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Let's crush pollution

Few nations today are truly independent. That is because most of the world's countries are in fact very much interdependent. They need each other — and this is particularly so in the case of Canada and the United States. The continuing dialogue between these two countries over the Great Lakes pollution problem, for instance, is taking a new twist — with Washington trying to extend the scope of the talks.

Solutions to the problems of pollution in the Great Lakes are being sought on both sides of the border. Cities, towns and municipalities are building new sewage plants. The United States is considering a ban on phosphates in detergents and both nations have anti-pollution targets.

One area where differences exist is in the degree of anti-pollution police work. The United States is seeking, at least on paper, a meticulous reckoning of anti-pollution measures by all communities. U.S. officials want stringent standards to govern discharges into tributary rivers whose waters eventually flow into the Great Lakes. This may be costly, but it makes sense.

Communities and industries would then have a legal obligation to get discharge permits from the federal Government in

Ottawa before they could dump sewage or industrial wastes. Some Canadian experts say this is going too far. They argue that there's little need to worry about every small town or pulp mill so long as their effluents do not degrade the quality of the water.

Pollution is something that must be controlled in the Great Lakes, also in the rivers flowing into these lakes and indeed everywhere else. This is a serious global problem that has been caused entirely by population pressures. We tend to forget that a million years ago — a relatively brief period in our planet's existence — there were but a few thousand people on earth. They were doubling only once every 100,000 years. Today there are more than 4 billion people. By the turn of the century, there will be about 6.3 billion.

Every individual can help control pollution. Pollution is the result of material benefits people have sought and gained. Now there is a backlash, caused by too many people demanding too many goods and services and then being too ill-educated or too unwise to discipline their consumption habits.

The dread result of all this is CRUSHING POLLUTION.

Global effort needed

Man is still killing the land that feeds him. The creeping deserts remain one of the great global ecological problems that seem to defy solution. The challenge for mankind is clear: Either we halt what the scientists call desertification, or we risk the prospect of even greater food shortages in future decades.

Deserts do not just happen. The ruins of ancient civilizations in the Middle East prove that poorly managed agriculture and urbanization destroyed fertile lands. Nomads knew centuries ago that moving people and livestock from an area before its vegetation was totally destroyed, would save the land in future years. But far too often overgrazing by livestock, overcutting of forests, abusing scarce water resources and improper tillage killed millions of acres of fertile land.

A recent conference on the spreading deserts held in Nairobi, Kenya, was told that already about 43 per cent of this planet's land surface is either desert or semi-desert. Land

is being denuded and destroyed at the rate of 14 million acres a year. And unless the trend is slowed, about a third of the arable land available to us today will be lost by the turn of the century.

What can mankind do about these mysterious, other-worldly deserts like the Sahara, the Gobi, the Australian and the South Asian deserts? They may look fascinating from the air or in color films. They have played a romantic part in literature. But in fact they are grim symbols of the way men have misused this planet.

The first need is slow reclamation of deserts through replanting and reforestation programs. The lowering of birthrates and more development assistance from richer countries will help. So will education since poor people in these countries, like we in Canada, do not know how to use their land wisely.

The creeping desert can be halted. But it will take a global effort by all nations — great and small nations alike.

Solving today's problems

The generation gap which caused such a furor a few years ago may still exist, but the problems that face young people are basically the same that face everyone and we'd better get together to solve them or human survival is in serious danger.

Not the most profound statement, one might say, but considering where it comes from and how it was arrived at, we believe it has very considerable meaning for us all. In preparation for the Fourth World Synod of Bishops which is just under way in the Vatican, the head of the Canadian delegation, Most Rev. Emmett Carter of London, Ontario conducted his own survey.

One of the themes of the synod is the problem of youth and how to communicate the faith to them. So Carter sent out a personal appeal to 25,000 young people in his Southwestern Ontario archdiocese to tell him where they were at. And they told him. More than 2,000 wrote him personal letters and the conclusions were enormous. The gap is almost passive because youth are as concerned about "evil, lust, pornography, drugs, rampant materialism" as are their parents.

They are confused and opposed to much of the church's official teaching about sex. It is too condemnatory and rigid. They find the official teachings boring and irrelevant. They long to see a world in which justice, racial harmony and peace hold sway. There is a clear alienation from the structured church. At the same time there is a deep spiritual awareness. One young person said "I never pray (i.e. in church) but I talk to God a lot."

Interestingly enough, the retiring moderator of the United Church, Very Rev. Wilbur K. Howard, told the 27th General Council of his church the same thing! That young people yearned for a God that was relevant and just and they weren't finding it in existing church structures.

It seems to us that instead of worrying about youth living by a sexual morality that is not ours, we should support them, stop condemning and listen. The problems of society that make adults as dependent on chemicals for relief from tension as our society is, are the same problems that young people face.

As Carter said, "we're all in the same boat and will sink or survive together."

Tories bounce back in latest polls

By STEWART MACLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

With a good deal of help from public opinion polls there has been a remarkable change within the Tory caucus during the last few months.

You don't hear any more of those snide remarks about the leadership of Joe Clark. There are no whispers of internal discontent. There doesn't seem to be any more of that brooding about the inevitability of a Liberal victory in the next election. The party actually appears united. And most Tory MPs seem quite happy.

Three months ago, on the other hand, you could easily gain the impression that the Conservatives might not hang together long enough to fight another election. Clark's leadership was under constant criticism, internal factions were gnawing at each other, Prime Minister Trudeau was being swept down along on a pinnacle of popularity, and it appeared that most Tory MPs didn't entertain the slightest hopes of ever ruling the country.

How could the Tories hope to win an election when only 27 per cent of the population supported the party, compared with an astonishing 51 per cent for the Liberals? And only 10 months earlier the Tories had it all over the Grits, leading by a percentage score of 47 to 29.

GLOOMY GROUP

It's little wonder that the party was suffering from a severe bout of pessimism. And to make matters worse, many of the Tory MPs were convinced there would be a fall election.

But Trudeau resisted all the pressures for

a fall vote — some of his advisors are still annoyed by this — and gradually the public opinion polls began changing. The latest figures show that the Liberals now are down to 44 per cent, and the Conservatives have eased up to 34 per cent. And after a long stagnation around 15 per cent, the New Democrats have bounced up to 18 per cent.

Since the Liberals managed to sweep to a majority in the 1974 election by collecting 43 per cent of the vote, this latest poll doesn't indicate a Tory victory at the moment. But in relation to last summer, there is cause for some jubilation.

"We'll be ahead by spring," said one optimistic Tory MP, who had earlier been one of Joe Clark's critics. "Joe is doing a great job."

A winter of severe unemployment and continuing inflation won't contribute much to Liberal fortunes, and there now seems to be a widespread feeling that Trudeau won't call an election until next fall when the economic situation is expected to improve. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has said that Canada is facing "gloomy and economic prospects" until the middle of 1978 and that "unemployment may stay very high."

HITS ECONOMY

Clark has recently been devoting most of his speeches to the economy, hammering away at the government's alleged inability to create jobs and hold down living costs. His supporters say he has been highly successful in this respect, and this is a major reason for the party's increased popularity.

Another reason, they argue, is television. Since parliamentary proceedings began appearing on television in October, Clark has appeared far more confident and credible as

No big deal, but was grant wise?

By STEWART MACLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

I don't want to make a big deal of it, but I somehow doubt whether our federal government spent wisely when it dished out \$21,000 to learn that "the outlook for those planning a career in the study of insects is not a very promising one."

It's obviously handy to know these things, but in these times of restraint \$21,000 seems like a big bunch of bucks. And since there are fewer than 700 entomologists in the country, and since the study was done by way of a questionnaire, I think that the government should have shopped around a bit before letting this contract.

I am not sure why this particular contract sticks in my craw. Heaven knows there are greater examples of overspending coming to light every day. For instance, I probably should get worked up at the government spending \$37,000 for a "survey and assessment of the current state-of-the-art

of hydroelectric analysis of naval ships and advanced marine vehicle's structures and their associated appendages."

And I would certainly like to know more about that \$77,000 contract for a "feasibility study of consolidated radio dispatch for pickup and delivery of urban goods." I know the pickup and delivery of urban goods is important to a good many people, but I think I would be inclined to question the government's \$77,000 fascination with the problem.

BIG GRANT

And in these times of frugality, I suppose it's even fair to ask whether the government should have given that \$300,000 grant to the University of Toronto to establish a chair in Hungarian studies. Perhaps Multicultural Minister Norman Cafook is dead right when he says this chair "will contribute immeasurably to Canadian academic life," but it's a question of whether we can afford these immeasurable contributions.

Offhand, I would say that we are not in dire need of an "evaluation of the impact on

the reading habits and attitudes of Ontarians of the Winario Lottery Cultural Bonus Program." Yet we are getting it — at a cost of \$95,000.

And the government acknowledges that the contract was let as a result of an "unsolicited proposal." Meanwhile, proposals are being solicited for studies into "alternate methods of the scalding of hogs." The next one is costing us only \$5,000 — but I am wondering just why we need the "development of a manual on the code of good practice for highways and railways for use by field personnel." By writing to various provincial highways departments and the railways, it should be possible to pick up the good practices without too much expense.

However, I am beginning to stray here. My original concern today is that \$21,000 study that tells me there is a rather uncertain future for insect experts.

NOT APPRECIATED

And here is some of the valuable

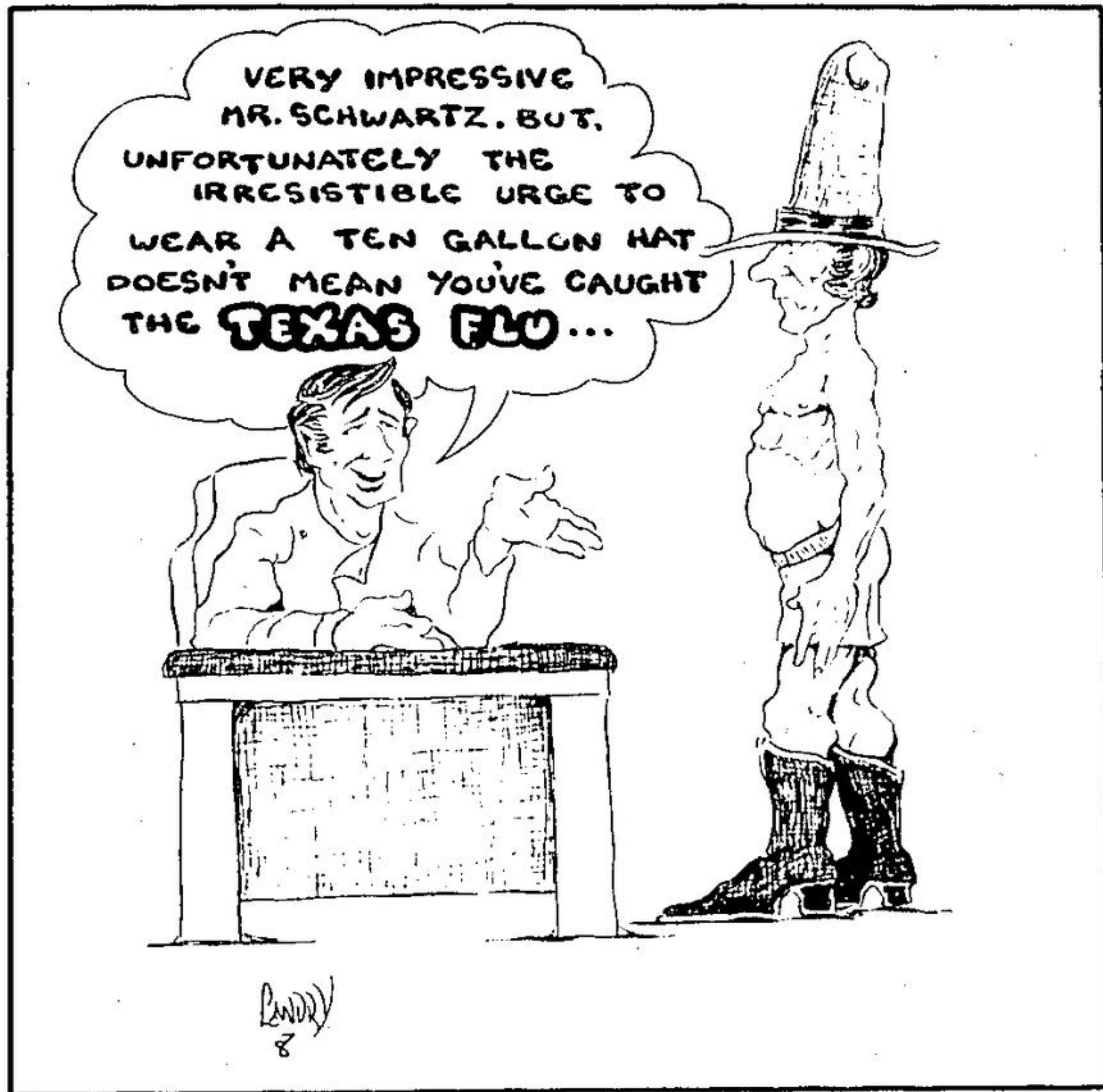
information gained from that \$21,000 undertaking. "Despite the general aura of pessimism said to exist among the entomologists, some optimism was reported that their expertise will ultimately be appreciated..."

It's the first time I have ever heard that their expertise was not appreciated. But having learned this, I am certainly agreeable to supporting a "be-kind-to-your-entomologist week."

In supporting this study, a government publication says it "was seen as providing a useful model that could be employed by other scientific disciplines to assess the supply-demand situation in their profession."

Now just sit back and watch other "unsolicited proposals" roll in. With that kind of invitation, I bet the government will be swamped with suggestions for \$21,000 studies into the career opportunities of every discipline from sword sharpening to eel skinning.

Furthermore, I bet the government will buy the suggestions.



Intense politics in '78 but no Ontario vote

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

Politics will probably be a matter of intense activity, though perhaps behind the scenes, in 1978.

It seems unlikely they will explode — that there will be an Ontario election.

The Davis government might want one. The provincial Liberals, though on the move upward are hardly likely to be in a position to defeat the government before 1979 if then.

The New Democratic Party is on a slide, and without a strong candidate in sight this should accelerate after the leadership convention.

The government thus might consider this a good year to go to the people.

But they learned in last June's vote that the public doesn't like what it considers unnecessary elections.

—And chances of a vote by legislative defeat in the house seem slight.

There is nothing known now in the 1978 program that would force rejection of the government by the opposition.

The closest call could come in the late fall. The rent review program is due to expire in December. Neither opposition party will want this. But the government probably will come up with something.

It would hardly be keen on fighting an election all-out on rent control, a motherhood issue.

TORONTO FOCUS

But there should be other action.

The government has to find at least 10 more seats for a safe majority in the next election.

It almost certainly isn't going to get these from the Liberals. The seats they hold now they hold firmly.

So it has to look to the urban and northern seats the NDP holds, and a number of which will be in jeopardy.

The PCs can be expected to do some intensive organizational work in these areas, and particularly Toronto.

The Liberals also will be concentrating attention on Toronto.

To win a government the party would have to take more than 30 additional seats, and it is taken for granted that to even hope to do this it would have to make a substantial dent in Toronto's 28 seats.

And its prospects aren't encouraging. The Metro area has never been a happy hunting ground for it provisionally (in recent times its best showing was five seats) and it carries the stigma of a loser with the Toronto voters (and also with the Toronto media).

The NDP could be approaching a vale of near-despair.

The economic field, which dominates today, is one in which it simply isn't at home. Its acceleration was reversed in June. And it is faced with the prospect of a leader who will shrivel in the foot-steps of Stephen Lewis.

A straw in the wind is that labor's hierarchy is quite lethargic about the coming leadership convention.

Those who think the party could nearly disappear, however, are not realistic. It also has seats that it holds firmly, either personally or through party strength, perhaps as many as 20.

Political futures are always a great improbability, but hazzarding a foresight it is possible to see perhaps a good many years of continuing minority government.

The Editor's Notebook . . .

Remember that today is your opportunity. Tomorrow is the other fellow's. William Feather

Violence rears its ugly head

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

Violence.....everywhere we turn in society today. It touches some aspect of our lives. Whether here at home in Halton Hills or in a thriving metropolis - violence rears its ugly head.

We have become accustomed to the continuing onslaught - the ugliness - the depravity - we merely nod the head in token agreement at whatever the latest violent act.

Violence - even the word itself has a sinister sound, a shrill start then it ends with a hiss.

Only a few years ago a tribe of stone-age Aborigines were discovered - the Tasaday - a culture that survived without any violent acts. But modern man took the situation well in hand and invaded the Tasaday and civilization will soon take its toll. The culture of the Tasaday offers substantial evidence that man has no violence and aggression as

an inherent part of his nature.

The Royal Commission on Violence has cost the Ontario taxpayers \$2.2 million during two years of research. This rather large and hefty figure included rather high costs for taxis, meals, hotels, limousines, and other expenses that stagger the imagination. When it dawns on the taxpayers just how much money slipped through the hands of the LaMarsh commission it might lend fat to the fire and spark a little bit of violence of its own.

Of course, we can't place all the blame on the commission - government commissions cost and as with all government spending it is accepted it is not corporation funds where you account to the head of the firm but the "anonymous taxpayer" that is footing the bill so the sky's the limit. But enough on commissions of what we know already exists.

Violence appears to be a mindless rage at a system that has devalued man. Man has become a number on a social security card - a faceless blob in an unemployment lineup - a broken human being lying in a senseless stupor in a ditch - a frustrated youth locked in a powerplay between a frightened teacher and the students that really control the class.

Violence is a mindless rage from an immature couple whose battered baby doesn't cry anymore but just lies there with an animal whimper - a mindless rage from a white collar executive whose battered wife cries softly behind the locked bedroom door - a mindless rage from a society that has somehow lost its worth.

Acts of vandalism that shout loudly of the lack of respect of our youth today. But these acts shout louder still of what has our youth of today to respect? Teachers that openly express their dislike for the students? Teachers who openly express fear? How can any classroom function when there are two opposing forces at work. It's "us" against "them." No longer one unit towards a common goal of knowledge. How can people in the work force function for the common

good when there are two opposing forces that loudly proclaim "It's labor against management." "It's management against labour." Again it's "us" against "them."

Twenty years ago, a Grade 8 student could read - today they tell us that first year university students are illiterate. When control was taken from the teacher in the classroom and each act of individuality is viewed as a case for the guidance office the classroom ceased to function as a learning experience, the classroom as a teaching experience ceased to exist.

Violence has a twofold purpose, like pain it serves as a warning device. The teacher that uses a strap as a warning device that says enough is enough is using violence but the alternative is the violence of a Centennial high school incident that leaves a trail of bodies and a trail of blood. One is a needed measure, the other is a mindless rage.

As pain tells our body something is wrong, a small amount of force is for the good, too much force becomes self destructive as feeding oil to flame.

Our Eskimo people, the Inuit, have a legend of how the Great Being tried to make people. His first attempt was a failure - he made the whites. The second attempt, the Great Being succeeded - he made the "Inuit" - the human beings.

As long as we have whites and blacks, red and yellows, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the intelligent and the backward, violence will remain with us. When we break through and the time of the "human beings" begins violence and destruction will cease and human beings will live together with respect for one another. Basics being today to respect? Teachers that openly express their dislike for the students? Teachers who openly express fear? How can any classroom function when there are two opposing forces at work. It's "us" against "them." No longer one unit towards a common goal of knowledge. How can people in the work force function for the common

THIRTY YEARS AGO

Georgetown will have an austerity program for the next few years if predictions of Mayor Joseph Gibbons in his inaugural address to council are correct. Major projects undertaken in 1947 will boost the tax rate by 50 per cent this year, the mayor estimates, and he recommends that only necessary expenditures consistent with essential civic services be contemplated in the immediate future.

Lt.-Col. James M. Ballantine, DSO, was buried with full military honors in Greenwood Cemetery on Saturday afternoon. This distinguished citizen who had resided for the past 15 years at his farm near Georgetown succumbed on Wednesday Jan. 7 to a stroke which he suffered the previous Sunday.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Gord Greig, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles

Greig, RRI Norval is expected to be back flying for North Wing airline within the next few days. Gord has been spending a recovery period at home following his release from Seven Islands Hospital in Northern Quebec, where he was taken when the plane he was flying crashed at Temiskaming Lake due to faulty landing apparatus.

Little damage at the home of Ray Bowers, William Street. Firefighters were called in to the house when Wainscotting in back of a kitchen gas stove broke into flames. The blaze was put out immediately, limiting the damage to the wainscotting and a charred portion of the wall above the stove.

TEN YEARS AGO

Marketing and production facilities formerly operated as the Howard Smith Division of Domtar Pulp and Paper Limited have been

renamed Domtar Fine Papers Ltd. The change became effective Jan. 1. The Howard Smith name will continue to be used as promotional identification for some of the company's grades of fine papers. The change of name is part of a program to update the corporate style of all companies in the Domtar group.

Construction of a 150-foot tower to be topped by a television signal receiving aerial started Monday near YMCA Camp Norval at Georgetown's eastern limits. The tower is being built by Georgetown Cable TV Ltd., to bring cable television service to Georgetown homes.

Reeve W.F. Hunter of Georgetown was unanimously elected Warden of Halton County Tuesday afternoon at County Council. Warden "Bill" Hunter first entered council in 1960 as councillor. He served as deputy reeve from 1962 till 1965, becoming reeve in 1966.

the HERALD
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