

Just a few notes as an observer

By BOB RUTTER
Herald editor

Some notes of interest. Cliff Pilkey, president of the Ontario Federation of Labor took on the Maolists Wednesday in a confrontation which as an observer was very interesting to watch.

The Maolists charged that Pilkey, the OFL and its announced attempt to help the unemployed are do-nothing efforts characteristic of the present system they are dedicated to overthrow. But the most pointed criticism of Pilkey was their comments that he was no different than the ineffective politicians who sat next to him on the stage.

Pilkey rebutted the Marxist-Leninist criticism with an equally pointed comment. He told the group, which attended the meeting in force, that their attempts to mobilize the workers appeared to make "Karl Marx seem like a right-winger."

He also condemned their "bombs and guns" approach to changing the system saying that any such attempt would probably find them "in the third row back" behind the

workers. One of the more interesting exchanges came from the floor where a Communist Party of Canada supporter took on the comments by the Maolists and defended the appearance of the politicians and the efforts of the labor movement in holding the full-employment meeting. Buzz Hargrove, a United Auto Workers representative, said later he wouldn't mind similar confrontations at future meetings to place issues in perspective.

Hargrove also took the opportunity to knock the Maolists for their inaction and radical rhetoric by saying they should do something other than "stand outside meetings like this selling your bullshit papers to the people who can't afford it."

It's possible that the meeting Wednesday might also bring about a change in the position of women seeking employment in the auto industry. Recently Ford Motor Company in Oakville hired two women for the assembly line after many years of refusing to hire women because there were no facilities available for them.

But a Brampton woman raised serious questions about American Motors hiring practices as she related an incident in which she was rejected for a job. Terry Jones, parliamentary assistant to Provincial Secretary for Social Development Margaret Birch, said he would look into the details of the case under human rights legislation. The woman claimed the excuse she was given was the lack of facilities for a woman.

Brampton MPP Bill Davis was conspicuous by his absence at the meeting Wednesday and he received criticism for not appearing or sending a representative.

Mr. Davis has been on a foreign investment trip to Japan. But while Mr. Davis may have come in for some criticism, the heaviest was reserved for two federal members of parliament. Small Business Minister Tony Abbott, MP for Mississauga, came under scathing attack for having delayed the meeting's and giving no excuse for not appearing last

week. Mr. Hargrove said his concern over unemployment was demonstrated by his publication last April of a letter to constituents in which he identified national unity, inflation, transportation and immigration as the four issues facing Canada.

After the Brampton Labor Council informed Abbott about the unemployment problem, it was raised in the next newsletter - second to car rusting, Hargrove says.

Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrook also came in for criticism for "always being out of the country" when important constituency business such as the full employment meetings were being held.

Those area members of the legislature attending the meeting attempted to answer the concerns of the nearly 200 people who filled the Legion hall. Speaking briefly were: Terry Jones, MPP for Mississauga; Doug Kennedy, MPP for Mississauga South; Julian Reed, MPP for Halton-Burlington; and Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe MP Ross Milne.

Must show need first for addition

It has only been six months since the question of an addition to the town offices was laid to rest—albeit temporarily—by a council elected last year primarily on the basis of opposition to the proposal.

During the interim since a 1,800 signature petition was circulated opposing the proposal until a need has been established, a staff reporter has concluded that some departments are facing increasingly cramped conditions, that in one instance regulations of the Industrial Relations Act may be infringed and that there is a need to consolidate the various functions of government.

But it is still too soon for council to be considering taking a proposal such as this to an architect. This council would have done well to allow the motion of last year's objections to subside for a few months and allow more arguments pro and con to be

made in a mood of understanding.

The Herald last week spoke with a number of people on the streets of Halton Hills to find their opinions on the need for an addition to the community's town offices. We generally found that most people did not understand the need, nor were they versed enough to understand that regional government functions are not normally carried out at the local level.

This mini-survey, although far from being scientific, illustrates a common problem in municipal politics, a lack of communication by the members of council.

If a proposal such as the addition to the town offices is to be considered as a need, then council should be prepared to provide proof to the electors that this is the solution to a long term problem.

Red tape is our fault

So you think there's too much red tape in government?

The fault, dear fellow citizen, lies not with the public servant but with the public. We accuse the bureaucrats only because we wish to divert attention from the real culprits: Ourselves.

Such is the thesis advanced by political scientist Herbert Kaufman in a book being published by the Brookings Institution entitled "Red Tape: Its Origins, Uses and Abuses."

Why is the public at fault, you may well ask?

Because every time the government is asked to protect one group of people from another group of people, as in relations between buyers and sellers or between employers and employees, red tape results.

"Much of the great volume of

governmental requirements and prohibitions that we encounter on all sides owes its existence to the government's endeavors to keep some people from being hurt by other people," he writes.

The public is again to blame because of its distrust of government. "There are watchdogs who watch watchdogs watching watchdogs," Kaufman notes. The result is more red tape.

But by far the greatest generator of red tape, according to Kaufman is our complex system of taxation.

There is a lot to what the man says. As long as there are human beings and organized societies, there will be governments—and red tape.

But do the bureaucrats who handled the stuff have to enjoy it so much?

(Don Oakley, NEA)

Take a bow bow

Halton Hills Arts Council should stand up and take a bow for its efforts in bringing Camerata to North Halton.

What the council has shown is that cultural events, such as the first concert last week by the internationally renowned Canadian chamber music ensemble, can be accepted and supported by the North Halton community.

But The Herald's reviewer, Gerald Manning, also noted that the sanctuary of Holy Cross Church is a little too resonant for the calibre of music presented. One way of over-

coming this problem, he points out, is to put another 200 people into the church.

However, the raising of the concern also points toward a serious look at a North Halton cultural community centre.

A centre such as this has been tossed about in North Halton for several years, but no action has been taken because of the cost. As this community continues to grow over the next decade, and the arts council becomes more active, the Georgetown Little Theatre continues to produce professional calibre plays, another look should be made.

Unity issue is smokescreen

The federal government's policies on unemployment and the economy will likely be released next week when parliament reconvenes.

Saturday is International Carrier Day

At the end of the long chain of people whose work it is to produce newspapers are the boys and girls who deliver it to your home. For many readers it is the only direct contact they have with the people in the newspaper business.

And for many of the carriers, delivering newspapers is often the first job they've had, the first time they assume the responsibility that comes with work, the first time they respond to a job and do it even though they'd rather stay in bed an extra hour (and who wouldn't?), or have more play time after school.

Delivering newspapers is, like anything else, no guarantee that success or riches will come your way but many are the men and women, prime ministers included, who count the work as the first they did. This Saturday marks International Carrier Day when boys and girls around the world are honored for their work in getting the community news to the people. We at The Herald would like to thank our carriers for the work they do. You may be the last in the chain but you are far from the least. Thank you, good luck in the future and keep up the good work.

Should there be little of or nothing contained in the throne speech to help the sagging Canadian economy, then the charges levelled last week by Ontario Federation of Labor President Clifford Pilkey have some basis in fact.

Mr. Pilkey charged that national unity has become a smokescreen behind which Prime Minister Trudeau has hidden and thus avoided dealing with the pressing economic questions.

The OFL has released a 10-point package designed to help stimulate the economy. Parliamentarians would do well to study its contents and seriously consider some of the suggestions.

Among the various recommendations are suggestions for improved policies toward public transit, energy alternatives and massive low income housing. With a construction industry unemployment rate in Metropolitan Toronto of about 30 per cent all these areas of initiative could help rejuvenate the Canadian economy, stabilize rental and housing costs and provide needed accommodation.

The ripple effect throughout the economy would be felt as more disposable income for those becomes available in the \$15,000 or less income bracket.

With unemployment running between seven and eight per cent—or about one million workers without jobs—and with the Canadian economy working at about 80 per cent efficiency, it is nothing short of a crime if Ottawa continues to ignore the danger signs. Mr. Pilkey is right when he says the present situation is dangerously close to the hungry 30's.



Gimme, gimme--where will it end?

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH
We live in an age of "gimme gimme" - where everyone wants a bit of the action - a piece of the proverbial pie.

It appears that even those who have not directly contributed are also looking for "their share". Some of our young people seem to believe that unemployment or welfare is a "right" even though they have not put in enough working hours to collect or have any serious disability that would entitle them to welfare. An age of "I'm entitled just because I'm here."

We constantly demand higher wages but when the cost of that increase is paid on to the consumer in constantly rising prices the result is a chain reaction that can only culminate in the most disastrous results.

In Germany between the years of 1922 to 23 it cost a billion marks to ride the trolley, 3 million marks to buy a paper. Workers had to be paid twice a day in order to be able to buy the most meagre necessities. Women needed large shopping bags just to carry their money around.

Paper money devalued until it became cheaper to paper a wall in marks than to buy wallpaper. Now economists tell us that it could never happen here. The trouble with that statement is that so many things that one group or another told us could never happen are indeed happening.

We were told of increases in food prices of 10 per cent that rose to 30 per cent then in some areas 50 per cent. Coffee prices border

on the ridiculous and at present an inquiry into coffee prices in Ontario may prove then to be even higher than the United States or other parts of Canada.

The point of the whole thing is where will it all end. "We want more and if not we'll go on strike." Sound familiar? The power of strike is to force demands, however justified, to be met.

Striking and the results of striking seem to hasten inflation.

Arbitration is a slow process - perhaps that is why we see such an increase in strikes. Today we want and need everything to be done quickly. It is hard if not impossible, to tell men and women with families to support that demands for wage increase in order to maintain a certain lifestyle is still under negotiation when rents and mortgage payments are falling due.

Yet at the same time we cannot see the strike as a solution to such problems. Like all good things the power of striking has been carried to the extreme. If each group in turn strikes - mailmen, teachers, doctors or nurses you eventually end up right back where you started from only worse.

In the case of public services provincial intervention is likely. When the government has to step in and order strikers back to work, your right back to arbitration again - only this time its compulsory. The right of workers to fair working conditions, and the ability to make a decent living wage is paramount in a democracy. The right to dispute, to collective bargaining, to voluntary arbitration is more

than necessary in a true democracy. However, when the power of collective bargaining breaks down and the vote of the collected members is to cease work and to strike - and one strike leads to another and each in turn to higher prices transferred to the consumer perhaps - then the right to strike should be denied to all.

Any strike is really the power of force, not reason. When we lose the ability to reason things out, we're losing the whole ballgame.

I listened recently to the Swiss consul speak about working conditions in Switzerland. He spoke of the fact that the people of Switzerland know that they have a very small country, that it is the people themselves who realize they cannot ask for more than the country can provide.

Perhaps this is the answer for ourselves. When we realize that there is a limit to what we can ask for, a limit to wages, to benefits - that things cannot go on indefinitely. That even in a country as large and as prosperous as ours we can only produce and consume so much and when consumption outweigh production you have a serious problem.

The breakdown of the ability to reason things out is the breakdown in democracy. Perhaps, as the distinguished British historian Arnold Toynbee has said, "we are witnessing the end of a certain way of life." The end of anything is a very painful process, ahead lies the fear of the unknown - but all ends lead to new beginnings.

A chance of a new beginning is a hope for the future. In order to see our hopes realized we have to assure ourselves and our children that what lies ahead will be a beginning, a better world - not an end.

Looking Through Our Files

THIRTY YEARS AGO

President James Wausley presided at the October meeting of the Halton Branch of the Garage Operators Association held in the Odd Fellows Hall in Milton on October 6th. Mrs. Jack McGibbon of Georgetown won a Rogers Majestic radio on the Mother Parker's radio program last Saturday night. Mrs. McGibbon's number was called during the program and she correctly identified the tune being played on the air.

Last Wednesday afternoon, the pupils from Milton, Acton and Georgetown public schools met in the Georgetown Park, where they competed in their second annual Inter-School athletic meet. Georgetown was successful in winning the trophy for the second consecutive year, and from the interest,

effort, training and good sportsmanship displayed, they well deserved it.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Another near-perfect day crowned the efforts of directors of Esqueping Agricultural Society in presenting another stand-out fall fair in Georgetown on Saturday. Threats of rain early in the day failed to materialize, and it turned out to be a perfect sunny afternoon, with just the right tang in the air to make it fall weather.

With enrollment in the three Georgetown public schools approaching the 1,400 mark a staff of 36 academic teachers, a music supervisor and two part-time assistants is in charge of primary education for young Georgetownians this year. Halton's new Member of Parliament

Sandy Best, will take his seat when parliament convenes in Ottawa on Thanksgiving Day. He will be one of the fortunate Canadians to be present on an historic occasion when Queen Elizabeth will officially open parliament.

TEN YEARS AGO

At 10:30 a.m. on October 20, the General Assembly of United Nations will be called to order. The scene, however, will not be New York City but the auditorium of Georgetown district high school. For in this centennial year, Georgetown has been chosen to host the Model United Nations.

The program of lighting Huttonville is to go ahead as planned by Chinguacousy Township engineer Kenneth Comyns. A total of 20 lights are to be located in the area

Even if coffee's dear Grossman can do nothing about it

By DON O'HEARN
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

Retail food prices have suddenly been coming into prominence here.

Two NDP'ers Mel Swart of Welland-Thorold backed up by Ed Philip of Etobicoke, have been pressing hard on the government, and particularly the new Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations on coffee prices.

They have pointed out cases where, on their evidence, there is a great disparity between store prices for coffee in the United States and Canada.

And they have been after the ministry to do something about this.

Just what, they don't say, except to look at it. But at least do something.

Swart has been on this point for some time. And until very recently he hasn't got anywhere.

The former minister, Sidney Handleman, turned him down.

But new Minister Larry Grossman has promised to look into it.

PUBLICITY POWER

Grossman admits, at least by implication that if the situation is as the NDP members claim (and one of their claims is that one brand of instant coffee costs \$4.99 in Niagara Falls, N.Y. and \$6.99 in Welland just across the border), under present legislation there is nothing he could do directly about it.

He couldn't order a roll back in the price.

But he does feel the consumer should know the score.

And he will hold an inquiry—at which the food industry will be invited to present its side—which he intends will bring out the actual situation.

If the inquiry finds that the NDP case is right there will be nothing he can actually do about it.

But with the inquiry and its results made public there will be the jaw-boning power of publicity.

REVIEW BOARD

This incident opens up the whole question of consumer prices.

There is already some pressure, and now will probably be more, for the province to control retail prices.

The province taking over regulatory powers over retail prices is really an unthinkable proposition.

Aside from the fact that the bureaucracy involved would be awesome, this would be anathema to our political principles.

But it is not impossible to visualize a review board, such as there now is in Manitoba, which would look at prices, and expose flagrant abuses through publicity.

the HERALD
103 Main St. South, Georgetown, L7G-3E5
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Second Class Mail Registered No. 0943

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CIRCULATION: As of February 1977 - 12,752

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