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Let us see the proof

Residents of Acton who wish to save and restore their old town hall have our complete sympathy and support in this worthwhile endeavour.

For a town as old as Acton not to have a visible monument to its heritage — and the town hall is the last remaining structure of that heritage — surely would be an injustice to those who made the town and those who are going to make the town.

Common sense

Two weeks of heavy snow and icy roads seems to have brought out the worst thoughtfulness and insolence buried in Georgetown's student population as they saunter down main roads side by side seemingly daring drivers to avoid hitting them.

Drivers don't blame students for not using uncles' sidewalks if they would walk in single file. It's their arrogance and or trust in a driver's ability to make unexpected stops on roads so treacherous that even premeditated stops don't always work. The prospect is frightening.

Maybe it's time for a little common sense.

The citizens of Acton have plenty of hard work before them to raise the estimated \$236,000 needed to restore the building to a standard they can be proud of and put the structure at the focal point of life in the town. And the key to raising this great sum surely must be in co-operation.

But to this end remarks by the chairman of the town hall restoration committee that "...regional government is something more than an insensitive dictatorship by a majority whose goal is destruction of Acton as an identifiable and independent personality in its own historic right" ... cannot be regarded by anyone as designed to come closer to the goal. In fact, the tasteless comment has had just the opposite effect in that local politicians appear loathe to deal with someone capable of such insensitivity and tactlessness.

And if indeed there is "an insensitive dictatorship" ... whose goal is destruction of Acton ... The Herald will be glad to print the proof of it. It would be our duty to do so. But we believe that there is no such thing and never was and that unless the chairman can prove such allegations, the people of Acton, who want to see their town hall brought back to life in a thriving community of which they can be proud, the chairman would be serving them well by stepping down.

Heart disease, stroke - a \$2 billion problem

These days, most Canadians are aware of the better-known facts about heart disease and stroke. They know that these are diseases of the heart and circulation system and that the major cause of both is hardening of the arteries, particularly the heart's own coronary arteries and the arteries of the brain. They know that heart disease and stroke kill more Canadians each year than all other causes of death combined and that more than 2½ million Canadians have some form of these diseases.

Not so widely-known, perhaps, is the fact that heart disease and stroke cost the Canadian economy well over 2 billion dollars each year and this only in those costs that can be measured with some degree of accuracy. Because of the lack of adequate information on private hospitals, nursing homes, nursing services and other factors, many costs have been omitted. Nor is there a way to measure the emotional and financial drain on a family when a member is affected or the cost to business and industry of highly-trained men and women whose careers are prematurely ended by heart attack or stroke. Because of these omissions, the 2 billion dollar figure is grossly underestimated.

How is the 2 billion dollar figure arrived at? Based on a two year study supported by the Canadian Heart Foundation and headed by a prominent economist, it is estimated that lost wages and production account for over one billion dollars and, of course, there is a corresponding loss to provincial and federal governments in taxation. Another 800 million dollars is accounted for by hospital services, while physician services and medications account for the comparatively minor sums of 190 and 120 million dollars respectively. This then is the annual cost to the Canadian economy of our major health problem.

Because of this financial, emotional and health burden, the Canadian Heart Foundation were created during the last twenty years and are now matched by national foundations in many other countries with similar problems. All have one objective in mind - the elimination of heart disease and stroke as causes of premature death and disability. This has given rise to intensive research programmes to find the causes, cures and means of preventing them.

In Canada, our research scientists have made outstanding contributions which far exceed anything we might have expected from a comparatively small scientific community and the research dollars available to it. Among the advances pioneered in Canada are:

- pacemakers, which control irregular heart rhythm;
- coronary artery transplants to improve blood supply to the heart's own muscle;
- replacement of damaged heart valves by human valves;
- coronary care units in hospitals, which

have reduced the death rate among those admitted to hospital after heart attacks, by 30 per cent or more;

- a surgical procedure to correct one of the major defects resulting in "blue babies"; and
- hypothermia, a technique for lowering body temperatures which allowed the first limited surgical entry to the heart.

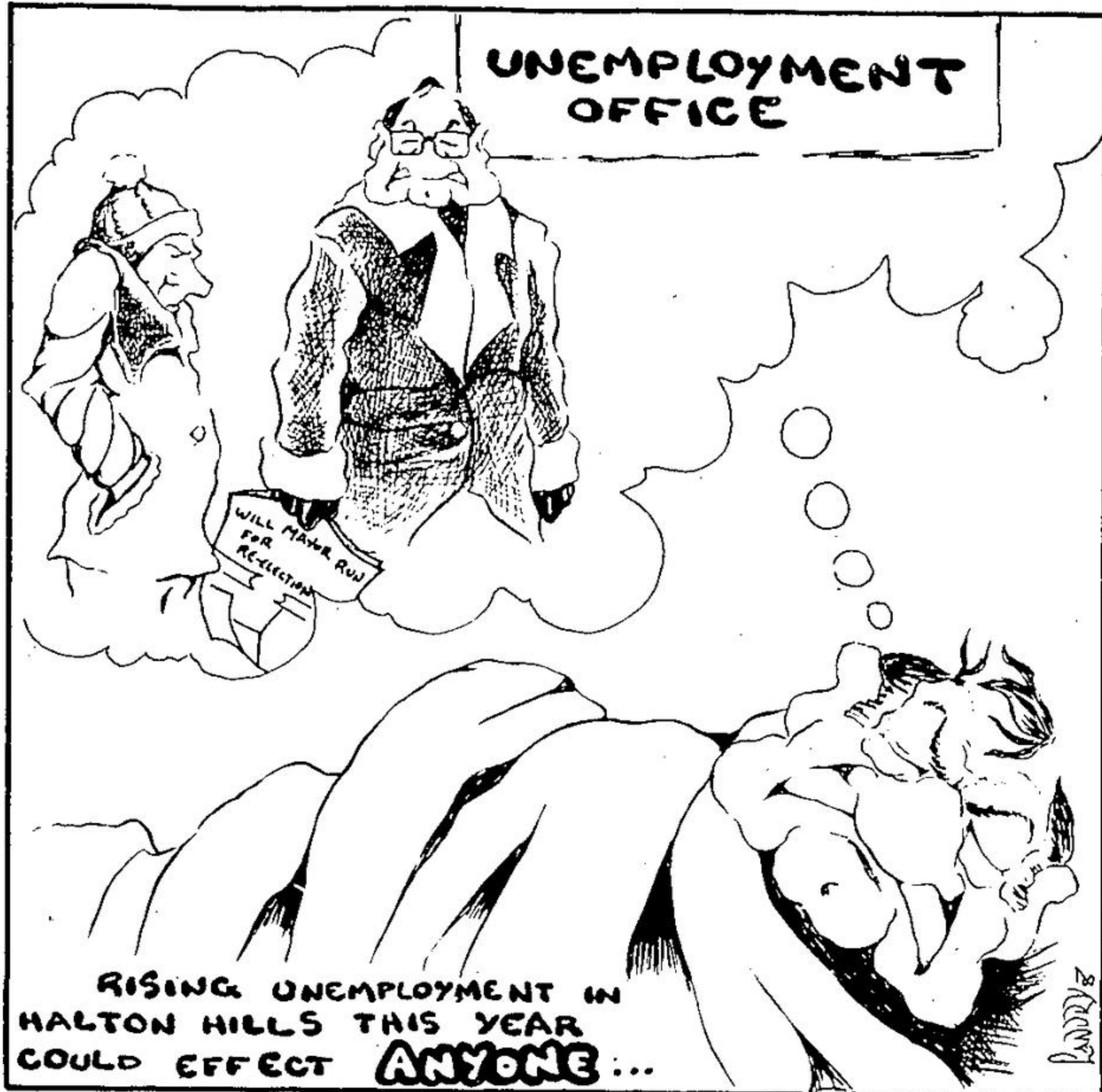
An additional dividend has been that the level of excellence in our scientific community has enabled us to benefit quickly from research advances made in other countries. These include heart-lung machines which made open-heart surgery possible, artificial heart valves, organ transplants, artery grafts, prevention of rheumatic heart disease, cardiac catheterization, angiography, arteriography and new techniques for treating stroke and reducing disability. Finally, research has helped identify those risk factors which play an important role in the susceptibility to heart attack and stroke and this has opened up the possibility of reducing the present toll of premature death and disability.

As a result of the successes in research outlined above, the emphasis has primarily turned to the two main problems still facing us, hardening of the arteries and high blood pressure. These conditions are the major factors in heart attack, and stroke and about 80 per cent of our total heart research effort in Canada is now concentrated on them. Significant progress is being made and, in some areas, we appear to be close to breakthroughs of major importance.

In the area of stroke research, encouraging progress is being made towards improved treatment and possible prevention through the use of drugs and surgery. Currently, we are achieving greater knowledge of the basic mechanism of high blood pressure on the one hand and the means of improving patient compliance on the other. These are essential elements in controlling this important factor.

Exciting developments have also been taking place in studies of drugs inhibiting the accumulation of platelets and plaques in the blood vessel walls - the prelude to heart attack and stroke. One of the drugs being studied is the common aspirin. Important work is also being done in several centres on the problem of heart rhythm irregularities and sudden death and the development of improved non-invasive techniques for early detection of various heart conditions.

So the battle goes on. On the one hand we have the implacable enemy - the group of diseases referred to as heart disease and stroke, affecting one in four of our adult population and causing too much premature death and disability. On the other hand, we have a dedicated group of scientists, mostly supported by public donations to the Heart Fund, seeking the answers to the remaining problems. If the results of the past are any indication of success, we would appear to have a reasonable chance of controlling heart disease and stroke in the foreseeable future.



What happened to Peter Pan?

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH
Whatever happened to that bubbly chubby-handed little fellow who came running in with a slightly crumpled book shouting gleefully "Dog, Mommy, See dog"? Where did that soft bundle of curls that holds an affinity for his favourite story while dragging Teddy by one paw with the other hand and shouting "Read to me now Daddy - ready to me Peter Pan?"

These little people, tiny bundles of perpetual motion of energy and curiosity that climb into cupboards and undo screws in the darndest places, whirling swirls of motion that greet each day as though part bionic person pumped to an overflow with Geritol and Finstones - eager open minds that soak up as sponges everything in sight.

Little human beings in miniature, small size versions of mommy and daddy whose favourite words are: "Look - See - Show Me. Show me mommy." "Show me daddy."

What happens between five years of age and sixteen? What takes place inside of these small people so eager to learn, so enthusiastic, so open to sight, taste, sound and smells and touching? When do the words "I hate school, I hate it! I don't want to go - don't make me!" When do these words first appear?

Our most valuable resource, our only resource of any consequence, is our children - why do we let them down so badly?

What terrible tragedy takes place that turns the only human quality worth living for - the ability to feel inside, to enjoy, the spark of something within the human soul that shouts "I want to know, I want to understand, I want to learn!" - what destroys this?

What blight of crawling malignancy, what loathsome growth destroys the joy of learning, the eagerness, the delight, the enthusiasm - the love?

At five this tiny human being is sent from a warm safe home where he or she is very special. Away from home to look up in awe and terror at a great stone building that towers over him. The new pupil looks at all the new faces, the rooms, the desks, and the figure of authority at the head of the class and assumes a new role - that of **STUDENT**.
What horrible blight lays hidden in those early years that will later raise its ugly head in smashed classrooms and headlines that read:

Vandalism cause \$50,000 damage.
Geography teacher's heart breaks as lifetime works destroyed.

Teachers slain in pool of blood.
Waterfountains hacked from wall in vicious hatchet attack.

What do you say to a teacher that looks on a lifetime of notes and a personal semiprecious rock collection smashed with a mallet?

Where from that bubbling energetic little toddler crying out to learn to the despondent fourteen year old who hates school - hates teachers - hates everything - hates life: Where and when does this lethal transition take place?

Does part of the answer lie in our factory system of schooling? In the morning... knowledge dispensed quickly and promptly, no time to explain - study it tonight - move on to the next class - hurry up you're late for science - 2 pages by Monday - take it in, digest it - quick on to your next class - hurry along there, math is next - you don't understand - hurry up - move along next page - YOU

DON'T UNDERSTAND - You don't understand REJECT - REJECT. DROP-OUT DROP-OUT.

Where do we go wrong, what has happened to the quality of knowledge - not the statistic that tells us university students can't read, but the quality - the desire to read because reading gives so much. Every human emotion can be brought into play through the reading of one book or another.

Why should a culture and society such as ours have sub-standard schools? Schools that look pretty, that have the latest in equipment; carpeting, audio-visual aids - trips, everything - everything but "teach", everything but dispense knowledge.

Our schools turn out functional illiterates. Our schools turn out drop-outs at a higher rate than graduates.

Professor Eugene F. Provenzo Jr. who has degrees in education a mile long behind his name and who is at present the assistant Professor of Educational Psychology at University of Miami asks the following in return:

"Have you ever faced a class of spaced-out students on marijuana or booze?" "Do you know what it's like to feel helpless both as an educator and as an adult within the classroom?"

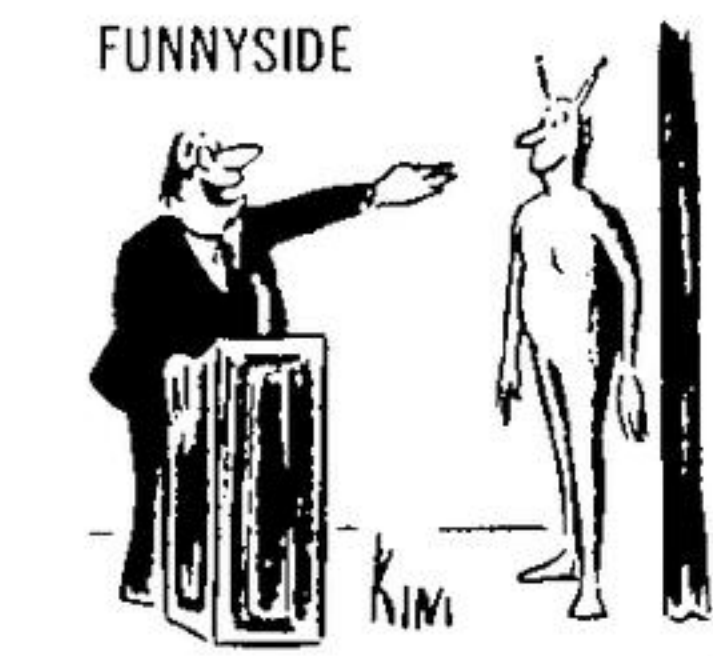
More leaning goes on in the washroom and in the halls than in the classroom. But knowing about Acapulco Gold, roach holders, Angel Dust or how to trip out won't get anyone through life - life in the sense of the excitement and passion for knowledge and the rewards it can bring. Life in the sense of fulfillment that comes from completion of

one's goals of excitement from learning as a lifelong experience - one is a life killer the other a life giver.

It's much easier for a teacher to flip on a film and tune out than to reach out and strive for a specific teaching goal or objective.

But the end result is always the same. If you're a student reading this, do you really care anymore? If you're a politician, does our school system mean anything more to you than a large tax collector - do you really care? If you're a teacher, is each day a succession of tranquilizers and a longing for 4 o'clock? If you're a parent, do you just let it all keep happening? Who really gives a damn?

"I don't really give a damn" - the last pathetic outcry of a dying culture and civilization?



Looking through our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO
A new clerk-treasurer-tax-collector for Georgetown will be chosen next Monday night at the regular council meeting. Nine applicants applied for the position which carries a salary of \$2,000 yearly.

Coun. Whittee asked how the situation stood regarding widening the John Street subway at council on Monday night, and was told that almost all evidence had been collected for the town's claim that it was the railway's responsibility.

The treasurer reviewed the 1947 statement of the inaugural school board meeting last week. The statement showed expenditures of \$22,044, of which \$14,200 had been contributed by local taxation. Teachers' salaries amount to \$13,751 and this will be increased by over \$5,000 this year, due to the hiring of two new teachers and the adoption of a salary schedule which granted substantial increases to all staff members.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
Herald staffer Dave Hastings, 24 John St. E. is the new president of the Georgetown Brass and Reed Band. He was elected to the office on Jan. 7, when the band held its annual business meeting.

Police were kept busy conducting investigations over the weekend in connection with a rash of break-ins locally in which nine attempts were reported. However, in most

cases, nothing was taken. A quantity of merchandise valued at over \$1,500 was stolen from Kirkwood Hardware, Norval, on the night of Jan. 16 or early the next morning.

Twenty-seven members of No. 5 Company, Civil Defence Auxiliary police took their oath of office at a swearing-in ceremony in Knox Church Hall here on Jan. 14. Others of the 65-man company had been sworn in at a ceremony in Hamilton a year ago.

TEN YEARS AGO
Large scale development of residential land in the south-easterly part of town will not receive further council consideration until March at least. The landowner, Brumac (Metro Halton Developments), asked council to release the land for building recently, offering half a million dollars in cash plus other concessions for the release.

Georgetown Council hired a clerk-administrator on Monday, but the appointment is subject to a meeting with council's number 1 committee, to discuss and draw up a list of duties before he accepts the position. Esqueting Township is still interested in continuing an arrangement with Georgetown by which the town's volunteer fire department serves part of the township. Alarmed at an increased charge last year, Esqueting advertised for tenders for a firehall and discussed forming its own rural department.

Federal cabinet needs help

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

The announcement by Justice Minister Ron Basford that he will retire from politics at the next election merely underscores the point — that Prime Minister Trudeau must recruit some heavyweight cabinet material from English Canada.

With Basford's departure, Trudeau will have only six cabinet ministers who served in his first cabinet back in 1968. And considering the fact there are 32 ministries, this represents a high attrition rate over a nine-year period.

And what makes the situation even more serious is the fact that the prime minister has lost most of the influential and outspoken voices from outside Quebec. Officials at Liberal headquarters are known to be concerned.

The only holdovers from Trudeau's first cabinet are Privy Council President Allan MacEachen, External Affairs Minister Don Jamieson, Treasury Board President Robert Andras, Transport Minister Otto Lang and Finance Minister Jean Chretien. The other 26 have cabinet experience ranging from eight years to a few months.

And it doesn't require any degrees in political science to conclude that the prime minister does not believe the cabinet strength that he enjoys — or perhaps he didn't enjoy it — back in 1968. This is one reason why efforts are being made to recruit prominent Canadians for the next election.

LONG LIST

Since he assumed office, Trudeau has lost three different finance ministers, all of them valuable members of his government. Edgar Benson quit to head the Canadian Transport Commission, John Turner resigned to practice law in Toronto, and Donald Macdonald recently left the cabinet for personal reasons.

The list is a long one. Eric Kierans, a refreshingly open voice in that first cabinet, left politics feeling frustrated because he had been under-used. Bryce Mackasey left Ottawa to fight separatists in Quebec City. Jack Davis went back to British Columbia to enter provincial politics. George McCallum went on to his senatorial reward, Mitchell Sharp left cabinet for still-unknown rewards, and Paul Martin, after a decent interval in the Senate, went on to become Canadian high commissioner in London.

And there are more. Such ministers as Herb Gray and Robert Stanbury were unceremoniously dropped from cabinet, and others including Pat Hellyer and Bud Olson were defeated at the polls.

Often the available replacements appeared to be second stringers. When James Richardson quit as defence minister, in opposition to the government's language policies, the only other Liberal from Manitoba was Joe Guay. So, by geographic necessity, he became a minister and he happily discovered that "you don't have to be a brain wave to be in cabinet."

NO EMOTIONS

It's difficult to know how Trudeau regards his revolving cabinet these days. He has never displayed any emotions over resignations, and even when he lost such right-hand men as Paul Hellyer and John Turner he said casually that he was sorry to see them go and that he wished them well. There was no public hand-wringing.

One minister was looking back on the 1968 cabinet and fondly recalled the spirited arguments that developed over economic and financial policies. "You had people like Kierans, Turner, Hellyer, Benson and Sharp all with strong feelings on economic issues, and if the bureaucrats were going to get anything through cabinet they really had to do their homework."

He had another observation to make. "It seemed there used to be more politicians in those days with a gut instinct for what would work and what wouldn't. People like George McCallum and Bud Drury were uncanny in knowing what the public wanted and didn't want."

Party officials are hopeful that at least half a dozen prominent Canadians can be coaxed to run for the Liberals in the next general election. Among the names being mentioned is Dr. John Evans, retiring president of the University of Toronto.

And if all goes according to plan, they would be offering themselves to Trudeau's "national unity team," all ready to take on René Lévesque. What's equally important for the Liberals is that the cabinet would get a badly-needed facelift.

Bible Digest

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner." Acts 4:11 In building your life, don't bypass the only one who can really put it together with the real substance and security. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing."

A swing to congressional government

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

You almost certainly haven't noticed, for it is not a development that is glaring or readily apparent, but there has been some trend here to swing from the British parliamentary system to the U.S. congressional system of government.

Not perhaps too far. There has been nothing at all, for example, in the way of a move towards separating the executive branch away from the elected branch, of making the cabinet

non-elected and not responsible to parliament as is the case with the U.S. government and congress.

But there have been some actions and indications of others, which has moved us a bit towards U.S. procedures.

MORE SCOPE

One has been the growth in number and scope of committees.

As television viewers well know committees play a very big part in the U.S. system and have very wide powers.

Historically under our system our committees have been much more formal and

restrained.

But that has been changing. Select committees of the Ontario legislature have been engaging counsel and other experts and have been conducting very probing inquiries.

Now there is a strong pressure to give standing committees, which only convene when the House is meeting, the power to sit all year and be provided with permanent staff along the lines of that available to select committees.

Private member's business has been another development.

Last year, for the first time, private

members' bills were brought to a vote, which meant they could actually become law.

Most significant, the vote on them is free. The members aren't obliged to, and don't, vote on party lines but rather according to their individual consciences.

The free vote, of course, is one of the great hallmarks of the U.S. system.

ADDING SYSTEM

Finally, there was a threatened effort last spring to get a move for action on the Reed Ltd. situation through the Ontario House by tacking a clause on a bill which was quite unrelated to it.

And this, of course, is strictly a U.S.

practice. A representative, for example, will get something he wants by adding a clause for it so some unrelated legislation and making acceptance of it has price for compliance with the main legislation.

The move here in the spring didn't succeed, perhaps principally because the Liberals didn't agree with the New Democratic Party on it.

But in a minority House, where the combined opposition can over-rule both the government and Mr. Speaker, if such a situation should arise again it might well go through and we would have another U.S. legislative practice added to our system.

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