

Tariffs strangling farmer, OFA president charges

Tariff inequities are "strangling" the Canadian farmer, the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture told the annual meeting of the Halton Federation of Agriculture Thursday.

Peter Hannam, 37, said that of all the things the government can do to help farmers, the most important is to find export markets for Canadian farm products.

"This makes the present round of negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva, Switzerland, most important, he said.

But farmers are not asking for tariff walls, he said. Instead, they want the government to be more aggressive looking for export markets.

Examples of the inequities facing farmers, Mr. Hannam said are in peach production, cheese, chicken and beef.

In peaches, the Canadian farmer used to supply 80 per cent of the domestic market 15 years ago, but that has since dropped to only 17 per cent he said, partly because Canadian tariff on canned peaches is as



PETER HANNAM

low as one-quarter of one per cent.

Canadian cheese producers lost millions of pounds in markets when England joined the European Common Market but in 1975 the Canadian government permitted European cheese producers to export 11 million pounds of cheese to Canada, he said.

In the United States there is a protective tariff which allows in only one million pounds

of Canadian cheese with the result that it has a premium price there of three to four dollars a pound yet is still all sold, he added.

The Canadian chicken processing industry must live up to government standards which add costs to the price of chicken but 50 million pounds of chicken are imported from the United States and the government does not insist that these same standards are met, Mr. Hannam said.

In beef, Canada has a three cent per pound tariff for imports from the United States but when Canadian beef producers gear up to that volume, they face a 10 per cent tariff or about 30 cents a pound on steak, he said.

"Canadian agriculture just can't survive unless we iron out these inequities," he said.

He said the Ontario Federation of Agriculture this year is emphasizing the tariff impact on jobs, the economy and the balance of payments.

"At times when the economy is in real trouble, it burns me up to see the government paying millions to people to do

nothing when the farmers are going out of business."

Canadian farmers represent only five per cent of the population and to get any impact with the government they will need the support of the public, Mr. Hannam said. If the farmers are divided instead of unified, it gives reasons to the government to do nothing.

He said agricultural organizations are preparing joint briefs to present to the provincial and federal levels of government. As well they are trying to make marketing organizations work more closely together and inform the public of the benefits of marketing boards.

Mr. Hannam noted that food used to require 25 per cent of disposable income but that has now dropped to 18 per cent, a figure which includes more meals in restaurants, more processed food and food packaging.

If every farmer in the last ten years took no profit, it would only save the Canadian consumer 22 cents a day, he said. "There's certainly no rip off there."



ENJOYMENT

The Isabel Watson Room at Acton library was filled to capacity Saturday for a puppet show. The show was later presented at the Georgetown library.



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CORRECTION

Please note the following corrections in "Zellers showcase of Christmas Gift Values", Flyer (December 8-9-10)

- Page 7 ITEM "A" SHOULD READ \$6.66 EA.
- ITEM "C" SHOULD READ SPECIAL \$4.97 EA.
- ITEM "D" SHOULD READ "STAR" PRICE \$6.97 (for flannellette long gown)
- ITEM "E" "STAR" PRICE SHOULD READ \$15.97 EA (for Robe)
- Page 23 ITEM "A" CALCULATOR SHOULD READ SPECIAL \$35.97 EA.
- ITEM "B" CALCULATOR SHOULD READ SPECIAL \$19.95 EA.

We apologize to our customers for any inconvenience caused.

Zellers IN THE GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE
Open Mon. Thru Fri. 10-9
Saturday 11-6

Money Saver Daily Specials

Thursday Dec. 8/77
Boys
SNOWMOBILE MITTS \$1.97
Regular \$2.99 No. 5689 SPECIAL

Thursday Dec. 8/77
Zellers Assorted Christmas
GREETING CARDS \$2.27
Regular \$2.99 50 per Box SPECIAL

Friday Dec. 9/77
Zellers 5050
GARBAGE BAGS 2/99
Reg. 59c 26 x 36 10 per Pkg. SPECIAL

Friday Dec. 9/77
Moirs selection
ASSORTMENT CHOCOLATES \$1.97
680 g. Reg. \$2.39 SPECIAL

Saturday Dec. 10/77
Christmas
OUTDOOR LIGHTS \$4.44 \$5.99
Set of 15 SPECIAL Set of 25 SPECIAL

Saturday Dec. 10/77
7 ft. Scotch Pine or Blue Spruce
CHRISTMAS TREES \$18.88
Regular \$25.97 SPECIAL

Saturday Dec. 10/77
"Hot Scot"
ASSORTED FABRIC \$5.97
Solids & Prints Regular \$7.97 SPECIAL

Saturday Dec. 10/77
VELVETEEN FABRIC \$3.44
100% cotton 36" Wide Regular \$4.77 SPECIAL

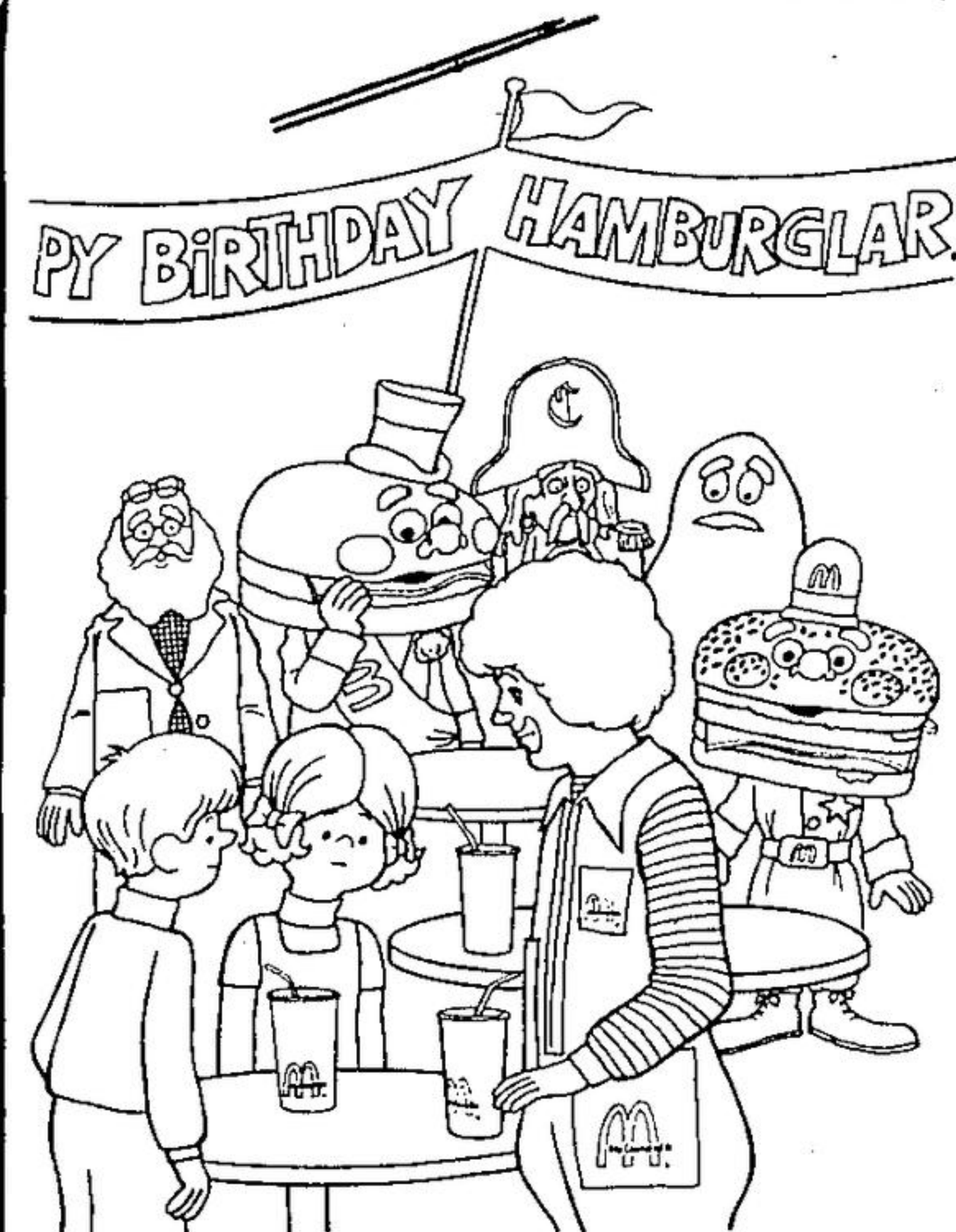
Saturday Dec. 10/77
VELVETEEN PRINTED FABRICS \$3.22
36" Wide 100% cotton Reg. \$3.97 SPECIAL

Saturday Dec. 10/77
HOLIDAY SATIN \$3.47
Printed Fabric 45" Wide Regular \$4.47 SPECIAL

Saturday Dec. 10/77
HOLIDAY SATIN \$2.97
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R.R.1 Cheltenham
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A feeling of the season

By SUSAN De FACENDIS

For 46 weeks of the year I lean over backwards (a most uncomfortable position I can assure you) to accommodate my children.

I have been known to spend quiet hours discussing the birds and the bees, evaluating the merits of certain books we have all read and explaining why I believe they should extend their mother the courtesy of digging out their own dirty socks from underneath various beds.

Having two out of three children now in French immersion programmes, I am even willing to overlook a reply from either of them in a foreign tongue. After all, as long as they actually clean out a bedroom closet or wipe the mud off their boots when requested, why should I care if the cleaning is ultimately done in French or English?

I have tossed a meal in front of them once or twice a week throughout the year and have even refrained from child beating. How could any mother possibly be more understanding?

My highly developed sense of maternal patience is not inexhaustible however, and it usually begins to wear a little thin during the final six pre-Christmas weeks of each year. While I realised when my offspring were still quite young, that we had a difficult not to mention unusual surname I have been known to become quite uptight when they insist on thinking their last name is spelled R-O-C-K-E-F-E-L-L-E-R, a Freudian spelling slip that does not seem to occur at any other time of the year.

While I absolutely refuse to acknowledge Christmas until December 24th, they on the other hand, are dropping hints as early as October.

"Started your Christmas shopping yet, Mom?" comes the first early nudge. By November, they are about as subtle as a sledgehammer. "Here's your purse Mom, GO! If you don't hurry up the stores will be out of stock of CB antennae, portable T.V.'s, clock radios, dolls that really fill their diapers and all the other neat expensive stuff."

They are aided in this seasonal "money is no object" madness by grandparents, uncles and aunts, who insist on raising the subject of gifts at a time when I am still waiting hopefully for an Indian summer.

The telephone will ring

sometime in late November, spoiling an otherwise perfectly good day, and Louisa will answer with: "Oh, hi grandma. What do I need for Christmas? Well, don't bother with ski equipment because I am sure my parent are going to be delighted with the \$199.00 bargain I found them to give me especially when I tell them they are saving \$50.00 on the package deal."

"O.K." I demand, as she hangs up the phone. "What was that all about?"

"Oh Mom, don't start getting tacky about money. Remember Christmas only comes once a year."

"Yeah, and so do the January bills. Forget it! Either come up with a more reasonable request or be prepared to take pot luck. Haven't you children ever heard the ex-

pression: 'it is better to give than to receive?'

"So why are you throwing a hairy fit mother? Isn't that just what I asked you to do - give?"

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, and the old "constant dripping wears away the stone" game is on once again.

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