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It's unfortunate

It is indeed unfortunate that the issue surrounding the alternative routings proposed by the interested Citizens Group and ignored by the Ontario Hydro and the government were not settled. The courts last week in rejecting leave to appeal the decision of the expropriation hearing officer along the northern section from Bradley to Colbeck section of the Bruce-Milton corridors have ruled — and we have no quarrel with the

members of the court — that two conflicting decisions rendered during the past 12 months are not in conflict and therefore do not have to be resolved.

There is, however, to the layman an element of conflict in the decisions which refer to alternative routings and it should have been expedient upon the court to clarify its rulings concerning two separate sections of the proposed corridor. What is the court's position on definition of alternative routing? Is it as the latest ruling states only a minor variation of the proposed routing within a predetermined corridor path? Or, is it open to question of where and how a completely alternative route can be placed to achieve the objective?

By failing to answer these questions the court has delayed, until the next corridor path becomes a controversy, the disposition of these apparent conflicting rulings. And it will again take people with limited resources into the realm of high priced legal battles to seek their rights, against a public corporation and government with unlimited resources.

Now, as the ICG prepares to endorse its disbandment, the lessons gained through this exercise of the past five years might change the attitude of Ontario Hydro and the provincial government toward similar proposals in future years. True, a royal commission on power planning is investigating such matters, but the lessons gained through this experience would not necessarily be those found by such a commission.

What the ICG was fighting for was justice and fair play. Justice in the form of an understanding that someone, somewhere might have made an error in judgement. Fair play in the attitudes of those seeking to take land along the corridor path and from those that approved the plan initially.

It is fitting that the ICG chose to release to its members a letter from Ontario Umbudsman Arthur Maloney which says the group's "absence of self-interest is beyond question."

It becomes a fitting epitaph should the group end its activities.

FUNNYSIDE



My No. 9 from, please

Bible Digest

"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Just because we can't understand it, we sometimes think that God can't do it — but He can and He will, "only believe."

Reassessment is issue again

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

The Ontario government has a very heavy load hanging over its head.

It has brought out still another paper on uniform-market value assessment of property.

And no matter what it does about this it seems that it will be in deep water politically.

Uniform assessment has been an active issue for more than a decade.

We are still far from seeing it. But it is trouble even now. And by the time of an election, whenever that may be, it should be a hard issue for the government to meet.

As originally conceived the case for uniform assessment was quite simple.

The basis for the need was to get equity in provincial grants.

These grants, which have been growing since the war, and now represent a big share of municipal revenues, have been based mainly on each municipality's assessment.

Assessment was a poor criteria, though, as approaches and practices of assessing varied widely from municipality to municipality.

As a result, some municipalities were getting more than they should from the province and others not as much.

TAXES UP

If it had just struck to the point of correcting this basic situation, the government perhaps would not have been in too

much trouble.

The municipal taxes of some local property owners would have changed, but the change probably wouldn't have been so widespread or so substantial as to cause a great disturbance.

But the government expanded beyond grants and the tax base.

It decided to also include more equity in taxes.

And one of the decisions in this has been that apartment units have been over-taxed and that their assessment should be lower.

This is going to mean that communities where there is a large number of apartments, taxes on single-family homes will probably go up when uniformity is brought in.

And this, of course, means political trouble. Probably even more trouble than with consolidation of schools or even regional government, which has been so bitterly objected to.

The government is already in trouble for it has given out what the new tax approach would mean in some two-thirds of Ontario municipalities.

Most of the larger areas are still to come, but figures for Metro Toronto were released and the increase in single homes would be substantial there.

And presumably the same will follow, at least to some degree, in the other large urban areas when the figures are released.

And again as we have seen in schools and regions, the government will find it an almost impossible issue to explain.

Excessive government?

Prince Phillip, never noted for his reticence, got himself in trouble recently for suggesting that the level of government interference in the lives of the people of Britain was approaching the Orwellian era of

1984.

Prince Phillip was not railing at the almost daily recital of major and minor violations of civil rights, frightening as that may be. Rather, it would appear that he was attacking a cast of mind which says big government is an inevitable and necessary outgrowth of technological democracy.

While we sympathize with the views expressed by Prince Phillip, we must recognize that the more complex the society and the more intricate personal relations become, the more government intervention there will be.

The problem is to know how much interference is too much, how little not enough. In attempting to throw some light on the question, the Reverend Clarke MacDonald, Deputy Secretary of the United Church's Division of Mission in Canada, recently told a men's club in Chatham, Ontario, that it was the responsibility of the Christian conscience to determine "what is too much and/or too little."

Governments and the people that run and administer them, exist solely for the citizens of the nation they rule. But if those citizens demand more and more in the way of social benefits, government bureaucracies will increase in direct proportion at best and more likely out of all proportion.

When this happens, denial of human rights looms as a real danger and George Orwell's fictional prophecy of a Big Brother watching over our every move could become reality. As Dr. MacDonald pointed out in his Chatham address, determining what is too much or too little is a matter of conscience. Every citizen should make sure that the voice of conscience is heard in parliament and legislative assemblies.



HALTON POLICE IN ACTON WISH TO MOVE ONTO MAIN ST.

Repercussions over Sun Life move

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau

There are bound to be enormous political repercussions from the decision of Sun Life Assurance of Canada to move its head office to Toronto from Montreal — but I would hate to predict what they might be.

Ever since the election of the Parti Quebecois government 14 months ago, we have been inundated with on-the-hand-but-on-the-other-hand explanations of the economic consequences of every development. And now that this biggest yet development has occurred, things are no different.

From the beginning, Prime Minister Trudeau has pleaded with Canadian corporations to maintain their offices in Montreal. "You are not going to win the battle of national unity by folding up your tents and running away," he said. "Stay and fight for your rights."

And at the same time, members of his cabinet were warning the Parti Quebecois that if it continued to make things difficult for English-speaking firms, these firms would quit the province. Various federal ministers were gleefully trotting out figures to show how many firms had left the province. The fact that many of these companies weren't even big enough to have private telephones didn't seem to matter.

It was difficult to know whether the separatist cause was being helped or hindered by the movement of companies from Quebec. And when Sun Life announced that it would move its 1,800-employee head office from Montreal, the confusion seemed to linger.

Liberal MP Martin O'Connell, who represents the Toronto-area riding of Scarborough West, condemned the move. "It seems to me that if the strongest of companies that has been there for over 100 years pulls out, it's a signal for others: It's a sign that they've given up on a unified country."

"I think the company would not be welcome in Toronto because it has behaved as a poor corporate citizen by giving up on Quebec."

But another Liberal MP, Lloyd Francis of Ottawa West — obviously doesn't share this viewpoint. He immediately invited Sun Life to relocate in Ottawa where, he said, there is four million feet of office space going at bargain prices. He seemed enthusiastic about the prospects of getting Sun Life into his area.

And it wasn't only at this level that contradictory reactions were felt. While the Positive Action Committee was calling on Sun Life to remain in Montreal to emphasize

the city's "role as leader in international business and finance," the president of the Federation of Independent Business was talking about Montreal being "an economic sewer."

President Howard Frazer of the Royal Bank of Canada said Sun Life's planned move would have "a significant adverse impact on the city's economic life," while John Paul Champagne, president of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, said it wouldn't amount to much.

"All the move basically means is that Quebec will lose some of its unilingual anglophone population," he said. "This isn't surprising, it's a normal development."

And while people interpreted the move as an indication that Sun Life had given up hope that Quebec would remain in Confederation, the company president, Thomas Galt, was saying that "we don't anticipate as probable the separation of Quebec from the rest of Canada." The issue, was Quebec's contra-

versal language bill.

"We can no longer believe that it will be possible for us to recruit or to keep in Montreal, or to bring there from outside of Quebec, a sufficient number of English-speaking people with the qualities and the competence required for the day-to-day operations of the company."

Nonsense, retorted Quebec Finance Minister Jacques Parizeau. He said the company would pull out because it had just been revealed that Sun Life took \$400 million more out of Quebec than it invested in the province. "The game was up," he said, and he went on to refer to Sun Life as "one of the worst corporate citizens that Quebec has known."

Galt, of course, denies this.

In light of all the contradictory, and sometimes hysterical, reaction, perhaps we should just sit back and let our political and economic leaders come to some agreement before we assess repercussions.

Looking through our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO

Over 1,800 enthusiastic hockey fans from Georgetown, Acton and surrounding communities, packed the local ice-palace last night to capacity and witnessed the season's most thrilling hockey spectacle. Both the Acton and Georgetown teams were out to win and the result was "seventy" minutes of spectacular play as the teams went into ten minutes of overtime before the Georgetown Papermakers decisively trounced their keenest opponents, 8-4.

Mayor Gibbons reported to council Monday night that the new Municipal Building on Main Street would be ready for occupation by Feb. 15.

Council also asked Coun. Hale to arrange for placing a memorial tablet in Georgetown Memorial Arena, in memory of those who lost their lives in the two wars.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

A fire of unknown origin early Monday morning completely destroyed Credit Valley Boat Works in Norval, owned by Ray Pomeroy. It took Georgetown fire-fighters only a matter of a few minutes to arrive at the scene of the blaze. However, cans of boat paint and other combustible fluids had given the flames too much of an assist to be brought under control.

1957 was a year in which council found it

necessary to curtail all but necessary expenditures and we will find ourselves in the same position this year," said Mayor Jack Armstrong at the inaugural council meeting on Monday as he commenced his seventh year as mayor. Anticipating mail delivery before the year ends, he said it will be necessary to erect street signs, and this will be one item on the year's agenda. Continuation of a road hard-surfacing program will also be carried out.

TEN YEARS AGO

A park in the east end of town is the project the Georgetown Lions Club would like to launch next, Ernie Bodnar and Fred Zorge, Lions Club representatives told council Monday night. They asked council if there is any available town-owned land which they could develop. "We might start off with a baseball diamond with lights for night play," said Mr. Bodnar, "then go on to a full park complex."

The Halton Conservation Authority's gamble with Glen Eden sports area is beginning to pay off. The authority took over operation of the area a year ago after its private promoters went bankrupt and decided to go all out in turning the area into a reputable winter sports facility. Now after spending more than \$100,000 to regrade the hill, build a large chalet and install new snow-making equipment, the authority is beginning to taste success.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOM FROM BABY

Something special to consider

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

If you're pregnant, married or single, in your teens, in your twenties or thirties or middle aged — if you have ever considered or are considering an abortion the following is a special message just for you:

To my dear Mom:

I'm so very tiny right now that you might not even think I'm me. But even though I'm so very small, I know exactly how I'll look, Mom. I'll have your bright blue eyes and that funny crooked little smile of yours and dad's curly hair and high forehead. Even though I'm very tiny most of everything I'll be is already planned out, they say it's in my genes but all that means is I'll have a talent for art from Uncle George, and I will be able to fix things and make them work right just like Grandpa goes.

You might not believe this Mom but I just can't wait to be born to have you hold me in your arms and in just no time at all I'll be able to hug you right back. I'll have fat little hands and you'll probably have to lift me up but Mom you'll be the most special person in the whole world to me.

When I get big enough and start exploring things on my own, I'll surprise you one day and make you a picture of a basket of flowers.

It might not look like a basket of flowers, and the funny up and down lines might not look like words but they are, Mom, and they'll say "I love you."

When I think of the sunshine and the days we can walk together I get so excited, I'll love halibuts and I want you to get me a big red one with a long string, but you might have to help me hold on to it and catch it for me if it blows away because I'll cry. But I know that you will dry my tears and make it better for me, won't you Mom?

I can't wait till I see my first really live animal — I'll probably be scared and reach out for your hand just to feel safe but I know that you'll be there for me because I love you and I know you'll love me.

Mom, you don't have to worry if we can't have fancy stuff because nothing anyone could ever buy me will take the place of your love. Why Mom, your smile is worth a hundred billion dollars and I'll bet nobody could buy me a smile as wonderful as yours.

My Mom — why there's no one in the whole world that will ever mean as much to me as you and you just wait till I come and I'll put my arms around you a million times and each time you'll know that there's no one I could ever love better.

Don't look so sad Mom — we can make it, because we'll be two together — I need you and you might not know it, Mom, but you need me too.

Some grown people think that a house or nice furniture or a planned holiday can take my place but that's not true. Why Mom, I'm worth more than any old house or trip. Why, I don't care if we don't have fancy stuff because I know that all the really important things in life don't cost any money at all.

Mom, without love, the nicest house in the world is just a collection of empty rooms — that's why I can't wait to be born so that we can learn all about love together.

Hey Mom, when you bake me some cookies that are hard as rocks because you haven't had much practice — I'll love them and I'll tell you're the "best baker" in the whole, wide world.

And Mom when you're tired and your hair is a mess and you haven't any makeup on and no smelly stuff and you have your old slacks on with the paint on the knees and the rip in the pocket I'll come up to you and say "Why Mom, you're beautiful." And to me there won't be any woman in the whole world as beautiful as my Mom.

You see how very special you are to me — I

Creating a downtown for people

The following report has been reprinted from a recent issue of Housing Ontario, a publication issued by the Ontario Ministry of Housing. It reports on one of the speakers who attended a recent downtown symposium held in Toronto.

The downtown as medieval marketplace — the downtown as theatre and spectacle — the downtown as community — a downtown for pedestrians, loiterers, window-shoppers — a downtown for people.

These are the things a downtown should be, according to a New York consultant with extensive experience in downtown revitalization.

Margaret Larsen, who says he owns New York neighborhood is a small, friendly town, told a workshop on the downtown as the centre of the community that urban planning is entering a revolutionary phase as it concentrates more on people than on the physical environment.

"People have been left out in most of the planning for a long time. We isolate people by function and qualifications — the elderly, young couples, children, professionals — we forget that they are all people who do many of the same things," Larsen said.

She said planners have isolated people out of our downtowns because they don't want their downtown "improvements" cluttered up with people, they don't want people to converge in the streets, they don't want them to wear down the grass in the parks.

"You can fall in love with your improvements and improve the downtown right out of the picture. Start laughing about your downtown and have fun with it," she urged.

Larsen said, the automobile is the single worst enemy of a vibrant downtown, causing planners to become obsessed with parking and traffic facilities to the detriment of pedestrian facilities.

"Forget about parking," she advised. "People will walk — they just think they won't. Just look at the energy they are willing to expend on such activities as jogging or fitness classes. People will be willing to walk around in a downtown worth going to even if there were few parking facilities."

Larsen said that we must make people see that the downtown as a community is a believable concept. This could be more easily achieved if we stopped concentrating on the problems of the downtown and concentrated on its more positive aspects.

"One of the great tools for this is to get people onto the street level. Some downtowns are becoming aware of themselves as a people place. Some streets resemble a medieval marketplace and we are seeing a re-creation of the long lost street life. We are beginning to understand that the street belongs to everyone."

Larsen noted that the real task in making a downtown vital is to make people move from the role of spectator to that of participant. This will happen when an individual is stimulated to discover that he too can open up a small business, sell his crafts at a corner stall, play his instrument in a street band.

"Action catalyzes action, and a vivid community is a great economic asset." She said business will not want to move out of the core into suburban malls when they perceive the downtown as a people place.

"The downtown has a unique social function. To many people, it is the appropriate place to live and work. The downtown is unity; suburbia is sterilized, fragmentary and categorized, with shopping placed here, other facilities there. The downtown must promote the loiterer, the windowshopper and itself as a spectacle."

"We must create a new idea of what a downtown is. We must re-examine every rule that hinders people from coming downtown. We must plan for now as well as 1985."

"The downtown has to talk 'people language.' Experts talk jargon about categories of people and categorizing isolates."

"We have to get people back on the streets, we have to try to make the downtown community an experience, we have to make it a complete place for the residents of a town or city," she urged.

Larsen said this reversal of attitude has been achieved in some cities and towns by holding large street events — dancing, contests, markets. She stressed throughout her talk that when people become involved in a downtown, the rest will follow and that urban renewal is as much spiritual as physical. She insisted our downtowns could be revitalized not only by planners becoming concerned for people and welcoming them into the core areas, but also by the ordinary citizens insisting on their vision of a more vibrant, people-oriented downtown.

"You have to have the guts to get what you want," she told an appreciative audience.

I love you Mom.

the HERALD
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