

# Uniform rates mark big step for Region

At long last it appears that Halton Region will be getting uniform water rates, thus moving one step closer to making regional government a working reality rather than an abstract dream.

Surely when the concept of regional government was developed by Ontario's Tory government, uniform costs and quality of services throughout a region had to be one of the hoped-for benefits.

While there are those who will dispute the quality of regional services for north Halton residents, uniform water rates are certainly a step towards equalizing costs for regional citizens.

Next year's water bills should be a little easier for Acton residents to swallow because of the uniform rates. Acton citizens were already set to be hit with a hefty water rate hike next year because of improvements to their water system and now, with the uniform rates, the increase will be a little less.

It is disturbing to watch the flailing and somewhat desperate attempts of Oakville representatives on regional council to stop the move to uniform rates. Fueled by headline parochialism, Oakville representatives on council have fought uniform rates from the outset. The move will mean higher water rates for their constituents but, supposedly,

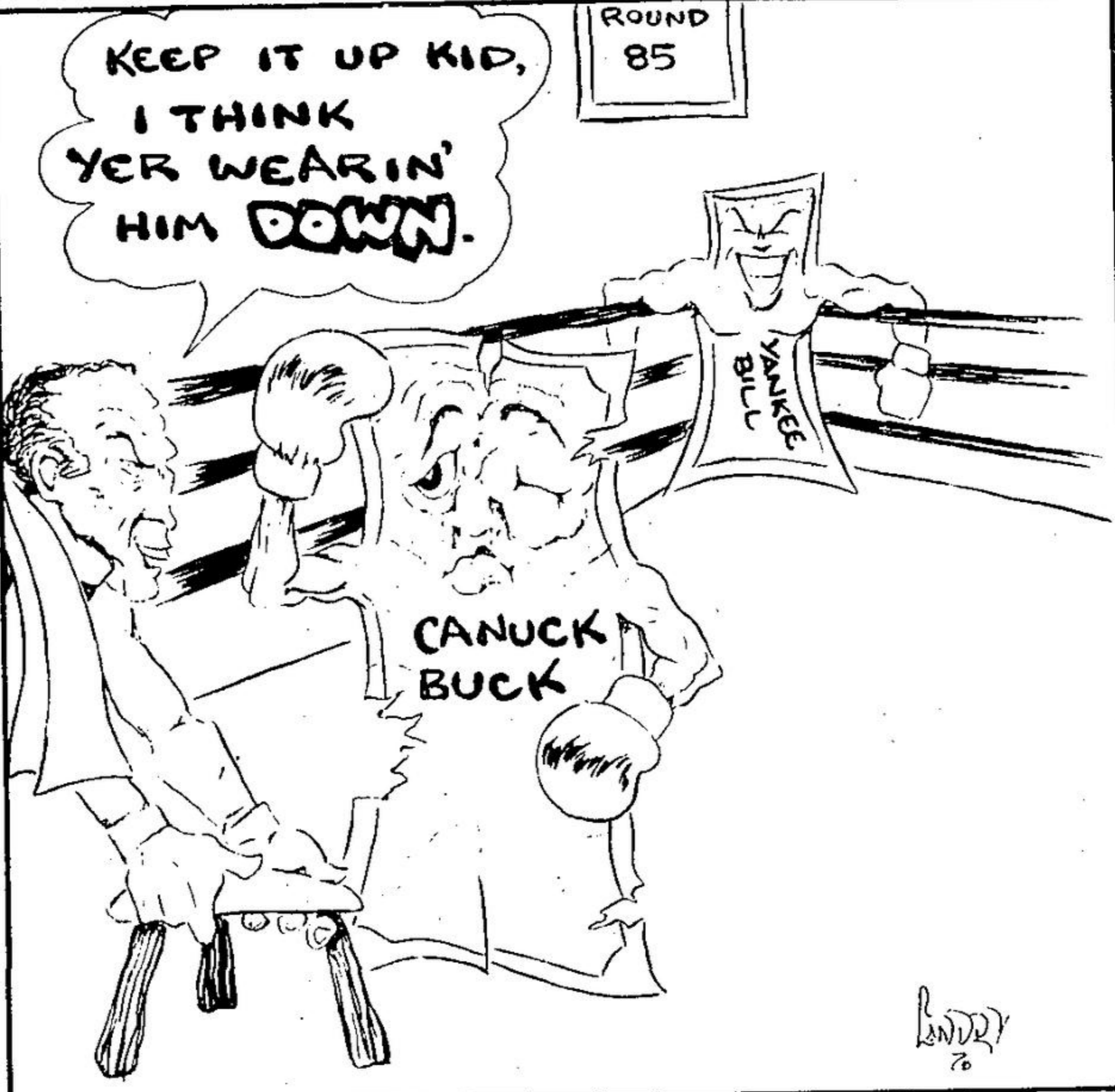
this cost of belonging to the region is made up by benefits to Oakville reaped from other aspects of regional government.

Perhaps the most hopeless attempt by Oakville councillors to stop uniform rates is a plan by Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett and Oakville Coun. Carl Eriksen to appeal the region's decision to the Ontario cabinet.

This action can surely be nothing more than some pre-election showmanship by the two gentlemen in an attempt to woo Oakville voters disgruntled with regional government.

All shuffling aside, the cabinet they hope will overturn the decision is basically the same one that committed Ontario to regional government years ago. They are extremely unlikely to roll back one of this region's most significant steps towards making regional government a reality.

And it disturbs us to see elected officials behaving with so little regard for a council of which they are members. Surely majority rule is a basic principal of democratic representation. If the Oakville representatives feel the majority has ruled in an improper manner they should be taking this message to the voters on November 13, not whining to the provincial cabinet.



# Writer takes a new look at some old sayings

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

A little fun with the sayings of past generations this week as we take a tongue in cheek look at words of wisdom taken from a book of quotes printed in 1902.

I think my family had a head start on this sort of thing with an Irish grandmother that had a saying for everything.

Probably many came from her mother and her mother before her. I particularly enjoy the one that you can repeat several times and still not make any sense out of. So with dear old grandmothers in mind (yours and mine) I hope you enjoy the following.

"If young men had wit and old men strength, then everything would be well done."

How about "He who takes an eel by the tail and a woman by her word may say he holds nothing." Definitely not your average liberated statement - right girls?

TROUBLE ENOUGH

"Let us enjoy the present, we shall have trouble enough with the here-after." Amen to that one.

Here's a pip - "God help the rich - the poor can beg." And from the other direction, "Great cry and little wool quoth the devil when he sheared his hogs."

If you're not squeamish - "Mention not a rope in the house of one whose father was hanged." Good thinking.

For the green thumbs among us - "Plant the crab tree where you will it will never bear pippins." What's a pippin?

Or, "Play, women and wine make a man laugh till he dies." No one bothers to mention

that play, women and wine hasten the journey, wisdom from yours truly.

Here's a remarkable thought - "There are a great many asses without long ears."

"The old and wise still advise." No one mentions that's all there is left to do, yours truly.

ALWAYS PONDERED

Here are some I've always pondered.

"Never look a gift horse in the mouth. Why not... or would you want to?"

"A rolling stone gathers no moss"... who cares I ask you when was the last time you needed a stone covered in moss?

"A barking dog does not bite" - not according to my friends down at the post office.

The old saw - "You do not know someone until you marry them" - Updated version - You do not know someone until you divorce.

"Many cooks spoil the broth" - not to be mentioned in front of the boys at the Town & Country.

"Make hay while the sun shines" - now I ask you who do you know that makes hay in the rain?

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away" - the doctor only comes for the bread.

"Set a thief to catch a thief" - and according to Gerry you'll lose whatever the first thief didn't take.

If you can still take more on we go...

"A watched pot won't boil" - oh yes it will.

"You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear" - if you could would you really want one?

"People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones" - or drive snowmobiles.

GLASS HOUSES

The next lot are taken from Mark Twains wonderful wit.

The old saw says let a sleeping dog lie. Right. Still when there is much at stake it is better to get a newspaper to do it.

"Let us be grateful to Adam our benefactor. He cut us out of the 'blessing' of idleness and won for us the 'curse of labour'."

Noise means nothing often the hen who has merely laid an egg cackles as if she had laid an asteroid.

"Pity is for the living - envy is for the dead."

"Let us be thankful for fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed."

A truly wonderful wit had Mark Twain, a wonderful wit and total insight. Now this is one fool who feels she should quit while ahead....

Till next week - Health, wealth and long life and may you be an hour in heaven before the devil knows you're dead.

# NEC's 'openness' long overdue

Nobody can deny that Ontario's besieged Niagara Escarpment Commission has taken it on the chin fairly regularly since the commission's inception in 1972, but this week we have to offer them a pat on the back.

Finally, with last Wednesday's commission meeting held in Georgetown NEC has decided to open their meetings to the public and the press.

Almost nothing can be more guaranteed to get a journalist's back up than a public body holding in-camera meetings and NEC's old closed door policy was no exception, it

never sat well with us and we are glad to see its end. Perhaps NEC is learning the lesson we would like to see all politicians learn, once a door is closed to the public and the press, the assumption is something is being kept from us. Needless to say this type of thinking breeds a mistrust of the offending public body and we are sure that NEC's previous closed door policy has helped foster some of the mistrust many members of the public feel towards the commission.

The new open door policy will help the public to judge the commission on its policies and actions and eliminate fears of closed door dirty deeds.

# Escarpment group knocks government

The Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) have attacked the Ontario government's decision to overturn A Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) ruling and permit the construction of a multi-million dollar convention centre on the escarpment face near the Forks of the Credit.

Construction of the \$16 million convention centre known as Cantrakon in Caledon was turned down by NEC earlier this year but Ontario Minister of Housing, Claude Bennett overturned this decision.

In a recent statement, Lyan MacMillan, CONE chairman said, "Obviously Premier

Davis must either uphold the intent and spirit of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act or repeal it."

"If they don't want it, then let them give it a decent burial rather than tormenting us and it with this lingering death."

CONE declares allegiance with the Caledon Ratepayers Association who have already criticized the government's approval.

"The thousands of people CONE represents reiterate their concern that granting approval of the Cantrakon proposal is a disastrous precedent which may completely destroy long-term planning for this natural treasure."

By DEWEY NELSON  
Queen's Park Bureau  
Of The Herald

A \$29.95 1,000-watt electric space heater causes Ontario Hydro to invest as much as \$1,200 for power generation, transmission, distribution, and back-up capacity to service that one appliance.

That example of cost to Hydro is given in the just-released interim royal commission report on nuclear power planning chaired by Dr. Arthur Porter. His full report on all facets of electric power planning is supposed to be ready in late 1979.

The space heater illustrates why the price tag for power in Ontario is projected in the billions for the rest of this century.

What it can't do is tell us how many billions, since we don't know how many space heaters will be in use. Nor can we tell about the other variables in our future, such as economic and population growth, the availability of, and substitutions for, oil, and conservation.

These all add up to make us uncertain

how much demand there'll be for electric power until the year 2,000.

GUT FEELING

For the nuclear program alone the costs could vary between \$7 billion and \$81 billion, depending upon which guess about future demand one accepts as probably being accurate.

As Porter himself points out in the key sentence of his interim report, "It is extremely difficult to forecast, with any degree of reliability, future demand for electric power."

But because he has to, he makes a stab at it, and comes up with what most people will feel in their gut is an acceptable solution.

Porter recommends we build three more nuclear stations in addition to existing and planned projects at Pickering, Bruce and Darlington.

NOT HAPPY

The equivalent of an additional station would be supplied by water power (hydroelectric) coal, and especially biomass (wood-fueled electric power).

That won't make Ontario Hydro happy, since their growth forecasts are higher than Porter's. The utility wants two more nuclear power stations than Porter recommends.

The commissioner has doubts about Hydro's ability to accumulate the capital to build that many plants, as well as where Hydro might secure enough uranium to fuel them.

However, Porter doesn't give much solace to the anti-nuclear factions either, since he concludes that nuclear power is relatively cheap, reliable and safe.

TOO MUCH

Many critics, including some in the opposition parties, sound like they want to scarp the nuclear option entirely.

Porter's main worry is waste management - what to do with the highly lethal spent fuel that reactors produce. While extolling optimism that a solution can be found, Porter thinks there are still too many unanswered questions.

If no progress occurs by 1985 he'd put a moratorium on future nuclear development at that point.

His report also makes plain we use far too much energy per capita in this country, up to twice what some European countries use, and even 15 per cent more than the energy-wasteful United States.

When it comes to conservation we have a long way to go yet.

# Looking Through Our Files

THIRTY YEARS AGO

The first monthly child care clinic was held in the Legion Hall Oct. 8. Clinics were to be held second Friday of each month for infants and pre-schoolers to have examinations and injections.

Hornby United Church celebrated its 125th anniversary.

Fire destroyed the Logan house in Glen Williams. An overheated stove was believed to be the cause of the blaze.

The Herald was running advertisements warning residents to conserve as much electricity as possible.

The Georgetown Women's Institute held a shower for Britian to collect items for a parcel to be sent in the near future.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

An estimated crowd of 6,000 attended Georgetown Fall Fair on Oct. 3 and Halton MP Sandy Best officially opened the fair.

Assessment commissioner Joseph Gibbons told council that Georgetown's population had increased to 9,222 from 6,578 in 1957. Assessment figures stood at 11.98 industrial, 13.49 commercial, 74.16 residential and .01 farm. Total assessment was \$11,319,550, a 23.1 per cent increase over the previous year.

Eleven of 27 night school courses had to be cancelled at Georgetown high school in 1958.

It was announced that Georgetown's Alliance Paper Mill was to expand with the installation of a new wide paper coater, a wide finishing machine, a new steam plant and storage buildings for both raw materials and finished paper. The new coating machine was to be the largest in Canada and capable of coating up to 1,000 feet of paper a minute.

Georgetown had 1,529 students in four public schools in 1958 and 48 teachers.

TEN YEARS AGO

Councillor Bob Francis announced his candidacy for mayor. He was the first candidate to announce his intentions of seeking any position at the next election.

Lack of interest forced the cancellation of 14 of 30 night school classes offered at Georgetown high school in 1968.

A suggestion that schools be used as polling stations in the municipal election had to be changed because the Board would lose its grants if voting forced the closure of schools council was told. Churches were being lined up instead and town clerk C. Benham received permission to advertise for voting day helpers.

Esqueving voters were told they would be electing their representatives for a two year term in 1968. They were also told the polls would be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Both the two-year term of office and the new closing time for polling booths were new ideas.

A child falling from a ride and being struck by a ride car dumped fairgoers spirits as the cold drizzle damped their bodies. Fortunately the little girl was able to be released from Georgetown hospital the next day after treatment for minor head injuries.

Council supported planning board's recommendation that a thirty suite apartment building be permitted on the site of Berwick Hall. The building was to be demolished.

# Ontario Hydro's budget magic

By DEWEY NELSON  
Queen's Park Bureau  
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# The Herald welcomes Letters to the Editor

# Eugene Whelan's US breakfast shows Canadian double-standard

By STEWART MACLEOD  
Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

If an American politician comes to Ottawa and offers the slightest criticism about Canada or Canadians, we can expect a giant wave of protest to sweep across the country. Representatives of big, powerful countries are not permitted to poke the needle at little neighbors.

But Canadian politicians, being little neighbors, have an unfettered freedom to say what they want in Washington. Big and powerful neighbors are not permitted to take offence.

And that brings us to Eugene Whelan's breakfast.

Eugene Whelan, for the benefit of urban dwellers, is our minister of agriculture, and has been since 1972, when he coined the expression "carte la blanche". He is a rather pleasant individual, whose wit and waist can both be expansive, and who keeps extricating himself from seemingly hopeless verbal

entanglements by merely saying "etcetera, etcetera".

You know, things like "we'd like to sell more refrigerators and surplus butter, etcetera, etcetera".

But, we're getting away from the minister's breakfast.

EMPTY DISCUSSION

Whelan, an active Ontario farmer who knows a thing or two about feeding off famine, went to Washington to represent his country at a seminar on world hunger - one of those periodic gatherings where the "have" countries keep reaffirming the absolute necessity of supplying more foodstuff to the starving millions in the "have-not" countries around the world. There was one of those meetings in Ottawa not long ago and, to hammer home the message, delegates were served with a typical "have-not" meal, consisting mainly of a bowl of cold rice and an odd leaf.

No one complained. Not one solitary American rose in anger to decry the lack of

hamburgers.

And it's just as well because our rice-filled politicians would have told them a thing or two about criticizing the hospitality of a poor little neighbor.

But at the Washington conference what does our minister of agriculture do? Well, to be rather charitable about it, he made it amply clear that you don't go around discussing hunger problems on an empty stomach. And for the sake of Canada-U.S. relations, it is to be hoped that the Americans learn the folly of their ways before the next hunger conference in Washington.

COFFEE CREAMED

Imagine any host country expecting our minister of agriculture to function fully for an entire morning on a breakfast which he felt obliged to publicly evaluate as "lousy". Whelan made his evaluation while appearing on a panel with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland. And the Washington story I read, said Bergland "wined" at the critic-

ism.

While big, powerful neighbors can't retaliate at little-neighbor criticism, apparently it's okay to wince.

"Just old buns," declared our minister, in his ongoing evaluation of the Washington breakfast. "No nutrition in it at all. I am a fat guy, I am not supposed to eat buns."

You would think the Americans would realize this.

"They had no scrambled eggs or sausages," went on Whelan in a brilliant analysis of one of the world's great hunger problems.

"I thought it was going to be like the MPs breakfast in Ottawa. We get in the cafeteria there and you get to pick out your scrambled eggs or whatever you want!"

And hitting the Americans where it hurts the most, he capped his criticism with this: "Their coffee was lousy!"

The wincing U.S. agriculture secretary, being the representative of a big, powerful country, couldn't reply of course. But I would love to hear what he might have said to his wife when he went home that night.

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