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Welcome move by politicians

Ontario politicians face an uncertain future now that a decisive recommendation has been made concerning pay and salary increases. The proposal made by the provincially-appointed special committee on education costs would have the increase in salary approved by the out-going board of education immediately prior to the election of a new board. The increase would be paid only to those elected to the new board.

Such a common-sense approach to the always touchy subject of giving oneself a pay increase can be seen as the kind of approach which will likely be implemented and might even be passed onto such other elected positions as councils and the legislature.

Certainly the effect of such a

system would leave open the accountability of the elected representatives without having a two-year waiting period during which the taxpayer might forget the action taken to raise salaries.

What this will result in is greater public participation and involvement in what are normally now dull election campaigns for school board positions.

The proposal also called for the provincial ceiling on salary levels. Should any politician therefore endorse an increase in pay which meets with public disapproval the reaction might be known quickly.

It is a logical method of setting salaries and the public has its say in its implementation by approving or disapproving the actions of its incumbent representatives.

'Dynamic analysis of a lightweight bogie'

By STEWART MacLEOD

Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

For lack of something better to do, I have been thumbing through a list of contracts awarded last month by the federal government for research and development. The idea is to see whether our money is being well-spent.

But after examining the \$7,528,066 worth of contracts awarded during the month, I am incapable of making any judgments. For all I know, the money could have been better spent at the race track.

For instance, who am I to say whether the ministry of transport made a wise decision in awarding a \$39,976 contract for a "dynamic analysis of a lightweight bogie." I've never had any particular interest in lightweight bogies—not even to the point of trying to learn what they are.

Then there is that \$42,000 contract for a "research program in respect to the elucidation and interaction mechanisms between the environment and the alloy at the tip of a crack which results in crack propagation." I am sure it will be handy to know more about this particular problem, but whether it's worth \$42,000 is quite another question. Perhaps it's the bargain of the century.

TIDAL POWERS

The one thing that did surprise me in the list of contracts was the continuing studies into a proposed Bay of Fundy tidal power project. I thought this had already been investigated to the point of exhaustion, but it seems that the mere investigation of this power potential has become a permanent industry.

Last month there was one \$36,000 contract for a "review of the environmental aspects of tidal power development." Seems a bit pricy for a review, but there may be good reasons for it.

Then there was another \$20,000 contract for a "review of the financial aspects relating to the development of tidal power in the Bay of Fundy." This is quite separate from the \$15,000 contract for a "review of socioeconomic aspects of tidal power developments," although it could overlap a bit with that \$9,698 contract for a "Bay of Fundy tidal power assessment of socio-economic implications of manufacturing potential for various aspects."

Strange goings on at Queen's Park

By DON O'HEARN

Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

There has been what might seem like a strange action here.

Thomas Coleman, who for the past year or so has been the NDP information officer here, has left the party and is going to work for the Tory government.

He is to be co-ordinator of information for the Ministry of Energy.

This has raised some eyebrows, particularly among relative newcomers.

Isn't this unusual? Might it not even be dangerous?

The government hiring one of the top staff of an opposition party, particularly of the NDP?

Wouldn't he have an irresistible temptation to leak information to his old buddies? Would Hitler hire Stalin? Isn't the government setting a bad precedent?

No to all three.

NOT NEW

A ministry's hiring an opposition staffer is not a precedent. It has happened before.

Not as much as in Ottawa, perhaps, where it is common place. But it has happened.

Perhaps the classic case that there is no blurring principle that all opposition adherent are lepers with the late A. A. MacLeod,

And we can all look forward to the results of that \$5,470 contract for an "assessment of the socioeconomic consideration surrounding the offsite manufacture of powerhouse and sluiceway caissons in support of the Bay of Fundy supplemental phase one studies."

Another interesting report will come from that \$1,500 contract for a study into the "potential effects of tidal power development on sediment transport and deposition within the Bay of Fundy."

All in all, it's been a good month for the Bay of Fundy.

Getting away from tidal power briefly, I am going to be interested in the results of an \$81,950 contract for a "review of the attitudes and behavior of youth towards work and unemployment. I suspect the researchers will discover that attitudes tend to vary a bit among individuals.

But for \$81,950 we'll know for sure.

I see where an Ottawa man has been given a \$58,000 contract for a "survey of the adaptation of unused public buildings for cultural use." And with so many public servants being moved to Hull and with all that empty office space in Ottawa, this survey could turn the capital into cultural oasis. How about go-go dancers in the Senate chamber?

I am not sure what benefits we will derive from that \$18,000 study of the "historical comparison of weiners and uncooked butters." But surely something good will come out of that \$39,000 contract for "Meat research to improve value to consumers."

Actually, I am surprised that the government would award a contract for such a general objective. Usually the contracts are much more specific, such as that \$15,000 "research into nonlinear pseudorandom sequence generation and characterization."

The contract I am most inclined to question when it comes to deciding whether our money is well spent is for \$19,754 and it calls for an "analysis of the scenarios on the role of the automobile."

I would have thought that by now this role is rather clearly understood.

two-term Labor-Progressive Party (Communist) member.

Premiers Leslie Frost, John Roberts and Bill Davis all had him work for them.

The public mistake in interpretation comes, of course, in thinking that everybody at all prominent in politics is a rabid partisan.

And this just isn't true. Most political people on the upper levels are quite reasonable, and in some cases even flexible.

(Housing Minister John Rhodes, for example, has been a Liberal, an NDP'er and now is a PC.)

My favorite recollection along this line is that of Leo Dolan, who was tourism director for the federal government.

Leo was a Marlimer and in his early days was once chief organizer for the Liberals in Nova Scotia and then next year doing the same job for the Tories in New Brunswick.

NOT PARTISAN

As for Tom Coleman, the government is getting a good man in him.

He is a fine newspaperman who has always been popular with his colleagues.

He knows government and I doubt if he really is partisan to any party.

If he had been, quite probably Stephen Lewis wouldn't have hired him.

For Lewis wanted his information people to be credible with the press, and wisely knew this ruled out partisans.

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

Violence... Each day we pick up the papers and read of the increase in senseless brutality directed at it appears almost aimlessly.

We are living in violent times, they say. We read of senseless killings as in the "Son of Sam" murders in New York - more muggings - more rapes - more senior citizens being attacked in the privacy of their homes.

We read headlines such as "TV violence won't hurt a sound mind." Yet man acknowledges that a steady dose of violence on TV breeds tolerance and what is tolerated long enough is accepted.

The message of violence through the TV is one the violence always win. Former Ontario Chief Justice George A. Gale (who is now chairman of the Law Reform Commission) said "with the steady diet of violence served up by television and the news media it is little wonder that children eventually go out and try to practise what they have seen."

We watch war - brought into our living rooms in living color - we see first hand assassinations - murders - a steady diet of violent brutal acts.

The media has an obligation to bring us

the news, but we wonder where up-to-date information ends and sensationalism begins. When we watch the news, the people we see lying bleeding, or taking bullets, or being placed in ambulances, or being shot down as in the recent strike breakers, are not actors but real people.

The minds become confused as to where imagination steps and reality begins. How many of us see news shots of war and react with genuine horror. With real war, John Wayne doesn't always win in the end, and heroes are few, not many, the victims are the people - flesh and blood people, not the war makers.

The following sequence of events in world civilization has been noted. In the past each flourishing civilization has lasted about 200 years on the average.

About bondage to spiritual growth

From spiritual growth to great personal courage

From courage to liberty

From abundance to selfishness

From selfishness to complacency

From complacency to apathy

From apathy to dependency

From dependency to bondage

We now appear to be living in a time of apathy. Apathy is lack of feeling or emotion - we see an act of violence and we walk around with our eyes and ears closed. Insensitivity to others, impersonalization and lack of self worth are the main factors for what we are witnessing.

We have presented to our young people an age of indecision, of permissiveness; of rapidly changing values. We have allowed ourselves to become "duped" by the false promise of TV advertisement. The "beautiful people" - flawless individuals, perfect bodies, large gleaming cars, spacious homes, smiling faces, a utopia that exists only in the land of the TV commercial.

Our young people are confused as to what we expect from them and rightly so for we are confused as to what we expect from ourselves.

How many so-called adults ask the question today of "who am I - where am I going?" The result to this confusion is aggression and violence, a lashing out at anything because the real problems in economy, lifestyles and values, both personal and corporate, cannot be immediately fought against.

The distinguished British historian Arnold Toynbee sees violence as a necessary and inevitable part of the future. He said "a society that is declining materially may be ascending spiritually. In some respect what we see may be a blessing in disguise if we can only rise to the occasion."

It would appear that the answer lies there. Can we rise to the occasion. Do we care enough to speak out now or will we regress until we go from "dependency to bondage?" The wheel of history has always been a repeating one.

Each change for the better comes from within the group that requires it most. The legal profession is not made better by doctors, the medical profession is not made better by bricklayers, and people are not made better by the government.

Change in society - change from a violent aggressive people to a more satisfied productive culture always comes from the people itself. When the people that "you and I" are ready to effect a change it comes. No one else will fix society for you.

If society is too violent - then society will have to change. That is if it is of any importance to us; if we as Arnold Toynbee says "care enough to rise to the occasion."

Sales pitch bugs her

By SUSAN De FACENDIS

I resent being the target for a non-stop barrage of sales pitches. While I have nothing personally against the deliverer of the varied spiels, whether via the television or telephone, I find the whole commercial theater behind them, that each individual is a "paty" ripe for the picking, extremely objectionable.

If I wanted to read a magazine, I would either buy it directly from a newsstand or fill out a subscription form requesting delivery. I certainly would not wait for a telephone call - on that always interrupts me either in the shower or up to my knees in garden mud - to offer me an "absolutely free" lifetime subscription to half a dozen journals and then add insult to injury by informing me, under questioning, that my "free" magazines will cost me an arm and a leg in mailing costs.

Last week, I ran full tilt up the basement stairs to answer the shrill demand of the telephone (well, it could have been fame and fortune ringing my chimes), only to discover some Miss Super Softsell announcing I was the lucky winner of a no-stick frypan. While I did not wait around long enough to find out the cost of that prize, I imagine I was expected to either purchase a stove to go with it or an additional 30 pieces of no-stick cookware, neither one of which would improve my aptitude for cooking one iota.

Having an Italian surname guarantees additional nuisance calls that I have learned to handle quite cleverly. The first soliciting message is delivered to me in fluid Italian that comes to an abrupt halt when I explain that, regretfully, I do not speak Italian. I then wait by the telephone. Sure enough, within five minutes, I receive the identical pitch, this time in perfect English. I then cunningly respond in Italian and explain that, regretfully, I do not speak English and replace the receiver with delightful visions filling my head of their computer short-circuiting and blowing its mechanical mind. Well, let's face it, we housewives have to find our limited jollies wherever we are able.

The worse offender is of course television. Fortunately 50 weeks of the year I find it easy to avoid this despoiler of family life. However, at the cottage it becomes a way of passing an evening and I discovered during those two weeks that the only thing surpassing the hard sell commercials in poor taste, were the programmes they interrupted.

Two unforgettable evenings stand out in my mind, when we were subjected to a double-headed consisted of something called S.W.A.T. and Starkey and Hutch. In the former, countless numbers died messy deaths during a fake diamond heist and in the latter, revolving around two superjocks who cleaned up the Mafia singlehandedly, while ogling topless dancing girls in their spare time, at least six people died before the opening credits stopped rolling.

So intense was the general mayhem being perpetrated on the screen, that it was almost a welcome comic relief to see some mindless ad-man's concept of a housewife doing arabesques to Swan Lake as she joyously dusted her coffee table.

One ray of hope did emerge during those two weeks however, when I saw that delightful little lady who has spent 27 years of married life with her head in a dirty oven. With her opening line: "Mother always told me: 'Be a good cook and you'll get a man'". I knew instantly that she and I would be entirely "simpatico."

Now, if only the advertising powers-that-be would give her a fully justified reward and send her out for an 'Aviance' night, the world of salesmanship might reach a new and believable plateau.



Cold turkey only way to beat plug-in-drug

By GEORGE EVASHUK

Herald staff writer

It has been described as the "plug in drug", and two of The Herald's columnists are getting their licks in at it - the television set and the images it delivers into your living room, bedroom or den.

I should say at the outset that I don't have

a television set as matter of choice, but I do find watching it interesting sometimes for brief periods at a friend's place.

Granted, there are a few excellent programs put together by a dedicated production crew, programs presented with taste, sensibility and impact but they are few and far between, I suspect, and seem to make less

impact than the commercials, which pay for the programs, or the violence seen on the tiny screen be it the late news or a series based on blood and guts.

That said, Mrs. Lansborough and Mrs. De Facendis should be reminded that if the commercials and the violence do disturb them, only they can do something about it.

Leaving it up to the government, if past history is any indication and Mrs. Lansborough says it is, to solve the problem is not a solution. It may in fact make the situation worse.

The world doesn't end if you don't get it daily on your television screen; life goes on and believe it or not, can even improve if the time your mind's attention is locked into the television screen is focussed on something else be it books, movies, macramé or bingo.

All you have to do is pull out the plug, get the set out of the room and learn to see the world first hand.

If all you are seeing is violence and an image of what you are as reflected in a commercial, don't blame the TV or the men and women behind it. Instead, shake your admonishing finger to the person you see when you look in a mirror.

Plug in drug?

You bet.

—Gurph Mercury

Broadbent's opened a can of worms

Ed Broadbent, national leader of the NDP, must be highly commended for keeping his cool in the light of discovery he was the subject of a government security investigation.

In a democracy the knowledge that one was being personally investigated by federal snoopers would provoke righteous rage and indignation.

Mr. Broadbent isn't going to let the matter die, obviously. There's a fundamental issue involved. But he has responded gallantly and perfectly correctly to an action that smacks of dictatorship states.

Of course, Mr. Broadbent may be suspect in some quarters for having studied at the famous London School of Economics. It is noted for producing radicals. Pierre Elliott Trudeau went there!

Extensive files are kept these days on nearly all citizens. There are credit ratings, SIN, income tax records, employment files and so on. Famous personalities, including political leaders, are the subject of voluminous files. Coaches in baseball keep files on players in opposing line-ups. So, of course, do political parties. The "back room" strategists keep tabs on their political opponents.

But that isn't the same thing as being checked by the solicitor-general's department for security, as was apparently the situation in Mr. Broadbent's case. If it turns out that somebody used government facilities for Liberal party snooping then some bureaucratic sycophants deserve instant dismissal.

We wonder if Mr. Broadbent and his NDP colleagues, who belong to the political body in Canada that has probably the least taint of

Looking through our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO

Council decided to use \$350 of the \$2,000 budget to install heating in the auditorium of the Old Town Hall. D. W. Barrager appeared on behalf of the C.R.C., and said they could see their way clear of paying \$150 of the \$500 necessary to put in proper heating.

Council accepted an offer of Central Mortgage and Housing to pay half the cost of septic tank installation in Wartime Housing Project No. 2. W. W. Scott, chief of sales and negotiations, attended the meeting to talk over the question which arose when the town found the agreement called for the town to install the tanks and funds had not been budgeted for this purpose.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Georgetown high school enrollment stood at 312 last week as a new record high in the number of students vindicated the construction this year of the new eight-room wing, the total, up about 30 from last year, caused a temporary staggering of classes which will give students a four day week. However, this

situation will be rectified when three new classrooms will be ready later this week.

A 30-foot span sunplane has been displayed in the showroom of the new Esso Station in Georgetown. The machine is a primary single seat trainer and was recently acquired by the newly formed Georgetown chapter of the Aero Club Harmonie.

TEN YEARS AGO

Glenn Street in Glen Williams will not be closed, at least not by Esqueping Township. Township solicitor Terry Baines told council Monday that it is doubtful the township has the right to close the road. He said the township has never maintained the road, as far as he can find out, and therefore the township has no authority over it.

Twenty-six teachers new to Georgetown, system, but not to teaching, started duties in six public schools. Georgetown, Esqueping schools bulged with a record of 6,044 new pupils, half of which were swallowed up in Georgetown elementary schools.

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