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# Clark's press horrible. A win by sympathy?

By STEWART MacLEOD  
Ottawa Bureau  
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Yes, there is no doubt that Conservative Leader Joe Clark is getting a generally horrible press these days, but party officials shouldn't despair. If the trend persists, a backlash is inevitable and Clark may yet sweep the country on the strength of sheer sympathy.

In a previous column we were talking about the remarkable about-face in political public opinion during the last year, and perhaps the greatest example of this is in the publicity surrounding Joe Clark.

A year ago, while riding high on the post-convention crest of personal popularity, Clark as the new and youthful leader of the Tories, was being given the benefit of every doubt. True, he still had a lot to learn, but he was coming along just fine, thank you, and it would be only a question of time before he and his wife, Maureen, moved in to 24 Sussex Drive.

While he wasn't saying much about politics, there was no pressure on him to do so. "I am not going to develop an instant policy in every area," he explained. "We want study situations, to investigate, and gradually develop policies that will be realistic."

His followers understood this. The press seemed patient. The entire country was understanding. There was regret when Maureen flunked her law exams; there was joy when the Clarks had their first child.

That was last year. Now, it would appear, the Clarks can't do a thing right. And while I disagree with those who suggest there is a journalistic conspiracy against the Tory leader, there is little doubt that he is shouldering more than his fair share of criticism.

"It's extraordinary what has happened," says former leader Robert Stanfield. "I think it's extraordinary, for example, the way the press gallery generally has treated Joe Clark... the press, of course, can't do the job for the leader of the opposition but the press

has certainly not been projecting the Joe Clark that I know and that I see..."

Some of the poor press received by Clark has been entirely fair. He has spent an inordinate amount of time away from Parliament, while Prime Minister Trudeau and his government were in session. He has given little attention here. Clark also looked decidedly "wishy-washy" during that emotional language dispute among pilots and air traffic controllers. His party did badly in those by-elections, despite his best efforts, and his pronouncements on national unity were easily forgotten. Furthermore, some of his tours have been badly organized. And his caucus have been factious.

But these are hazards of the political profession, and Clark can expect to take legitimate lumps for his shortcomings. However, I am not convinced all of his lumps are legitimate.

### UNFAIR BLAST

Not long ago, the Toronto Globe and Mail blasted the Tory leader for allegedly doing nothing. "Here is Canada in an economic crisis, an energy crisis, a unity crisis, a

leadership crisis, and he, Clark has come to grips with none of them."

It might be pointed out here that Clark is leader of an opposition party, not prime minister.

But some of the carping about the fledgling Tory leader goes far beyond this example. I have even heard a radio commentator discuss the way Clark holds his fork at the dinner table. And he is still suffering the consequences of his wife maintaining her maiden name, while Trudeau's popularity seems to be soaring because his wife left him.

And Maureen, in a burst of frustration while visiting British Columbia, managed to get in trouble using the word "crap." Don't you recall some of Trudeau's choice expressions, which never seemed to cause political problems?

It must be frustrating for Clark, who probably has to tolerate more snide remarks and rudeness than any leader in recent history. But he shouldn't panic; there is bound to be a backlash, and if the timing is right, who knows?

## An ironic delay at hydro hearing

It's ironic that Ontario Hydro which claims a \$1 million a day cost to taxpayers over delays in the construction of the Bradley-to-Georgetown high voltage transmission corridor last week delayed the three-day expropriation hearings in Acton.

At issue was the availability of information on alternative routings which was refused during repeated requests by the Interested Citizens Group (ICG), a group opposed to the corridor since its need has not been demonstrated.

The position of the utility caused the ICG to charge it with stonewalling the proceedings, a charge endorsed by hearing officer Donald Meyrick, and a position which appears on the surface to run counter to an Ontario Court of Appeal ruling in April which said the evidence of alternative routings is relevant to the hearing and should be placed before the hearing officer.

Last week's hearings followed more than six months in delays as both parties sought to clarify the legal position of alternative routing evidence before the courts. The hearings are now adjourned until August because of previous commitments by some parties to the proceedings.

But the situation took a turn for the better last week following the adjournment. Energy Minister James Taylor announced that information requested by the ICG would be provided by Ontario Hydro. The minister's action, however, comes a week late for the proceedings last week to have been of any constructive merit. Surely the minister could have ensured sometime in the past three months that Ontario Hydro was prepared to abide by the appeal court's ruling and provide relevant information deemed necessary to the hearings. Or should the inaction be the result of the provincial election in June he could have taken the same action in the three weeks prior to the hearings.

This latest development in a controversy which has been smoldering for more than four years adds fuel to the contention of some opponents that the utility has made a decision which is irreversible, one

that will ultimately be carried out despite any ruling of the expropriation hearing. Indeed the approved two sections of the line running north from Halton Hills to Colbeck (in Dufferin County), and west to the Bruce generating station are now under construction.

Given these developments it remains hard for an observer to believe that the Ontario government and the Ontario Hydro is sincere in its approach to the Acton hearings. It would be unfortunate if the third section of the line is not approved and the enormous cost of constructing the northern sections all for no purpose. But then the government would not be stuck with a white elephant either. It would then have a built-in reason to justify its use of an order-in-council forcing the corridor through this municipality.

## Region HQ could yet be Milton

Milton may end up with the Halton Regional headquarters building yet-by default!

While no one contacted by the Herald at regional council last week would commit themselves to a definite statement, the consensus (with the exception of some Burlington and Oakville members) seems to favor a reappraisal of the recent offer for 12 acres of land at Derry Road and Highway 25 should it be reintroduced for consideration.

Last month regional council turned down the offer of the land for \$1 saying that plans for the approved Bronte Road and Queen Elizabeth Way site were near completion and that the matter was too far down the road towards the construction stage.

Now with a law suit launched against the region over the proposed headquarters and the confusion over the granting of an exemption by the provincial to allow the construction within the parkway belt, it might prove to eliminate long delays and added legal costs to the taxpayers over continuing to seek the Bronte Road site.

Should the offer be introduced again, council would be negligent not to reconsider the costs, the long delays and the proposal for a central site at the SOUTH end of the urban town of Milton, which has been, and should continue to be, the core of local government in Halton.

## Definitely inflation wage scale

The news from bureaucratic country hasn't been too hot lately. Take the case of Mrs. Grace Rosamond of Toronto whose \$107 weekly pay was rolled back \$2 because that put her last raise 1.7 per cent over the anti-inflation board ceiling.

The problem is that it took someone a year to realize the inflationary pressure Mrs. Rosamond is exerting, and now she has been ordered to pay back \$71.

"Over my dead body," the 55-year-old clerical worker commented. That's not the way to talk about the law, of course, but somehow we can't help sympathizing with Mrs. Rosamond, especially in view of the \$7,400 raise approved for the treasurer of the Windsor board of education, who will now earn \$39,500.

The hike was away above the \$2,400 ceiling set by the AIB. The trick? The trustees changed the treasurer's title and job description. It's still the same job, of course, but you've got to keep it legal, don't you?

Or are we persecuting the government when we can't ignore the \$130 million Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. lost on the sale of a nuclear reactor to Argentina? The Crown corporation, after all, "saved" the taxpayers \$80 million when it renegotiated the loss down from \$210 million.

And we cannot forget about the \$3.8 million the federal industry department plans to spend in moving some of its employees a few blocks to a new office. That's enough tax dollars to keep 300 overs busy for a year.

Are we being petty? Just ask Mrs. Rosamond.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Record

## Smith's outlook is fresh

By DINO HEARN  
Queen's Park Bureau  
Of The Herald

One thing in Stuart Smith's favor has been that the Liberal leader has not been hide-bound in his thinking.

During the election campaign and since he has shown that he can take a fresh outlook on the problems of the days.

Overall this should be good.

But one can also see that it could cause Smith some trouble.

There was one instance before the session started when he suggested that an all-party committee should be established to review legislation before it was introduced in the House.

The idea might have had some merit in that it could have conceivably speeded up proceedings but then it also would have changed our historic ways of doing things in the House and this is something that isn't to be done lightly.

But then Smith's biggest mistake so far was his move to have the English river closed to sport fishing.

He mentioned this once during the campaign, though he didn't stress it.

But then he took his first opportunity to bring it forward in the House.

You have to grant him sincerity. Apparently he does feel quite deeply on the question.

But it's a proposal which simply isn't practical.

### HOW OPPOSE?

In a reaction to Smith's suggestion on the proposed House committee there was one revealing side-light from Stephen Lewis.

The NDP leader ridiculed the suggestion saying it would take away the Opposition's duty to oppose.

He said he considered it his responsibility to oppose and he fully intended to carry out this responsibility.

He was right, but only to a degree. The Opposition does have a duty to oppose.

It must criticize government legislation and actions and propose alternatives.

But it is not its duty to blindly oppose, to be against everything just for the sake of being opposed.

And too often this seems to be the attitude of some Opposition parties.



## The baby years

By SUSAN DeFACENDIS

In the previous two weeks, we have learned of the plot by prospective grandparents to continue the family name through the young newbies, and the reality of the baby years for that same couple. We now bring you to the long-term period of childhood where, if you thought a baby cost you an arm, a leg and tranquility, you are now about to lose your shirt and mind.

Well, time goes by and babies grow. It is not too long before the appealing little tot, arms outstretched and pleading: "Up, up", is hollering: "Mom! I'm late! Drive me to school", and from there to: "Dad! Can I borrow the car?". If you had sore arms and an aching back throughout the early years that was cheap at the price, because now you will be forever without gas in the car.

During this time period, the inexperienced father has also been learning, and the angry roar of: "Look what YOUR child has done now," can, faster than the mind can comprehend, be followed on a soccer field or in a hockey arena with a proud: "Hey! That's my boy!"

Parenthood is a totally contradictory state. It is counting the days for five whole years until kindergarten starts - and then crying your eyes out when you desert them to the school steps.

It is time saving for 3 years to buy broadloom to cover the scratch-marks on the hardwood flooring made by pull-cars and push-trucks - and then having to settle for a colour that matches bubblegum and chocolate chip cookies.

It is the certain knowledge that the day before grocery shopping, when the cupboard are bare, you will have three extra arrive for lunch and a sleeper for six.

It is listening to a teenager despairing wail of: "Mom! I've got nothing to wear" - and then discovering you are unable to make her bed in the morning because you cannot find it under the mountains of scattered clothing.

It is working part-time so you can send your children on trips to places you have never seen, while you keep home and hearth together and wait for the collect phonecalls to tell you what a great time they are having.

It is having all the little crystal doo-dads fall off your chandelier when a wrestling match breaks out upstairs - and sleepless nights spend beside a fevered child, praying they survive to wrestle once again.

It is learning to live permanently with a gunged up ketchup bottle and knowing that your fingers are going to stick to every jam and syrup jar in the kitchen cupboard.

It is surviving your child's peculiar brand of germ warfare armed with reeking running shoes; never being able to see out of a window for the fingerprints and worrying over what the heck they are telling at school in 'show and tell' sessions.

The joys of motherhood? Yes, they are there but like longhorns, grime-covered treasure you have to look carefully for them.

It is there when you can sit down and cry with your child over the death of a pet gerbil; it is there in a jam-slicked face that wants to give you a kiss; in a murmured: "Thanks mom - you're terrific!"; in a certainty conveyed unspoken by them, that mom and dad can solve their problems and will cheer their successes in life.

For those who are in doubt and ask, is it worth it? - I can think of no other lifetime undertaking that can equal it. Maybe the older generation knows something after all.

## Canada Day a mockery for too many forgotten

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

Canada Day is just behind us. It's the day we set aside to be more aware of the opportunities of our country - the hope and the promise - the value of being "Canadian."

For some Canadians however "Canada Day" is nothing but a mockery. There is no hope. The promise of tomorrow is drowned in alcohol or snuffed away in glue or gasoline, all in the reality of today. This week we look at Canada's "living dead" the Indian - our native population.

When we speak of poverty the white middle class adult has little understanding of "real" poverty. Seventy per cent of Indian families have no running water in their homes - 25 per cent drink contaminated water. The average death rate of Indians is 42.4 years of age. Death by violence, suicide, homicide and accidents is four times more

common than among whites.

I cannot describe the feelings of such personal inadequacy that the Indians feel for I am white, and though I can feel compassion as I look on problems caused by total apathy, I cannot say I "feel" as my Indian brother feels.

The kind of feelings I refer to are those that cause children to commit suicide rather than face the life that is so clearly marked ahead for them. There is no promise of a better tomorrow here.

In 1976 at Grass Narrows Reserve 156 miles northeast of Keenora of 22 babies born only five were free of medical problems. Skin diseases, chest infections, premature births, and one with venereal disease all show signs of "true" poverty.

Speaking of the "dirt" that Indians are supposed to live in Dr. Brian Russell of

Keenora said, "If I had to haul two or three pails of water from a lake to give my kid a bath he wouldn't have more than one bath a month either." It becomes too easy to pass judgment. They are drunks - they are dirty - they are ignorant - they are lazy - they are thieves. There is truth in these statements but the "why" of that truth is what white Canadians close their eyes and ears to.

In Alberta, the suicide rate of the Indian people is 20 times higher than that of the rest of the population. The dependency upon alcohol is nothing more than the fastest, cheapest, and easiest way out of town. An escape - a one way escape route to nowhere. When you take pride from a people - any people - you take away their soul.

It is true we cannot step backward in time and give the land back to the Indians, but we can respect a different culture, and we can try to give back some of that pride that reservation life has destroyed.

Indians who live on reserves are the responsibility of the federal government - those who live off the reserves are the responsibility of the provincial government. In 1964 a brief was presented to the Ontario Legislative Assembly telling of the deplorable living conditions of the Indian people. Changes since then have been virtually non-existent.

The young of today white or Indian are restless. Given a cause - violence becomes the way. Violence, because like the blacks in the United States, endless patience does little to put food on the table.

Power to the people - is a needed reality for today's Indians and power is "money". It takes money to make the necessary changes. Certainly the cost is great - but so is the need. Compared to the long term cost of penitentiaries, social agencies, reform schools and health care the initial cost I speak of is cheap at half the price.

Because the public outcry is not loud enough, the government turns a deaf ear. Let the noise become loud and "money" somehow appears where before it was unavailable.

Our cry about the racial problems of our neighbors to the south is but a mockery - for our own day of racial violence is almost upon us.

Canada Day - a better Canada for all our people? Who's listening? Who cares?

## Looking through our files

### THIRTY YEARS AGO

Lions club members discussed putting two bicycle racks at the park and erecting a band stand at the park or the Club-owned lot on Water Street, at their meeting on Monday.

A notice on the front page said the undetermined location of mains and services on some streets within the corporation may result in short interruptions of water services during the installation of the sewage system. These interruptions will be as short as possible so as not to inconvenience water users.

Nassagaweya Busy Bees, an active women's group, who did a terrific fundraising job during the year, reorganized themselves as a Women's Institute.

### TWENTY YEARS AGO

Georgetown's law suit against subdivider Finlay Munro for installation of storm sewers in the Swanek subdivision is continuing. Some time ago the town offered to drop its suit, providing Mr. Munro would drop a counter-claim he has entered against the town. When this was not done, the suit was continued and is still in process. Monday, town solicitor John Ord informed council that what he had

termed "a ludicrous lawsuit" which Mr. Munro had also launched against Mayor Armstrong had been dismissed by the Supreme Court judge before it came to trial. The dismissal is subject to appeal should Mr. Munro so desire, Mr. Ord said.

### TEN YEARS AGO

A 1967 Cadillac, four-stretcher ambulance has been added to the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance fleet. Keys were turned over from the town to the GVAS in a ceremony at the James Street ambulance station and the vehicle went into service this week. The GVAS's second vehicle is a 1952 Cadillac ambulance which can also transport four stretchers. The new Cadillac weighs 6,300 lbs. ensuring a smooth comfortable ride for the passengers and features an enlarged interior with 51" head room allowing attendants more working space.

Council last week accepted the tender of McNally Construction for a new building on James Street to house the town's police force. The building will be designed so that it could later be converted into a residence should the town someday build a new municipal building.

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