

Unnecessary comments

Ontario inquiry officer Donald Meyrick in his report on the expropriation hearings conducted at Acton on the Bradley-to-Georgetown hydro corridor makes some unnecessary remarks in his report to Ontario Energy Minister James Taylor.

It is unfortunate because Mr. Taylor in announcing his decision seizes upon these statements to justify the approval of the expropriation of lands through Halton Hills for the hydro corridor.

In a heavily critical report, Mr. Meyrick concludes that the Interested Citizens Group is only interested in delaying the project and calls its decision Aug. 16 in not calling evidence during the last day of the hearings as unbelievable given the effort the ICG took to gain the right of introduction of alternative routing evidence at the hearing.

He also comments that this evidence was vital from the ICG's standpoint "only before the (Ontario) court of appeal decision!"

But it was in fact Mr. Meyrick who denied the ICG a 30 day recess to analyse and correlate information received less than a week before from Ontario Hydro. This information, the basis of which was the case before the courts, is so complex that Ontario Hydro also offered the assistance of an independent systems engineer in order to assess its content. That engineer will be making a report sometime before Dec. 15, according to

ICG sources.

Ontario Hydro's position during the hearings were one of apparent stonewalling. The refusal to respond to requests for evidence to be introduced in itself becomes a delaying tactic of the government.

The information contained within the Ontario Hydro computer printouts shows six of eight systems considered are for a Bruce to Essa route. That information comes as Hydro has told this inquiry and the inquiry concurs that the Bruce to Essa route is not valid for consideration.

The ICG is now attempting to meet with Premier William Davis and Energy Minister James Taylor to discuss a lower cost, security and multi-use corridor route to provide power to the Kitchener area which is now in need of upgraded service.

The entire question of the handling of the hydro corridor from Bruce to the Toronto grid needs to be addressed. The continued denials of calls for an independent inquiry should have been heeded.

What the public must know in this affair, aside from the emotional suggestions that we will all freeze or be left in the dark, is that justice has been fair in its application in this matter. For all purposes many people still question that those directly involved are being treated fairly.

Write something funny, the lady says

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

"Write something funny," says the lady in Sudbury, as she pens some complaints about the dreary, heavy-handed news coming out of Ottawa these days.

Okay, Ma'm let's see what we have here. How about that story on the RCMP's "featherbed" file? There must be something funny in allegations that the Mounties maintained a file that was so sensitive it couldn't be shown to either the prime minister or the solicitor-general. In fact, the Montreal Gazette quotes former RCMP officers as saying that the members of government who would normally gain access to the file were the very ones being studied "and at best were unreliable."

Don't like that? I bet the prime minister doesn't either.

Well how about the one involving the leakage of confidential information from the revenue department? There must be a giggle in the fact that two Toronto broadcasters were able, apparently through one individual, to get information from the tax returns of three

people, including Conservative Leader Joe Clark. Considering all the fuss the department makes about secrecy, there should at least be a faint smile in the fact that this information seems to be available by telephone.

BIGGER LAUGHS

But if you are really dour, and difficult to please, you might be forced to look into the post office before you get a full belly-laugh. And after hearing all those serious denials from Postmaster-General Jean-Jacques Blais, who could resist breaking up over that disclosure of his that postal employees helped the RCMP intercept and presumably open private mail for more than 40 years?

Personally I found this particularly amusing because I used to worry about having a friend mail my income tax returns. I would hate to think that he might snoop to see just how poor I am before the returns reached the confidential confines of the post office and Revenue Canada.

Little did I know that the two departments were probably bidding on publication rights. Again, ho, ho, ho.

Oh yes, Ma'am, Ottawa is just chock-a-block with funnies these days.

You did hear, didn't you, about the examination of that bugging device found in the office of Conservative MP Elmer MacKay? It was rather amusing that in their search for fingerprints, police discovered that some 25 reporters had handled the device before they got to it.

It could only happen in Ottawa, you say? Oh no, it could happen anywhere. Why, if you follow events in Edmonton you will see that the revenue department allows its investigators to use wiretaps to trap tax-evasion artists.

VARIETY ACTS

You see, Ma'am, in Canada we like variety in our comedy. In the United States, there is a tendency to concentrate on one issue until it doesn't seem funny anymore, but here we just roll out one act after another.

I suppose you heard that the Social Credit Party had drummed out MP Gilbert Roudreau just because he has been convicted of tax evasion and still faces an arson charge and 24 fraud charges. That takes your mind off the Mounties, doesn't it?

Then there is the case of the post office refusing to let the Canadian Union of Postal Workers put newspaper clippings on the union bulletin board. And that, rather nicely I think, takes your mind off the illegal opening of mail over the last 40 years.

But for a grand finale, I think you will agree that we have pulled out all stops to bring you real class comedy, and I refer, of course, to that \$16.3 million — give or take a fortune — that Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., paid to an agent to help sell a nuclear reactor to South Korea. This apparently included a \$2 million advance on expenses which, by my calculation, should permit the agent to take a contact out to a decent lunch or two.

What I particularly liked about this story was the statement by AECL Chairman Ross Campbell that the agent has so far submitted only one invoice for expenses, for \$295,000. He obviously has difficulty getting restaurant receipts.

But what really struck me funny about the \$2 million expense advance was that this money could heat 4,000 Canadian homes this winter.

Ho, ho, ho.

Let's work together

When the proposal to build an addition to the Trafalgar Road town offices surfaced more than 18 months ago, opposition was swift and the concept died by year's end. Several members of the 1977 council sit today because they voiced strong opposition toward the need for the addition.

But the times are changing.

A staff report earlier this year provided the catalyst for a renewed look at expanding available town offices space to overcome some visible problems. But first, council agreed, the need should be shown publicly, and methods of financing investigated before any decision is made to proceed.

If last week's building committee meeting is any indication the majority on council still believe that the need hasn't been proved, despite an attempt to air staff concerns over public safety, cramped quarters and infractions of the industrial relations regulations.

Only six members of the 13-member council attended the first meeting of the committee chaired by Coun. Peter Pomeroy to hear the concerns of staff expressed by department heads. The meeting was cancelled.

So long as the suggestion of inadequacies continues to surface from within the town government structure, the role of the elected politician is not being fulfilled. All members of council should be actively engaged in reviewing these concerns for without such actions citizens of Halton Hills may ultimately suffer because of poor morale among town staff.

To ignore the situation is to invite future problems. Councillors should dedicate themselves to resolving this contentious matter once and for all whatsoever.

Looking through our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO
An innovation in local educational circles will be the introduction of a kindergarten class at Georgetown public school when the second term opens in January. The decision to establish a kindergarten was made last spring by the public school board, but inability to secure a teacher made it impossible to open the class this fall.

Youth in Agriculture is the theme of the 1947 Royal Winter Fair, and when the final statistics are released we anticipate that this year's event will be revealed as the greatest show ever held at the Coliseum since the Royal came into actuality in 1922.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
Three hundred and eighty-five pounds of turkey was given away by the Rotary Club Saturday afternoon to the winners of the giant turkey shoot held in the Delirex subdivision and participated in by marksmen from Georgetown and vicinity. There were 26 shoots with 12 men competing each time.

Council ordered six street lights changed to the new type of lights on Queen Street, four added to McIntyre Crescent and spotlights

will be installed at the municipal parking lot for convenience of the public.

C.E. Herrington who raises poultry at the Sunset Farm, Ballinacra, as well as editing Feather Fancier, a monthly poultry paper, was chosen to judge at the Royal Winter Fair for the Twelfth consecutive time this year.

TEN YEARS AGO
The race for reeve is on in Esquew township, with two veteran politicians, incumbent George Leslie and George Currie aiming for the reeve's chair. The lone acclamation at Monday's nominating meeting went to Tom Hill, deputy reeve. He has served on council for the past year.

With the hiring of six new policemen last week, the Georgetown Police Force was brought to a total strength of 16, including the acting chief.

County council last week granted an extension on the first phase of the building of the new Glen Williams bridge to Crossland Construction. The original deadline for this part of the job was Nov. 12. It has now been extended to Dec. 15.

AROUND THE RIM

Living a dream

By BOB RUTTER
Herald editor

My wife comes from good Mennonite stock; the kind of people who know value for your money and don't take to frivolous things. But her stand on lottery tickets, and especially how they relate to me, has always been negative.

You see, I'm a compulsive lottery ticket buyer. I buy one each week for Wintario and the odd one for the Provincial.

For over the past two years the wife has been saying that I'm living in a dream world where the grand prize will set me up life without having done anything productive to earn it.

Maybe, but it would be fun.

Anyway, what happened last week during the telecast of the Fergus Wintario draw may keep me off the stubs forever.

My wife, who I said above doesn't take kindly to my form of lottery recreation, decides that since the draw is from Fergus (she saw me covering the Georgetown draw, incidentally, in May) finally comes up with the suggestion that we watch the tube.

We both worked in Fergus at one time and have many friends there, so we hoped to see some on television.

So far, the moment of climax hasn't even been suggested. I say OK, and we watch. I take out the tickets—I bought two—and the usual lecture starts. And then it happens. . .

She sees the numbers on the tickets and says something about we have to be lucky since they both have full houses—that is three

figures and a pair of separate figures the same on both tickets.

Well, that's not uncommon, every thousand or so tickets have that configuration on them, but I had bought them sight unseen from two separate sources. Just may be the day of reckoning had come. Lady Luck is on our side.

And all of a sudden the thoughts of watching the tube for enjoyment vanished! The talk turned toward what we would do with the big prize. A cool \$100,000 would just go right, she said.

And then she laid it on me and I almost fell off the chair. My dreams evaporated into the air as smoke from a cigarette.

We would, she intoned, first pay off the house.

A wise move that.

And then we would give 20 per cent of the remainder to this charity—and another 20 per cent to this other charity, and on it went.

I really can't remember exactly who was to get what because the rapid turn around in her attitude had me dumbfounded. I sat limply on the chesterfield and tried to organize my thoughts.

They were few, but I did ask about my getting a new car and trading in the 1972 model I tour about in.

And her reply: "Well, dear, there just may not be any money left over for some frivolous thing like that—especially since it's still in good shape with many more miles on it!"

And that's when I faintd.



Ten suggestions for mankind, or how the Creator views us

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

Christmas is here again and already the shopping plazas are all decked out with holly, and strains of Joy to the World coming at you from a dozen different directions.

Though the Christmas season is supposed to be primarily a religious one it is largely over-ridden with a bright red commercial bow and almost lost amidst the tinsel and the ballyhoo.

It has been our belief that if the Good Lord ever returned no one would acknowledge His presence. We believe that instead of the Ten Commandments the Good Lord would have to approach all "men of godwill" with the Ten Suggestions. We feel they might go something like this. . .

"1. I am the Lord thy God. If I might make a suggestion I really don't care to have so many things in front of me. It doesn't look good for a God, besides being a hard act to follow if I'm found low on the scale after money with booze running neck-in-neck for first place. Then comes T.V. stars, movie stars, and wrestlers and other phenomena — not to mention the thoughts of Truman Capote or Johnny Carson.

"2. Try not to use My name in vain too often — just for really important things like the

overdue phone bill, hitting your nail with a hammer, or tripping over Susie's doll carriage, and last but not least, the up and coming visit of your mother-in-law.

"3. Try and remember My day, now mind you it's just a suggestion. I would like to keep it Holy, but not as in "Holy Smoke", they are running at the track again this Sunday and Holy Moses, Holy Ghost came in second and Holy Hallelujah, am I going to make a killing."

"4. Try to honor your father and mother. Remember the only card you sent to the home last year was at Christmas and that had postage due on it.

"5. Try not to kill — except for a good reason. War has always been high on your list, and who am I to argue. Abortion is another of your favorites and I wouldn't want to inconvenience any of you with the carrying around of My children — figuratively speaking, that is.

"6. Try not to wander into another's bed while in the married state, except for a really good reason such as the way Harry grinds his teeth or the fact that Mabel doesn't have a million dollars. I mean seven kids in six years and she never even took time out for a mad weekend in Acapulco. . . mind you again, it's just a suggestion.

"7. Try not to steal except for business or income tax. We all know that everyone fools around with the stuff at work and we wouldn't want you to feel deprived. It's just taking care of business and we won't count that.

"8. Try not to lie about your neighbor. Of course, we won't count politics. We understand how difficult credibility can be especially when your representing someone else.

"9. Try not to keep up with your neighbors. Of course, we don't mean the guy next door. After all, who does he think he is with his brand new snow blower and you breaking your back with a shovel. That's not fair and besides there's always Charge-it.

"10. Try not to want the other guy's wife or husband, except for a really good reason like the fact that "she" wouldn't squeeze the toothpaste in the middle like the dummy you married or the fact that he doesn't hang on your every word like the guy who is turning the key in the motel door while telling you how beautiful your face is.

"Well, that's it, those are my ten suggestions and now for the eleventh suggestion. Oh, you don't want to hear an eleventh — but I was just going to suggest that you love one another as you love yourself, but then Who Am I."

I really believe the Lord might talk like that today. It really is some crazy world that He looks down upon.

As a footnote on just how crazy it is, ponder this true happening:

Steve Boyd and Brian Lageer have started their own business on Bloor Street, Toronto. The business is a "rent a casket" operation.

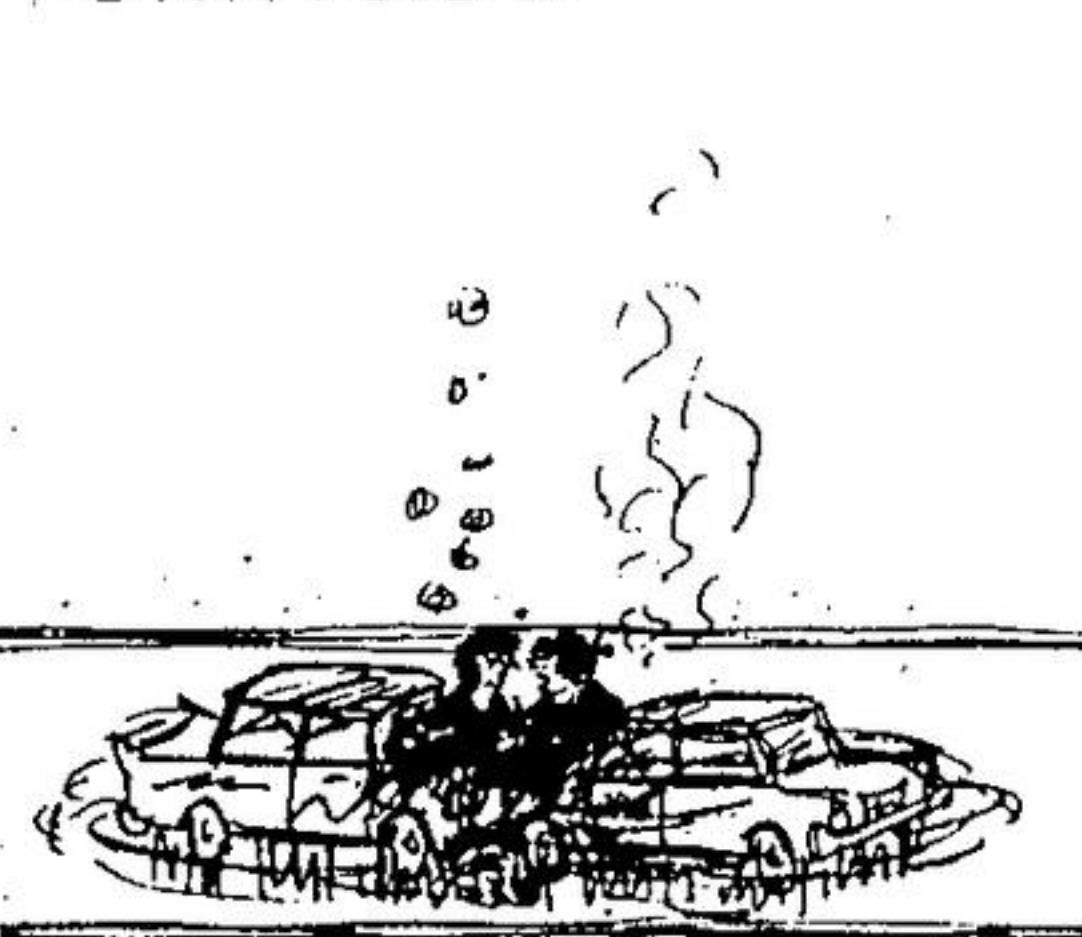
They rented a store on Bloor and placed classified ads urging the public to "rent a casket" for parties. The casket is a silver gray job with silk lining and rents for \$50, a night. But alas and alack the affair appears to be "dying out" for so far they haven't had a single customer.

Personally, if I was the Creator, I would scrap the whole planet and start again from scratch.

P.S. I also feel this is an appropriate spot to mention, "Slime" the rage in kids toys that comes complete with its own garbage can — just what every youngster always wanted — some slime of his very own!

As far as I'm concerned, drawing "I" too good for them, the whole planet will have to go this time. Maybe the Good Lord should have stuck to plants and insects. Maybe people just aren't His thing.

FUNNYSIDE



"You waved at me first!"

From a saint to a sinner, new speaker in a fuss

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

It doesn't take long to change from a saint to a sinner around here. At least when you run afoul of the press.

Vividly recalled is the experience of Stuart Smith.

When the Liberal Leader won his party's convention he was an overnight hero. Nothing much but good was said about him.

But then within a couple of days he had a run in with a member of the press.

And boing! There was a sudden drastic change.

There began a wave of criticism. And this has more or less continued ever since.

QUICK CHANGE

But now the super-sensitivity of the press has turned on probably the most unlikely person one could conceive.

Seldom in memory has a member here been given the complimentary reception Jack Stokes received when he was named Speaker.

And leading the laudes were the media. His members couldn't find enough that was good to say about the popular (then) New Democratic Party member from the north.

But then there was a tempest in a coffee cup. And the game changed.

STUFF IT

When Mr. Stokes took over as Speaker he moved in some slight directions to improve the dignity, as well as the decorum, of the House.

One of the steps he took was an edict that members no longer should drink coffee at their desks in the chamber.

One afternoon a gallery member, unaware of the new ruling, was sitting at his place in the House with a plastic cup of coffee in front of him.

An attendant came up and told him to remove it.

The gallery member, one of the more belligerent of our genus, told the attendant to tell Mr. Speaker that he objected to his ruling and used language not used in family newspapers.

The attendant informed Mr. Speaker, who then interrupted the proceedings, noted the incident, that the member had acted profanely, that press gallery members were governed by the rules of decorum along with everyone else, and that if the member didn't want to abide by them he could either remove himself or be ejected.

Was he right? Of course he was. If any member of the House acted the way the gallery member did he almost certainly would have been summarily ejected.

But suddenly the bloom was off the rose. Mr. Speaker was no longer Mr. Good Guy.

Editor's notebook

The ruin of most men dates from some idle moment.

George S. Hillard

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