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WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF, Publisher

BOB RUTTER, Editor

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Need more than guilt

Maybe it's time we had a moratorium on pictures of starving children.

Few organizations do this form of fund raising more effectively than World Vision. With professional skills, they constantly remind us of the plight of the rest of the world.

Recently in the United States, they put on a five hour hunger telethon. About a third of the time, the TV tube pictured men, women and children, starving, racked by disease and gaunt from malnutrition, their personal horizons narrowed to day-to-day survival.

We're sure it was successful but I'm sorry that they had to use that method. God knows there's enough suffering in the world, that any help at all is worthwhile, but to achieve its goal by making us feel guilty, then urging us to relieve our guilt by sending cheques to World Vision so that we could feel good, although we continued to increase the economic chasm separating us from the people we thought we were helping. Much more than that is needed.

Ironically, an incident on that television program showed us that implications of a better way of helping and giving.

A village woman brought her two sons to a children's hospital in Dacca, Bangladesh. The doctors cared for her sons - and they also urged the woman to take their "medicine for no more babies." They told her, and she knew as well as they did, that Bangladesh had too many people for too little food.

She was confused and frightened. For centuries, her people valued large families, children meant more hands to work in the fields. Children were security in old age. Suppose she took her birth control pills, and her two sons died? Then she would end her life as an old woman with downcast eyes and outstretched hand prowling the streets for garbage and handouts, slowing starving to death.

But the doctors promised they would do their best to keep her sons alive. And so far, they had done a good job. So, hesitatingly, the woman began to take the medicine. Hesitatingly, she entered into a pact with the doctors.

The pro's and con's of birth control methods - or even of birth control itself - are not the point. That woman entered into a new covenant, a fragile agreement based on trust. Her world and ours became linked. We look on a responsibility to her.

And that responsibility for her goes far beyond doctors and pills. Now we have to be sure, for example, that our trade policies don't turn her into a beggar anyway, by driving her family off their tiny farms. We have to open our markets to goods her sons may someday produce. We have to keep her sons from being killed in a war fought with our exported armaments.

Suddenly, it's not their plight, but ours too. For having entered into that woman's future, we will surely diminish ourselves if we ever break our side of the covenant.

End illegal postal strikes

It staggers between a national disgrace and a national joke. If it weren't so utterly preposterous, it could make strong men weep. Whatever printable - or unprintable - names one calls the Canadian Postal Service it is a national scandal, which our government resolutely refuses to do anything about and, indeed, which it exacerbates.

This mish-mash of half-baked, juvenile negotiation procedures must end. In Toronto and Montreal, and one of two other centres, small groups of people who laughingly call themselves socialists, regularly disrupt service. No self-respecting champion of the working class would do what these hoodlums do - prevent working people from earning a just living.

They have cost the Canadian economy incredible amounts of money in direct-mail, magazines, greeting cards, mail order and

small businesses which results in the layoff of thousands of workers. In 1975 alone, business lost more than \$350 million and some 3,420 employees were laid off.

This says nothing about the human frustration, disruption and tragedy caused to many Canadian by these wildcat walkouts, to say nothing of the legal strikes.

The Christmas season caper in Toronto this year over the hiring of part-time workers - in a time of record unemployment - is simply another in the endless list of irresponsible acts. Those of us who cherish and support the collective bargaining rights of Canadian labour can no longer justify the cruel and senseless acts of these dissident elements in the post office work force. We hasten to point out, that a mere handful are spoiling the reputation of thousands of dedicated postal workers.

The union seems to encourage these illegal acts. The government and its rule-bound supervisory personnel seem incapable of doing anything but promoting confrontation.

A Crown corporation may not be the answer. The post office may have to be sold and a proper contract worked out with a private mailing firm which would guarantee full service in unprofitable and outlying areas.

It is the obligation of the Federal Government to put the people of Canada first and to call immediately for a radically new way of moving the mail.

FUNNSIDE



Trudeau's timing was off in message on economy

By STEWART MACLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

Prime Minister Trudeau undoubtedly had the proper motives, and he may have had the proper message, when he urged us to show faith in our economy. But I thought his timing was just a bit awkward, to say the least.

Trudeau went before the nation, courtesy of a news conference, to tell us that it's imperative for us to keep the faith, trust the future, and invest confidently in the country. "We have cause to be optimistic," he said, but hopes could be destroyed if our faith wavers.

He talked about how inflation and economic growth are partly psychological, and it's important to retain the confidence of investors. If wage-earners are not confident about the future, they try to add extra insurance by seeking inflationary increases, and this in turn drives up costs, leading to more inflation and a loss of confidence.

His remarks were addressed toward the private sector which the government likes to blame for many of our economic ills. But, getting back to the prime minister's sense of timing, he addressed the private sector at a time when they were preoccupied with the government's own economic management.

GLOOMY REPORT

You will recall that more than a year ago, Auditor-General J. J. Macdonell brought down his annual report with a dire warning that the federal government "has lost, or is close to losing effective control of the public purse" - a comment that was not designed for the express purpose of inspiring faith.

The government's answer was to establish a Royal Commission on Financial Management and Accountability. And just before Trudeau began extolling us to keep the faith, this royal commission, headed by banker Allen T. Lambert, chairman of the Toronto-Dominion Bank, decided to bring down an interim report.

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"The enormous rate of growth of government - both in people and costs - is surely not sustainable," was one of the interim opinions. Another opinion was that unless dramatic changes are made, we will face an "intolerable burden" as the government remains caught up in current spending programs. The costs of health and hospital care are increasing "at a frightening rate."

The report went on to make a few other observations: that the government doesn't pay enough attention to getting value for money; that public servants are not accountable enough; that the public service is growing too quickly; that the unemployment insurance scheme has turned into a welfare program, and that perhaps we should even consider a return to the old-fashioned means test.

SERIOUS WARNING

Governments never go broke, said the royal commission chairman, but the consequences can be just as severe. With continued high spending and high government deficits there will be further debasement of our currency. And ultimately we will be out of business.

One member of the commission is Gerald Stoner, a former deputy minister in the departments of transport and industry, trade and commerce. Now that he is on the outside, examining the operation of government, he was asked whether the commission's gloomy conclusions embarrassed him.

"If I wasn't embarrassed I wouldn't be honest," he replied, adding that there were some good things as well as bad.

Anyway, considering everything the commission, and its members, said, it was very difficult to concentrate on Trudeau's evangelical appeal for faith.

Perhaps he is right in proclaiming that our greatest economic enemy is pessimism but he could have waited a few weeks until we got over our little bout of pessimism that followed the royal commission report.

It's very difficult to worship two masters.

Hydro line: Boon or bungle?

By DAVID MOFFAT

Ontario Energy Minister Taylor's recent approval of the highly controversial Bruce-Milton Hydro corridor should rightly concern every user of electrical energy in this Province. This decision has not only deprived land owners along the right-of-way a preliminary public review, extended to those along the Nanticoke Pickering section of the same grid, but demonstrates clearly the futility of public input into years of sham hearings whose outcome has been largely predetermined. For insisting on like privileges in both hearings and the courts, groups such as the Interested Citizens (ICG), have been regularly branded as obstructionists responsible for "bolting up" of cheap nuclear power.

One obvious assumption for the Government's adamant refusal to sponsor such an independent study over the years is that the rationale behind the line in this location would crumble under full public scrutiny. One such factor near the southern terminus at Milton Station is superficially noted on page 26 of the Solandt Commission Report and states: "The distance from the (multi-corridor) junction to the Milton Station will be very short, (1.3 miles), thus minimizing the risk of interruption of all circuits at this common point." Apparently, Ontario Hydro took this advice literally and have never considered publicly the effect of a complete forced outage on chosen System "Q" occurring at this point.

At the request of the ICG and funding by the Ministry of Energy K.J. Slater of Slater Energy Consultants Inc., submitted jointly copies of a Report in mid December, 1977, presenting an in-depth computerized study of all feasible systems, "Q" included. Using Ontario Hydro's own data, a total forced outage was simulated at the location noted above and the devastating effects on line

security were published therein. The Slater Report envisages two time stages in the evolution of this portion of the SWOLV grid - 1982 and 1993. Using Hydro's traditional annual growth rate of 7 per cent, this involves roughly doubling the load every decade. Obviously, some point in time will be reached when costs, energy availability, and public reaction to usurpation of land resources, much of it prime, will reduce or even reverse this growth rate. There are signs in our non-competitive economy in many world markets that higher energy costs brought about by excessive rates of expansion may well be the fatal straw in this process.

On the long assumption this will not occur within the next 15 years, the Slater figures for 1993 indicate a forced outage in the "Q" System of the Bruce line near Lamehouse Crossing has a Post-Fault Transfer Capability of 11,300 compared with less than half that for all other Systems. That for System "C" was the lowest at 2600 and is unacceptable to Ontario Hydro. No consideration was given to a complete forced outage of the multi-corridor in the vicinity of Milton Switching Station. Using the entire back-up grid as envisaged in 1993 for greater security than that available in 1982, Slater calculated from Hydro's own computations that such an outage would reduce the PFTC from 11,300 to 2600, the same as "C", and judged unacceptable by Hydro.

The inference is that multi-corridor line security must be exceedingly high to avoid a national, and possibly international, power outage depending on line conditions. Such an outage occurred Nov. 3-10, 1965, enveloping Ontario and north-eastern United States and was attributed to a minor circuit breaker malfunctioning. The location of the north-westerly portion of this multi-corridor could hardly be worse. It must eventually span a

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A continuing race to foolishness

By GERRY LANDSBOURGH

Every now and again we get downright nasty over some price of gross stupidity that seems to affect both the government and the public at large. Here are the latest examples of man's continuing race to prove himself the most inferior creation on this planet.

Collingwood, Ontario, was the recent scene of a near tragedy when two teenagers doused a woman with gasoline and threatened to set her on fire during a supermarket robbery. They were sentenced as follows: Larry Andrew Dunans, 17, two years less a day in reformatory and three years, one probation; Richard Gordon Watson, 19, one year in reformatory and three years on probation. The charge was robbery with violence.

Here's the problem as I see it. Two years in reformatory will never have the impact on those boys as 6 months in any major hospital in the burn care centre. The problem with the way we deal with teenagers is they never have to see the full extent of their wrong doings.

Vandals can destroy a school - years of work, teacher's notes, private possessions - and walk away with a thing called probation. Probation without restitution as far as I'm concerned is worthless. What is wrong with having to go back and face the extent of heartbreak that mindless rage causes. If teens or anyone else for that matter had to make amends in a physical sense for crimes committed, the rate I'm sure would change drastically.

In the case of the two teenage young men above working in a burn centre might do more for them than the cold gray walls of any institution.

Paper coffins are in the news and the Ontario Funeral Association isn't taking it very easily. Funeral director David Marcotte said "Many people bury their dogs better than these people want to bury their parents."

That may well be Mr. Marcotte, but what good is there in burying your parents or any loved one in a funeral extravaganza well beyond your means. It won't bring them back, and I've never met anyone yet who said they wished to be buried in only the finest casket that money could buy. It's usually "guilt" that buries the deceased in high priced finery - guilt for all the kindnesses that should have been done but somehow were neglected.

Life is for the living, the dead are remembered in precious thoughts and memories. There is nothing wrong in a cardboard casket but it is the outward appearance to society encouraged by an industry that

encourages many to bury their dead in malodorous, the payment of which comes from the very mouths of the living for months and sometimes years to come.

Mr. Marcotte speaking on lower priced funerals said, "There's always a small percentage that wants this sort of things, but most of respect the body and want it to have a proper Christian burial as I see it has nothing to do with the price of the casket. Whether cardboard or malodorous, I'm sure the good Lord makes no choice whatsoever based on the quality of a man's casket."

Here's a tip from New Brunswick Judge James D. Harper had no choice but to find Donald Nevers not guilty of speeding. It seems when New Brunswick converted to metric that Section 140 repeated the part dealing with speed limits, unfortunately no new paragraph was inserted. Consequently Judge Harper ruled "There are no speed limits in the province of New Brunswick." One more blow against sanity in the name of Metric.

Here's one that makes my blood boil. With the tragic death of a 15-year-old who

lung himself with a T-shirt in a Guelph maximum security training school, the coroner's jury attached no blame to the institution of St. John's Roadwash Training School as hell holes that should be abolished. What is wrong with our wayward youth is what is wrong with society. Fix the problem at the root cause and you won't need training schools. No blame? That boy was in prison since he was 13 years old - he sure didn't hang himself because it was such a fun place. Society is as guilty for that boy's death as if each one of us had placed the T-shirt around his neck ourselves.

Last, but not least, is our latest skitomy-loo with the post office. Enough is enough - fire all of them and replace them with people who want and need employment. This small group of power hungry fools who delight in throwing parcels marked fragile around for laughs and lying up the Christmas mail each year are more than a big pain.

I say to hell with them and their nonsense fire them all and let's get on with a reliable mail service. Canadian taxpayers deserve it and Canadian taxpayers should demand it.

1977-a year to forget

By DON O'HEARN
Queen's Park Bureau

1977 was largely a year to forget.

If anything complimentary is to be said about it, it would be that it was a year of awakening, a slight awakening.

There was one all-encompassing issue in the economy, and its spin-offs, employment and inflation.

Presented the most critical, and confounding, situation that the province of Ontario (and the rest of the world?) had faced for decades.

Nothing was done to cope with it. And the stunning fact was that apparently not much could be done about it, for the present at least.

For most of the year there was more or less futility, except for a lot of nonsense talk.

But towards the end of the year there was some reassurance that the Davis government and the Liberals were beginning to realize the real depth, breadth and radical nature of the problem.

Provincial Liberal leader Stuart Smith had proposed that before there could be a practical approach to solutions, the problems had to be broken down into its components and these defined and studied.

Are there indications we were moving in this direction?

Looking through our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO

A big evening is planned for Friday at Georgetown Memorial Arena. Not only will it mark the season's first league game at home, but it will be the first time a game has been played here on the new artificial ice surface.

A change in plans has resulted in the Georgetown Papermakers getting the nod for elevation to Intermediate "A" ranks instead of "B" as announced last week. It will make no difference to the league play and they will continue the schedule in the composite district league.

Georgetown will have a boys' band again. This decision was made last night at a meeting of the Recreational Council at which bandmaster Alf Perrott, Arthur Herbert and Ed Peters of the senior band were present to discuss reorganizing a boys' group to provide the nucleus of future town bands.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

The entering and burglary of a house at 15 Ontario St. late Christmas Eve and the theft of a '53 Ford sedan parked on the same street a little more than an hour later are believed by police to be the work of two Guelph reformatory inmates who escaped earlier in the same day. The escapees were traced from the reformatory in Acton, where they ransacked a house and stole their first car. At McCullough's Corners at the western town limits the escapees missed the turn, rolled the car over and evidently unharmed made their way to the top of Main St.

Miss Margaret Jane Moore, a member of one of Esquesing's townships' pioneer families died on Sunday, Dec. 22 after a lengthy illness. Her grandfather was a United Empire Loyalist. Miss Moore died at the age of 82, having lived all her life in Esquesing Township.

TEN YEARS AGO

The time has come for Georgetown to have a paid, full-time fire department Mayor Joseph Gibbons suggested to Council on Tuesday. The mayor mentioned several matters which he said council should deal with immediately, giving priority to Brumac Developments' request for developing land it owns in the south-east section of town. Next he recalled a new municipal building and a new municipal garage have become bogged down.

"Youth in Revolt", the theme of the forum sponsored by the Jaycees and Youth-In Thursday at the high school, proved that youth may not be in revolt, but the hundred in attendance are certainly dissatisfied with their life in high school. "There is evidence of a lot of dissatisfaction here," stated David Depue, one of the speakers of the day, "and some of it must be valid."

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