

Low wages, no savings may force couple, two children onto street

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Talk to anyone who's in the process of looking for a house and he'll tell you the prices are too high, the designs are bad, the location isn't satisfactory or so far he just hasn't found what he wants.
But what do you do when your boss forces you to move, your wages are so low and you haven't got any cash reserve to use for the double rent new tenants are expected to pay, available accommodations are beyond your means anyway, and social services can't help you because you are employed?
Don and Ann Jones (not their real names) of Georgetown have until Saturday to solve the riddle.
Don earns \$4 an hour as a labourer in a local industry. The company takes his Ontario Hospital Insurance Premiums

out of his wages but makes no contributions on his behalf. There are no company benefits. His work is seasonal running from early April or whenever the ground dries up enough to be worked until mid-December. The other four months he draws unemployment benefits. This is Don's second year with the company.
The company has a number of houses which it rents to employees for \$60 a month. But Don can't have one. He was given no reason why he can't have one and he knows that at least one of these houses is vacant at the present time. The company's answer to his request for housing was a firm refusal.
"There are no waiting lists at..." Don says. "You just ask the boss and it's up to him. The way Bill (not his real name) runs the place you'd think they

were his houses, not the head office's in Oakville. He doesn't want me, at all, but I don't know why."
Not only has Bill refused to let Don have a home, he has forced him out of the accommodations he did have for 1 1/2 years.
"He told me not to come back to work until I'd moved out", Don explains, "so I had to go house hunting right then. We were living in the basement of a company house with my wife's sister and her husband. He's a full-time employee. They have one little girl and we have two kids. It isn't as if the place was so terribly overcrowded."
"I don't think the health people and the fire inspectors were too happy about us being in the basement," Ann adds. "It was all wood around it and if a fire ever started we'd

never have gotten the kids out. But they weren't pushing us to get out like Bill did".
Although Don knew his job was waiting for him as soon as he found alternate accommodations he had to go without pay for the house hunting period. It was at that point he first approached the social service people in search of assistance. Welfare told him they couldn't help him because he had a job. They alerted the Children's Aid Society (CAS) because there was no money for food and CAS brought them groceries that week.
They moved into an upstairs apartment on Main Street three weeks ago. By Saturday they have to be out.
"They told us when we came in here that they thought they had a deal on the building but they weren't sure it would go through", Don says.
"Monday evening a week ago the guy was back to tell us the building was sold and the new owner wants to renovate it all. We have to be out by Saturday. He's even told us to forget about the rent because we've been here so short a time, so we can't complain. He was doing us a favor to let us have the place, but now there's no where to go."
Ann says she has called the various places listing houses for rent, as well as the real estate agencies and apartment superintendents.
"The real estate people have nothing," she says. "I ask if they take children when I call apartments and they all say no, so I just hang up. They forget they were young one time themselves, I guess."
Don has found two houses but the rent is very high and the landlords want first and last month's rent before they can move in. The first was a two bedroom home going for \$250 a month with heat and hydro extra. More recently they have found a three-bedroom house for \$240, heat and hydro included.
"That's a better deal", he says, "even though it is a smaller house. The trouble is that I haven't the money for first and last month's rent and I don't know how I can get it".
"I went to the bank to borrow the money and as soon as the lady found out I don't have a car she stopped filling out the application," Don says. "She figures if we're too poor to own a car we need help, not a chance to go into debt. We don't owe any bills. This would have been my first bank loan if I'd gotten it".
At the direction of the bank loan officer, Don and Ann again contacted welfare and their local MP and MPP. So far no one has been able to offer any practical solutions.
"Mrs. Dehor from CAS was in to see us and said she'd be going to the legal clinic to see if there was anything they could do for us but I guess there wasn't", Don says.
"She says there is some place in Hamilton they could put us temporarily but we don't want to go way down there. Our family and friends are all in this area. And besides, what would happen to my job if we went there?"
Don is 39, raised on a farm in northwestern Ontario, and has done farm labor right until eight years ago. Ann is 28 and

has had no training to take a job. Their son and daughter are four and five years of age, respectively. Ann has looked for a job but found nothing.
"I'm sorry now I didn't take training I was offered when I left school," Ann says, "but the way jobs are now there's no guarantee I'd find a job even if I was trained for something".
Don has tried for other jobs, the latest being as a laborer on a farm north of Halton, but so far he has heard nothing and assumes the jobs have been filled. The money on a farm might not be any better than where he is now but at least there's usually a house included.
"The way the cost of living is almost all my wages go in groceries", Don says. "I figured I'd get a --house some day or I don't think I'd have taken the job in the first place".
"Don has had nerves to start with and now we aren't sleeping or eating," Ann says. "Even our daughter asks every once in a while where we're going. She hasn't been too well the last couple of days so I guess she's worried too".
Although The Herald has changed the names to protect Don and Ann from any further embarrassment their story is real and they definitely do have less than three days to move out of their clean, relatively spacious two-bedroom apartment which was to cost them \$150 a month. The disturbing part is that their case is far from unique in Georgetown according to a man who deals constantly with people's problems.
Bill Cumpsty of the Halton Hills Legal Clinic says Georgetown has many working poor like Don who work steadily at very low paying jobs, and live just above the poverty line.
"These are honest people who work hard and pay their bills", Mr. Cumpsty says, "but the system penalizes them. We need low rental accommodation in this town for these people. There should be some social agency that can assist them".
"CAS brought it to our attention. They don't want to take these kids away from their parents but what else can they do if they don't have any shelter? The family seems to get along well together and they take as good care of the youngsters as higher income families do, so it's senseless to cause the anxiety that would come from removing them. It will cost \$40 a day to put the two children in foster homes".
Mr. Cumpsty feels that there should be an emergency fund in Halton which would help people like Don. Toronto has such a fund and Mr. Cumpsty explains how it works.
"The man borrows the money for his rent deposit and then pays it back at a nominal sum such as \$5 a week until he is out of debt again. It gives the people a roof and keeps them off welfare rolls".
Mr. Cumpsty agrees that situations such as Don face make it too obvious that being unemployed pays better than supporting yourself.
"The politicians in this town should seriously think about providing accommodation for these kind of people", he says.

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MP calls reforms contentious proposals

Ferrin Beatty, MP for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo, has described the federal government's proposed constitutional reforms as "contentious".
"I've been happy with the way the present constitution has been working," Mr. Beatty said recently.
Mr. Beatty, who is a member of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution, said he sees several flaws in the proposed constitution, such as entrenchment of language rights, where one province, Quebec, can veto any future changes. This provision could lead to disunity, he said.
Mr. Beatty, PC candidate for Dufferin-Wellington riding, also criticized the bill for its position on decreasing the role of the monarchy in Canada.
"I believe the Royal Family has served Canada very well," he said. The proposed constitution would transfer the powers of the ruling monarch to the Governor-General, except when the monarch is in Canada.
Replacing the Senate with the proposed House of Federation will result in a reduction of the powers of the upper house, and this will undermine the system of checks and balances presently between government bodies, Mr. Beatty said.
Mr. Beatty said that any

decisions on constitutional reform should be based on a public referendum.
"The constitution should not be forced on people," he said. "Let's take our time."
Mr. Beatty had several favorable comments to make on a speech by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn this spring to the graduating class at Harvard University in which Mr. Solzhenitsyn said, "a fact which cannot be disputed is the weakening of human beings in the West, while in the East they are becoming firmer and stronger."
Mr. Solzhenitsyn said in his address that Western society has lost its purpose, and is in a spiritual and political decline. He stressed that his criticisms of Western society come from a friend, and not from the supporter of the Communist system.
According to Mr. Solzhenitsyn, "in our Eastern countries, Communism has suffered a complete ideological defeat; it is zero and less than zero. But Western intellectuals still look at it with interest and with empathy, and this is precisely what makes it so immensely difficult for the West to withstand the East."
The cause of the decline of Western society, in Mr. Solzhenitsyn's opinion, is that the

west has created a society where material well-being is more important than spiritual growth and where a demand for individual rights has supplanted our recognition of individual responsibility "to ourselves, to our fellow citizens and to God."
"Mr. Solzhenitsyn's analysis of Western prospects and his apparent total rejection of individualism and material prosperity go further than most of us would choose to go," Mr. Beatty said.
"Although it is easy to recognize the degree of self-discipline that exists among citizens of the Eastern Bloc, just as we can see every day the self-indulgence he complains about in our own lives, the Western peoples have proved themselves capable of discipline and self-sacrifice when the survival of their way of life was threatened."
"But even if we do not agree with Mr. Solzhenitsyn about how far we have travelled, it is not hard to recognize the description of the scenery," Mr. Beatty said. "His warning about the effects of substituting humanism and materialism for religion and self-discipline will reach many sympathetic ears in today's Canada."
"It was easy to praise Mr. Solzhenitsyn when he described for the world the barbarity of Russian Communism, just as it is easy to condemn the Soviet Union for its cruel persecution of its dissident citizens in kangaroo court trials," Mr. Beatty said.
"His Harvard speech is much more difficult for us to accept because it examines the core of life today and finds it weak and insubstantial. But if we welcomed his criticisms of a Soviet despotism, all of us knew existed, we should be all the more grateful for his description of the cracks and fissures in our own society we would all too readily ignore," Mr. Beatty concluded.

\$1 million set for expansion

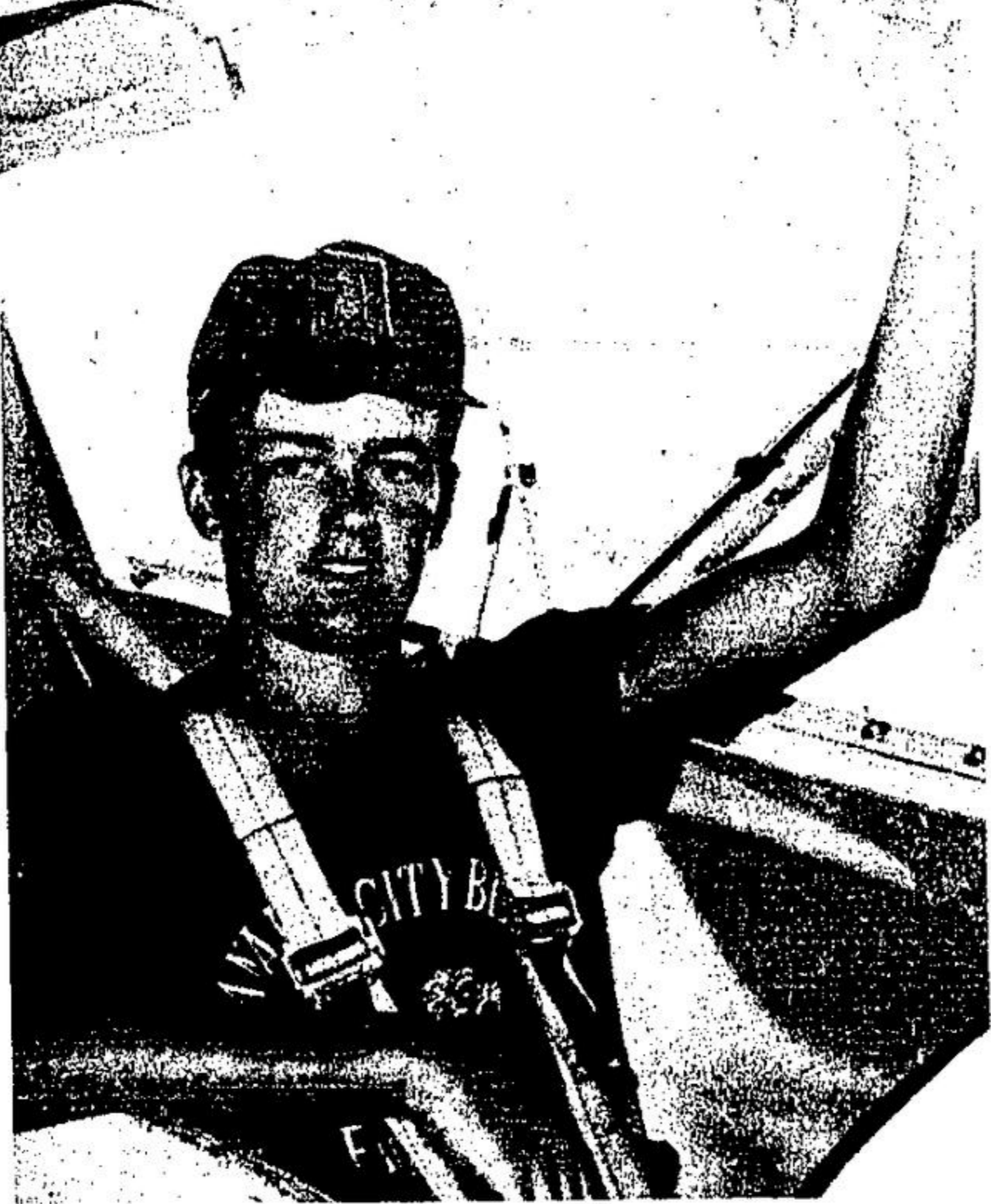
Inmont Prestite Ltd., of Georgetown, has announced plans for a million dollar capital expansion program that will see some 13 new jobs created by next summer.
Representatives of the Armstrong Avenue firm which manufactures sealants and adhesives for the automobile and other industries appeared to Halton Hills finance and administration committee Monday for a second extension on an option the town holds to purchase approximately one acre of company land adjacent to the plant.
The committee recommended council's approval of the extension request, adding the condition that the company must erect an industrial building on the land by next summer.
Inmont Prestite originally won council's blessing for an initial extension of its 10-year option to purchase following a similar presentation to committee last November.
This year, company spokesman Robert Kennedy told the committee Monday, Inmont has enjoyed the sales growth necessary to warrant expansion of the Armstrong Avenue plant.
Plant manager Sherman Rappaport told The Herald that approval of the expansion plans must come from the

company's head office in New York.
Engineers are now preparing a presentation for the board of directors, he said, and subject to approval at that level, tenders could be let early in 1979. Construction could then be expected to get underway next summer.
Mr. Kennedy reported that plans call for a 5,000 to 6,000-square foot extension of the company's Georgetown facilities and the purchase of new process equipment.
Inmont may build the new extension on its present parking lot, he said, and move the employees parking area onto the one-acre site for which the town still holds an option of purchase.
The company's employment rosters, which has seen eight new jobs open since November, 1977, would be boosted to 45 from 32 once the new facility is operating.
Coun. Pat Patterson was ready to grant the company an extension as requested, but at the urging of Coun. Peter Morris and clerk-administrator Ken Richardson, the committee recommended the preparation of a "mini-agreement" by which Inmont would commit itself to the construction of a new building prior to next fall.

Mediation offer CVCA workers

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority's (CVCA) 10 outside workers employees will be meeting late this week to discuss the CVCA's latest contract offer, but the union executive has said it will not recommend acceptance or rejection of the offer.
Ray Whitehead, bargaining agent for Local 73, Canadian Union of Public Employees, said the union executive and management held a mediation meeting Monday with the CVCA, at which the executive refused to endorse the CVCA's latest offer.
Mr. Whitehead said the latest offer by management does reflect a change in their position, but the executive has decided not to come out in

favor of the offer.
"We've decided simply to take the offer back to our members for them to decide on," Mr. Whitehead said. He said a union offer which represented a change from the union's original request for a 30-cent-an-hour increase was presented to management, and the latest offer from management is in response to the union's latest position.
"Management didn't agree with what we presented them with, and came back with something less than what we had requested," Mr. Whitehead said.
The CVCA had no comment to make on the present state of negotiations.
The union is in a legal strike position.



HIGH FLIGHT

Flight Sergeant Doug Cousens lowers the canopy on his glider in preparation for take-off on his fourth solo flight. Doug, 16, is a member of 756 Squadron, Georgetown and is on the six week Glider Pilot Course at Trenton Air Cadet Camp. According to Ministry of Transport regulations Sgt. Cousens must have a minimum of 2 hours solo flight time and a minimum of 20 solo flights before receiving his Gliding licence. CANADIAN FORCES PHOTO