

# Report from Parliament Hill

Legislation to establish a program giving income tax credits to employers, who hire people additional to normal staff needs, was introduced in the House of Commons on Jan. 24, by Finance Minister Jean Chretien.

The purpose of the Employment Tax Credit Program is to encourage employers to hire additional workers, thus reducing unemployment without further escalating inflation. The target for the plan is up to 50,000 new jobs during the first year.

Since Mr. Chretien announced the government's in-

tention to develop an employment credit plan last October 20th, the government has been studying various programs including one suggested approach from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. The plan, that has been decided upon, works as follows. An employer who decides to hire people under the Employment Tax Credit Program will first advise the nearest local Manpower Office. The employer is expected to attest that the jobs being created are ones that would not have been possible without the incentive of the tax credit.

Auditing will be done to check for abuses.

All persons hired must be referred to the employer by the local Manpower Office. Only persons who have been out of work for eight weeks or more will be eligible. It is hoped that the tax credit incentive will not only encourage employers to hire new people, but that once they have become a part of the company, they will be retained after the end of the subsidy.

In order to aim the program where it is needed most, the maximum \$2.00 hourly credit per new employee will apply only in areas of high unemployment, that is, those areas such as Newfoundland, which now qualify for the maximum 10 per cent rate under the Investment Tax Credit Program which encourages development of industry.

Participating employees in the Brampton area will receive a credit of \$1.50 per new employee. To be eligible for up to nine months assistance and a maximum of 40 hours per week, the jobs offered must be full-time and must last at least three months. Thus, in the Brampton area, an employer could earn a total tax credit of \$2,340 per employee under this plan.

Tax credits may be used by the companies involved to offset federal income tax owing, or held for up to five years against future federal income tax liabilities.

I am further encouraged by the feasibility of this program since the credit will count as taxable income and thus will be of the greatest benefit to small companies that pay lower corporate tax rates than major firms. For example, a firm paying the top corporate tax rate of 46 per cent could get a maximum net benefit for nine months of up to \$1,685 per job, while a firm with a 25 per cent tax rate would net up to \$2,340.

I am very encouraged by this program on two counts—the benefits it provides participating employees and the new job sources that will be made available to those seeking employment. I trust that various employers in our Riding will wish to participate in the Employment Tax Credit Program which is expected to begin

March 31, 1978. Consequently, interested persons should contact their local Manpower Office in Brampton, Orangeville or Barrie in three weeks. As well, if it can be of service to any of you to make full use of this program in our Riding, please do not hesitate to contact me at my constituency office at the Bramalea City Centre (459-1818).

Fuller production and increased employment opportunities will be of benefit to all of us. This program helps fulfill both objectives.

This, and other programs of government assistance will be

discussed at a seminar on "Assistance to Small Business", to be held at Sheridan College, Wednesday, February 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. I have arranged this seminar in co-operation with the Brampton Board of Trade and Sheridan College, to answer the variety of questions I receive from small businessmen. The Honourable Anthony Abbott, Minister of State for Small Business will be one of the speakers. I urge you to attend to learn from the variety of experts who will be present to answer your questions and offer you new ideas.

## Campers tie Streetsville lose to Oakville

The Georgetown North Halton Sports Camp Novice Reps tied Streetsville 1-1 and lost to Oakville 4-2 in action last week.

The line of Mark Zebede, Jamie Spiller and Terry Dixon played very well in the Streetsville game. Although Zebede and Dixon set up Dixon for several good scoring chances the line came away empty.

There was no scoring in the opening period. Streetsville opened the scoring early in the middle frame on Terry Willis' goal.

Late in the period Craig Chamler, Georgetown's big scorer, tied the game up on a solo effort.

Both teams played it tight in the final period with neither club managing to score a

deciding goal. Jamie Warnock and Peter Atherley played exceptionally well on the Georgetown defense.

The Campers opened the scoring in the loss to Oakville. Mark Moody, from Spiller, tallied before the game was two minutes old. Oakville came back on goals by Jim Sproth and Gurdy Lucasen to take the lead before the period was out.

Georgetown scored the only marker of the second period to notch the score at 2-2. Dixon was the marksman with defencemen Atherley and Dennis Doucette earning assists.

The final period was all Oakville as they took the victory on two goals by Robert Zammer. The Campers will play Brampton this week.

## Police beat

A Tweed Street resident was arrested after allegedly assaulting a resident of Willow Park in Norval last weekend.

The man is alleged to have entered the Norval man's trailer and assaulted him by hitting him on the arm with a 12-inch iron handle. He left the scene of the incident, but was later found and charged.

The only incident reported last Friday, following one of Ontario's most serious blizzards ever, was the theft of an

engagement ring from a gym bag. The theft took place in the change room at the Acton Swimming Pool.

Unknown vandals broke several glass doors in the Limehouse Public School some time between 1 p.m. on Jan. 28 and 5 p.m. on Jan. 29.

An employee at Milton Provincial Jail reports that someone stole eight full three-quart jugs of milk from the visitor's areas in the jail.

## Book review

### Delightful essay collection

By R. L. GORDON

To ask me to write a review of E. B. White's latest book—*Essays of E. B. White*, Fitzhenry and Whiteside Ltd., 272 pages, \$15—is roughly equivalent to asking an enthusiastic high-school football player to pass critical judgment on Joe Namath's performance in a Bowl game.

This is a truly wise and delightful collection of 31 essays ranging in subject from the death of a dog on his Maine farm to a fascinating and often moving description of the New York City he knew well during his many years as editor of *The New Yorker*.

In his forward he says of this latter piece: "The city I described has disappeared and another city has emerged in its place—one that I'm not familiar with. But I remember the former one with longing and love."

There is much here that E. B. White remembers "with longing and love"—his neighbors in the small, rural Maine community of Orland, his arthritic dachshund, his Model T Ford, his 48th St. apartment, his tea dances at the Ritz.

In recalling such things with candor and humor, he wel-

comes us into his world with gentleness but never effusive hospitality, inviting us to share his pleasure.

**SECRET OF ART**  
The true art of the essayist is to make the very ordinary a source of high entertainment or to make us see in the common place a significance we had not perceived before.

The greatest practitioners of the art—Bacon, Lamb, Hazlitt, Montaigne and others—have achieved this without making their readers feel like rather dull pupils sitting open-mouthed at the feet of a condescending savant.

E. B. White belongs in this company. He says to us: "Isn't this fun and isn't this interesting!"

He is our guide on a wide-ranging tour of time and place and experience, but he is never a tour guide, telling us to assemble at nine o'clock in the lobby to be instructed on what to think about what we are to see.

It is the person who has never skinned a fish, hung a door, picked apples, ridden a surfboard, chopped down a tree or written an essay who, observing the experts, thinks to himself: "I could do that. It doesn't look all that difficult."

## Rural shelter belts

Because of the increasing concern about the cost of energy and its supply, rural homeowners should consider establishing shelter belts around their homes.

Using trees to deflect the winds of winter can save hundreds of dollars and will reduce the demand for fuel, says Burke McNeill, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food extension horticulturist.

Although there are many types of trees suitable for shelter, Mr. McNeill recommends evergreens such as spruce and pine.

But because these trees are slow growing, poplar and willow trees are often used to provide quick shelter until the evergreens are large enough to do the job.

Trees selected for windbreaks should have as many of the following characteristics as possible: rapid growth, hardness to excessive wind and sun, good branch retention from top to bottom of stem, long life expectancy, resistance to insects and diseases, good branch density, and pleasing appearance.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources offers trees for windbreaks. To obtain more

information on this program contact local offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

## Rumour denied

Rumours that Georgetown senior citizen's apartments scheduled for completion shortly will not be filled have been firmly denied by the chairman of the tenet placement committee for the Halton Housing Authority.

Dolly Molden says that there will be 89 units in the completed building and the committee already has 87 names on its list of applicants.

"And there'll be 870 more come out of the woodwork the minute they hear the place is open," she says.

Asked whether Acton seniors would be allowed to move into the building if they wanted to do so she declined to comment saying that while there is a policy on such matters it was not an issue she wished to discuss.

Christa Hale of the Ontario Housing Corporation could not be reached to give a date on the expected completion of the Georgetown building.

## Hydro demand down in Dec.

Ontario Hydro's December 1977 peak power demand was 1,000 megawatts below the level forecast a year ago, Hydro president Doug Gordon has said.

"Similarly, energy use (expressed in megawatt-hours) was up just over 2 per cent over 1976 compared with the usual annual increases of 6 to 7 per cent," he said in Toronto recently.

Commenting on the general power supply situation in 1977, Mr. Gordon said demand for electricity seems to reflect general economic conditions, and 1977 was no exception.

"The state of the economy appears to be the major factor responsible for the drop in demand figures, and when the economy recovers, those figures, and when the economy recovers, those figures will again tend to increase. But it seems safe to say that there is another factor at play as well."

He said a portion of the dip in demand last year could be attributed to people reacting to price increases and conservation efforts generally. "Although we don't know how great a portion," and this portion could be permanent.

"The 1977 figures may be a short-term aberration in our historical load growth pattern due to economic conditions, but they could also be an indication of a new and continuing trend toward a go slow, conservation conscious."

On the supply side, Hydro was in good shape as it hit the winter peak period. Six units at Nantawake were running at full power, producing a total of 3,000 megawatts, two were operating at Bruce and a third was in the commissioning mode; and Pickering, the world's most reliable nuclear plant—turned in another gold medal performance for 1977, Mr. Gordon said.

He explained that in order to make use of large amounts of economical Bruce power, Hydro was operating above normal transmission limits on its 230 kv lines from the Bruce complex.

"We can chance it under ideal conditions, but in poor weather conditions (high winds or rain) we would have to cut back to the 1,400 to 1,700 megawatt range."

"Operating in this high risk mode could result in automatic rejection from the system of one or two of the Bruce units. One circuit did trip out on December 30 but was restored instantaneously and the unit stayed in service. The next time we might not be so fortunate," Mr. Gordon explained.

If a unit is rejected and has to shut down, Hydro could incur costs of \$9,000 an hour through the use of coal-fired equipment while the Bruce unit is being restarted.

To guard against the possibility of new fish diseases being introduced into Ontario hatcheries, the eggs are being examined by University of Guelph pathologists. To date, no evidence of any disease organisms has been found.

Mr. Miller said his ministry is giving the potential disease problem top priority.

"In the last three years, three of our hatcheries were closed temporarily and disinfectant to destroy disease organisms," he said.

## Pacific salmon in lake

The stocking of Pacific salmon will continue in Lake Ontario until the rainbow trout and lake trout are in sufficient numbers to sustain a worthwhile fishery. Natural Resources Minister Frank S. Miller said today.

"The aim of the Ministry is to increase rainbow trout and to re-establish the lake trout in Lake Ontario," Mr. Miller said.

"If and when stocking of these game fish produces an acceptable fishery, we will stop stocking salmon. However, this is not likely to happen for some years."

Fish culture section supervisor Chris Armstrong believes there is little probability the salmon will seriously compete with naturally reproducing native or established species already in the lake and tributary streams.

"Very limited natural reproduction of salmon occurs in some Michigan and Ontario streams," he said. "Rainbow trout still far outnumbered young salmon in such streams as Wilmet Creek, near Newcastle, while young unmarked salmon are rarely seen."

Introductions of Pacific salmon in the Great Lakes around the turn of the century were unsuccessful. When hatchery stocking stopped, the species died out after several generations on their own, Mr. Armstrong added.

Natural Resources staff collected nearly a million coho eggs and a half million chinook eggs from the Credit River and Bronte Creek this fall.

Only about 200,000 yearling coho smalts are needed to sustain a good fishery. However, the extra coho and chinook eggs were collected as insurance in case of high mortalities which can be caused by contaminants (PCBs, Mirex) or potential fish diseases in the adult salmon from which eggs were collected. Any extra coho and chinook which survive will be stocked as fry this coming spring.

Although this is the first time Ontario has raised salmon eggs collected from its own waters, Mr. Armstrong is optimistic that the results of this fall's efforts will reward Lake Ontario anglers in the not too distant future with continued good chinook and coho catches.

"I say for the last time because it occurred to me early in the proceedings that this was our first adoption in which there was a strong likelihood that the dog would survive the man. It had always been the other way round."

"The garden had never seemed so beautiful. We were both up early the next morning for a final look at the fresh, untroubled scene; then we checked out hastily, sped to the kennel, and claimed our prize, who is the grandson of an animal named Direct Stretch of the Walls. He turned out to be a good traveler, and except for an interruption caused by my wife's falling out of the car in Gardiner, the journey went very well."

"At present, I am a sojourner in the city again, but here in the green warmth of a city backyard I see only the countenance of spring in the country. No matter what changes take place in the world, or in me, nothing ever seems to disturb the face of spring."

I could go on at much greater length, so keen is my admiration, but it would be far better for you to buy the book and experience it for yourself. White says in the forward that he has chosen the essays for their "odor of durability." They will, I am sure, endure as long as there is a market for civilized reflections on this crazy world we share.

Richard L. Gordon, a novelist living in Sumnerland, B.C., has contributed to *The New Yorker*.

—Thomson News Service.

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