 26.

Coming Soon

TOY MAGIC

Georgetown Square
Mountainview & No. 7
Georgetown

226 QUEEN ST. E. 451-6000

Hotel Brampton

90 DELUXE ROOMS

NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT

POW WOW LOUNGE
THIS WEEK

"DAVID LINCH" OF THE PLATTERS

RED BARREL ROOM
THIS WEEK

"LOVE BOAT"

EXOTIC DANCERS
DAILY 12 Noon Till 4 p.m.

LEMON TREE RESTAURANT
Open Daily From 7 a.m. till 10 p.m.
Featuring
Roast Beef Luncheon \$2.00

MEETING & BANQUET FACILITIES
UP TO 150 PEOPLE