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Mustering forces in the Senate

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

As the British learned during the darkest days of the Second World War, the fight for survival can bring out a remarkable fighting spirit in people. It's truly amazing how we can muster those inner resources in the face of death.

Now just take the Senate. With the

Trudeau government swinging the executioner's sword in their direction, honorable senators were expected to face their fate with scarcely a whimper. But their reaction brings back memories of those stoic stands during the war.

The senators are not only prepared to fight, they are equally prepared to give up a slice of their summer holidays to do so. And that, by anyone's standards, is senatorial

heroism at its finest.

Many senators had already signed up for the battle by offering their services on a joint Senate-Commons committee to study the government's constitutional proposals. This committee will get to work next month, travelling the country to solicit viewpoints on the proposals which, among other things, would replace the existing Senate with a new creation called the House of the Federation.

The \$31,000-a-year senators have, understandably, more than a passing interest in this irritating innovation.

The joint committee will, one presumes, leave no stone unturned in its search for justification of such a dastardly development.

BACKUP FORCE

But just in case, I see the senators now have decided they should have another committee — composed entirely of themselves — to examine the same question. And at least 28 senators had volunteered to make the supreme sacrifice by serving on this committee.

"I can't recall ever seeing so many volunteers," exclaimed a Senate employee. "It will make it easier to get a quorum."

The chairman of this august body will be Senator Richard Stanbury, an Ontario Liberal. His deputy chairman will be Senator Jacques Flynn, a Quebec Tory. And while I didn't want to bother either of them on the eve of such a massive undertaking — I see that phone generals before the battle — I see that Senator Stanbury discounts all suggestions that his corps of volunteers might be motivated by personal interests.

"He was clearly nettled at the suggestion in an interview that the senators on the constitution committee might be guided by their own interest in survival," reported one newspaper. "It would be a great small-minded senator who permitted his own personal position to govern his judgment," was his conclusion.

Naturally I wouldn't dare to disagree with that assessment. But I must admit to being just a trifle curious about this sudden, totally objective, senatorial interest in constitutional reform. The way things are shaping up, we could have half of the 94 senators doing front-line committee duty during the scorching heat of August.

EPIC STRUGGLE

And there hasn't been a senatorial assault like that since another special committee spent 2½ years trying to decide how to redecorate the Senate chamber. You see, the senators have been distracted for years by eight large paintings depicting the First World War, so this committee was struck to recommend repairs to the chamber. But after endless arguments involving the relative merits of new paintings, tapestries, stained glass windows and new, ornate visitors galleries — who knows, someone might drop in unexpectedly — nothing ever happened.

Anyway, that was just a minor scrimmage. What senators now face is a large-minded fight for the very survival of an institution — not to be confused with a petty-minded fight for personal survival — and within days the thundering oratory of this epic struggle will reverberate across the land.

If honorable senators, like the beleaguered British, can muster those mysterious inner resources that win historic battles, they will go on to fight another day for such spoils as stained glass windows. If they lose this one, the problem won't arise.

HIT GOSSIP

For what it's worth, all the political gossip around Ottawa these days points decidedly toward a fall general election.

It may not be worth too much, since all the gossip four months ago pointed to a spring election. And three months ago it pointed to an early-summer election.

And, of course, we have that helpful hint from Prime Minister Trudeau that we should all keep our thoughts on an election for spring, 1979.

However, there is no point in ignoring the current chatter and there is no doubt that all political parties are thinking in terms of a fall vote. Conservative Party President Robert Coates goes as far as to say it would be "obscene" for Trudeau not to call such an election.

"I can think of a dozen reasons why there should be an election this year," says a cabinet minister. "But I can't think of a single reason why the prime minister should wait until next spring." He assumes the same thoughts occur to Trudeau.

The prime minister must call an election before next July, and by waiting until the last moment he would close out all his opinions, leaving his party at the mercy of the unpredictable public opinion polls. He could also leave himself open to charges that he is afraid to go to the people.

And prime ministers have always indicated a distinct distaste for these suggestions.

BYE-ELECTIONS PENDING

Should Trudeau decide, for his own reasons, to wait until next spring, it will mean that eight bye-elections will be held, as scheduled, on Oct. 16. And, it is argued, if the government is going to put its popularity on the line in such a mini-election it's just as well to pull the plug for a real election.

The eight ridings involved wouldn't particularly appreciate two elections within, say, eight months.

Despite hearty denials from Liberal officials, the final decision likely rests with public opinion surveys now underway. The next Gallup Poll will be out in a few weeks, and so will a specially-commissioned Liberal Party survey that will never be made public in detail.

The feeling at our party headquarters, says the pollster, is that we will have an election providing we are at least neck-and-neck with the Tories.

For the last couple of months, the Liberals have been heartened by the poll results. Following a remarkable upsurge by the Tories early in the year, the two parties, in April, were tied with 41 per cent of the committed voters. The following month, the Liberals edged up two percentage points while the Tories slipped back to 38 per cent.

And then last month, the Tories fell back another two points to 37 while the Liberals hung on at 43 per cent.

Good work

Georgetown's downtown business improvement area (BIA) executive should be complimented on the manner in which it has worked diligently to pass its five year improvement plan through the red tape associated with approvals at various stages.

Traffic islands part of the overall scheme to improve Main Street will

DID YOU KNOW?

BY JARVIS

Pierre L'Enfant

In 1791, FRENCH ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER WAS GIVEN THE COMMISSION TO DESIGN THE NEW CAPITAL CITY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. HE HAD DISAGREEMENTS WITH GEORGE WASHINGTON WHO HAD WANTED THE CITY TO BE LAYED OUT IN A SQUARE. L'ENFANT'S PLAN WAS ADOPTED AS WASHINGTON, D.C. PLANS. HE LATER WAS AWARDED A SENATORIAL POSITION IN THE SENATE FOR HIS SERVICES IN DESIGNING THE CITY.



LIONS

RECENT FEEL GROWTH AT AGE 5 ON 6, AND OFTEN LIVE 25 YEARS IN CAPTIVITY. A QUALITY OF THE HEART DOESN'T STOP AN ANIMAL FROM STOPPING AT A SIGHT. THE HEART WILL DROP THE HEART IN ITS TRACKS. ITS BEHAVIOR IS THE SIZE OF THE HEART. HEARTS ARE CALLED HEARTS.



be tested sometime within the next year. And when the testing is completed the plan, hopefully, will be instituted in its entirety.

Signs pointing to the downtown and located on access locations for traffic travelling through Georgetown will be installed as soon as an adequate agreement is reached with town officials for their installation.

Action must be taken soon to ensure that the progressive feeling of unity that can be derived from the association is readily felt and that steps are being made toward its ultimate aim. For that reason alone, council should act expeditiously to ensure that the signs are erected soonest and that the traffic islands are installed.

As a further indication of the progressive nature of the executive and membership of the Georgetown association the Burlington Gazette last week ran a full page feature on the effort taken by the local merchants for the annual Pioneer Days promotion. The article is reprinted with permission, in its entirety, on our second front page. It is noteworthy that Burlington merchants are now in the midst of determining whether to establish a BIA.

Ombudsman again seeks increased funds

By DEREK NELSON
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

Ombudsman Arthur Maloney just can't seem to resist building bureaucratic empires.

His just-released latest report, the fourth, is the most moderate and temperate of the series so far.

But even it contains demands, albeit sweetly worded, for increased funds and power.

This time Maloney wants to branch out into Northern Ontario, setting up a regional office in Sault Ste. Marie, with satellite offices "at the outset" in North Bay, Sudbury, Timmins, Thunder Bay, and Kenora.

At present the ombudsman operates solely out of Toronto.

Staff required for the new expansion, and the costs involved, are conveniently left vague as "something that can easily be determined after study of the present case load" in the North.

He does suggest the new facilities would "reduce the budget presently needed for

hearings and transportation" by Toronto staff.

ACTUAL NUMBER

Naturally it "would not eliminate these hearings," just that the new northern offices would assume responsibility.

The justification for this sudden growth is that the ombudsman's office received 62 per cent more complaints from the North than one would expect on the basis of population distribution.

In real terms that's 478 complaints, or 80 per proposed office, spread across one year. Maloney, whose regal ways have helped him acquire the nickname King Arthur around Queen's Park, has tried the imperial route before.

The last time was when he sought to broaden the scope of his investigations.

GOAL

Today he can only look into complaints against the provincial government and its agencies.

Maloney wanted that extended to include complaints against local government, including boards of education, children's aid societies, municipalities and even universities.

He didn't get his wish, partly because his attitude irritated MPPs and partly because he was already way over budget.

What makes one really wonder about the latest growth surge by the ombudsman's office is the comments Maloney made in the same report about the existing and relatively new ministry of Northern Affairs.

SAY NO

It was set up to deal exclusively with Northern needs and problems.

The ombudsman's office is "increasingly impressed by the excellence of the service provided by the representatives of Northern Affairs."

In fact "they perform an incredibly useful function and they extend fullest co-operation to this office."

Why then do we need ombudsman's offices?

The ministry already has 25 offices strung across the North, and Northern Affairs officers trained to handle problems and complaints of citizens.



Protect yourself, family, before disease strikes

By SUSAN De FACENDIS
It was often difficult to understand what young Tim was saying. His words slurred into each other and consonants were achieved

with difficulty. Tim ran into problems in school and was prone to unreasonable bouts of temper with the neighbourhood children. He is deaf — and a

large, important slice of the world is denied him.

Why did PM speak? Answers not specific

Prime Minister Trudeau's sudden national flight on the airwaves Tuesday night left more questions than answers. The big question, of course is: Why?

The very real problems Mr. Trudeau swamped with his bag of promises have been around — and getting worse — through most of his reign. And his answers weren't specific enough for Canadians to hang their hopes on.

People are left to puzzle over why their leader should come bouncing back from his Moroccan holiday, suddenly lay claim to national radio and television, and burst forth with a display of political colored lights.

Perhaps it's to show the public that a government that must face the electorate is still breathing and aware of our national troubles. But, with its record hanging around its neck, the government will need more than Mr. Trudeau's speech to convince people that Ottawa is actually doing anything.

Perhaps, and we may hope it is so, the government took note of the responsible pace-setting action of Stelco workers in coming to a realistic settlement on a new contract. The government may, as Prime Minister indicated, start insisting on reasonable terms for its restless legions of civil servants, still demanding the sky, regardless of the crushing impact on working taxpayers.

But this same government has made such promises before.

Maybe the government has decided to

acknowledge that the country is not in good shape; that many Canadians are troubled by more than unity problems which the government has made its main concern until now.

Mr. Trudeau may have been trying to get across the idea that his government shares the concerns of people who worry about jobs, the dollar's buying power and prices more than they do about the constitution.

But people are no better informed about the government's plans than they were before the Trudeau speech. Where, for example, does the Prime Minister propose to delete \$2 billion from public spending? Does a civil service hiring freeze, promised and forgotten in the past, really mean anything? Or does it mean more spending on consultants? Which of the many regulations that suffocate private initiative will be eased?

What will become of the past office and why, after ignoring public appeals for all these years, has the government decided to make it a Crown corporation? Is it because a pre-election postal strike almost certainly would provoke anti-government public reaction? If the government really cared about neck was on the block?

Mr. Trudeau told Canadians very little they haven't heard before. It's going to take more than old promises, relearned for an election run, to persuade people that this government can govern effectively.

Hamilton Spectator

Bible thought

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again." John 10:11, 17

Our sins took the life of Jesus, our forgiveness depends on what we believe about it. "Christ died for our sins."

Looking Through Our Files

THIRTY YEARS AGO
A new laundry opened for business Aug. 9, 1948, offering wet wash, flat finish, and fully finished service, with weekly collection and delivery. Situated in part of the Georgetown Dairy Bar, the Georgetown Laundry was opened by Gordon Knight and Sid Levo. Both men had served with the Royal Air Force during World War II, and had been stationed in Canada for a time.

Upper school results were published the second week of August listing examination results for 10 Georgetown high school students.

Water was so scarce that council decided to notify residents that unnecessary sprinkling of lawns and gardens was forbidden. Mayor Joseph Gibbons told council that when he visited the reservoir Aug. 8 there was less than two feet of water remaining in it and the auxiliary pumps had had to be activated for a number of hours.

The mayor told council he was upset over an advertisement telling Esquing residents to arrange for their children to attend Milton and Acton high school. The mayor felt that the North Halton High School Board should be advertising what the Georgetown high school had to offer as well as the other two schools.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
The Ontario Water Resources Commission okayed a 582-house subdivision in the vicinity of Sykes toll plant. Building inspector Joseph Gibbons issued permits to Rex Heslop, Robert Construction and Zuber Construction to permit construction of the subdivision to begin. Charges against Heslop firm for starting to build six homes without permits were not withdrawn. Mr. Gibbons said.

Don Lindsay lost half a field of wheat Aug. 8 when sparks from an excursion train to Stratford showered the field about 7 p.m. A combine owned by George Leslie which was working in the field at the time was saved.

Acton firefighters were called in to help the Georgetown department.

Council decided to accept a number of roads in the Delrex subdivision which were considered up to standard by the town engineer and the Ontario Department of Highways. Lengthy discussion went into how the roads should be surfaced, by prime and chip or another, much cheaper method.

Council issued instruction for preparing a bylaw to cover a \$10,000 six-inch water main to service a new subdivision on Ann Street.

The Lorne Scots Regiment helped to provide security guard for Princess Margaret as her motorcade took her from the Royal Train to a plane in Malton.

TEN YEARS AGO
Fire razed the covered grandstand in the Georgetown park around midnight Aug. 3. The blaze was visible from as far away as Brampton as the 24-year-old structure burned.

Georgetown firefighters were also called to a barn fire Aug. 3 when Aldreds Sieben's barn burned on 5 Sideroad west of the Eighth Line. Eight sows and a bear escaped the flames but Mr. Sieben lost 48 small pigs and four sows.

Lewis Jackson of Guelph was killed July 31 when his car collided with a truck driven by Bill Penson of Georgetown. The accident occurred on the Silvercreek curve of Highway 7.

Esquing council delayed making a decision on a request by Esquing School Board for tentative approval of a \$411,700 addition to Pineview public school. The addition included six regular classrooms, a primary opportunity classroom, a kindergarten, a library and a general purpose room.

The Supreme Court has ordered the town to issue a building permit to George Thomas for an 83 suite apartment building which he plans to build on Mountainview Road.

the HERALD
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