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Governments pass the buck not bucks

The provincial and federal governments are currently involved in a game of passing the buck — rather than bucks — that will leave Ontario municipalities short-changed.

Restraint, tax cuts and fiscal responsibility are all catch words that the current crop of politicians are convinced will guarantee their re-election. Since California voters foolishly voted to cut their throats in a bid to cut taxes by passing Proposition 13, Canadian politicians are now trying to head off rebellious voters by cutting budgets as fast as they can.

In order to 'save' Canadians money, last week the federal government cut sales tax. The feds also recently took steps to cut income taxes.

Both moves will result in close to \$245 million being chopped from the Ontario government's revenues. So while it looks like the Liberal federal government is practising good management, they are, to a large degree, simply slashing wildly at provincial revenue.

Meanwhile, the provincial government also chose last week to announce their latest bit of fiscal responsibility. The provincial government has chosen to pass on the federal government's budget slash, along with a slash of their own, on to all groups funded by Queen's Park in the form of a five per cent ceiling on grant increases this year.

While some groups may get a little more or less than the five per cent figure, Ontario treasurer Frank Miller told Ontario municipalities last week that school boards and

municipal governments will get no more than the five per cent budget hike.

With an inflation rate of around nine per cent the municipalities budget 'hikes' will, in reality, amount to a four per cent budget cut if present levels of services are maintained.

So both the federal and provincial governments have dealt with restraint easily, they have simply passed the cutting along to the municipalities.

Now municipal school boards and councils will have to find a way to live with the five per cent 'hike'. None of the options are likely to win municipal politicians' points with the voters. They could cut services, something that is unlikely to please many since services have been cut back pretty regularly since 1974 when the Ontario Tories first announced their new policy of restraint.

The other option is to raise taxes, again a choice guaranteed to raise howls from the voters.

At a time when Ontario municipalities are madly competing for business and industry it seems unlikely that much of the tax increase option would be directed towards the industrial or business sector. Instead, if municipalities are forced to hike taxes to meet federal and provincial cuts, the lost revenue will probably be raised through increased taxes, a taxation system which many people are now challenging the equality of.

So voters shouldn't be fooled. Our taxes haven't been cut, and the two top levels of government aren't really running a tight fiscal ship. They are simply passing the costs of their 'cuts' on to the municipalities.

Parenting course is a good idea

We applaud the Halton school board's executive committee recommendation to support, in principle, local public school principal Eric Balkind's proposal for a course in the theoretical and practical aspects of being a parent.

Certainly in these days of seeking relevance in education nothing can be more relevant than instruction in the art and job of being a parent.

School age youngsters are now given instruction in cooking, metal shop and physical education, we think instruction in good parenting is

equally important. Perhaps abuses and problems that arise when many school children become adult parents can be avoided with the proper instruction at an early age.

We do not see parenting instruction as an infringement on the responsibilities of a child's parents anymore than school sponsored sex education and mathematics instruction is an infringement.

The school system's role is to provide the basics in education, whether that is in arts and sciences, social relations or parenting. While children will be taught basic elements of parenting if the Balkind proposal is approved, it will still be up to a child's parents to add their personal instruction and guidance to supplement a child's in-school instruction.

If the school board must dip into its funds to set up the new course we think it would be money well spent, however, details of the parenting course will not be known until the board's investigation of the ways and means of implementing this course are completed.

More letters
on
page five



Grits' problems not media's fault John Evans states position



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald
Prime Minister Trudeau is going to have to take Dr. John Evans aside one of these days and tell him to get in step with modern day Liberalism.

Dr. Evans, you see, is being a bit of a radical. He came out flatly and declared that not all of the Liberal party's problems can be blamed on the media. And if this wasn't bad enough at the best of times he did this right after the prime minister suggested that media was responsible for not only most of the party's problems, but most of the country's problems as well.

Dr. Evans, you might recall, is a former university president who was defeated by former Toronto Mayor David Crombie in the Oct. 16 by-elections. He wasn't just defeated either; he was trounced.

With a remarkable display of courage, Dr. Evans turned up at that recent meeting of Ontario federal Liberals just in time to hear the prime minister designate the media as public enemy No. 1. And by cleverly linking the Liberal party with the very fabric of Canadian society, Trudeau seemed happy to suggest that the media is really an enemy of the country itself.

TWIN ENEMIES

He clearly let it all hang out. The press and parliamentary opposition, he said, are twin "enemies" of the Liberal government. "This means that society itself is under attack... that may sound a bit exaggerated, I suggest it is not."

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Affluent families over represented in Ontario's universities



Queen's Park Report
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald
The decline of the English language in the school system has reached a preposterous stage.

I mean, if you or I receive a six per cent hike, we'd call that a raise, or an increase in income.

When colleges and universities receive an almost six per cent increase in government funding, the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) calls that a "cutback."

It's hard to know whether to blame this kind of failure on the English or mathematics faculties. Or maybe both.

But maybe it's just the OFS itself. The

I suggest that it is. RALLY TROOPS

Obviously, Trudeau has been under enormous pressure since his party was humiliated in those October by-elections, and I suppose he can't be blamed for grasping at diversions. But if he is going to launch a successful national onslaught against the press, he should rally his own troops first. He needs unity in the ranks.

There is absolutely no point in the prime minister standing there accusing the press of being, in effect, socially subversive, while one of his most intelligent lieutenants is in a state of mutiny. To the cheers of his Ontario followers, Trudeau said part of the problem rested with a "Watergate envy," which makes the press somewhat overzealous in search of scandal.

"We have to, as Liberals, reintroduce a rule of reason."

"Surely," he went on, "we're entitled to a fair hearing when we speak the language of intelligence."

"We must return to the conviction as Liberals that if we do what is right, it's right and that's the end of it..."

The prime minister's strategic attack against the media should not have taken the enemy by surprise, since many other beleag-

uered Canadian governments had adopted similar plays. This tends to be the final line of defence prior to general elections.

But the scope of the attack was rather startling. By establishing the Liberal party as the representatives of Canadian society, not to mention being the authorized outlet for intelligence, it seems that the media is not only a full-scale enemy of the state, but it is also stupid.

MEDIA ATTACKED

And he didn't stop there. The prime minister also suggested, by implication, that the media is also against national unity since we attack "the only party that stands for a united Canada." He went on to say that "our way, the Liberal way, for a strong Canada is not shared by any other party."

I am not going to fly into a tangent about demagoguery at this point. Right now, it seems that the prime minister may have his hands full converting Dr. Evans to the cause.

Said the doctor: "We would be deceiving ourselves if we felt the solution to our problems really rested with the media."

Only when the party becomes united on this particular problem can he begin plotting defensive strategy.

Letter to the editor

YMCA says thanks for local donations

To the editor of The Herald:
The YM-YWCA greatly appreciates the efforts of the people of Georgetown and Glen Williams who contributed their valuable time and energy in the recent canvass.

We also wish to thank the community for generously responding to the financial needs of our organization.

To all, we say thank you for helping to make this year's campaign such a successful endeavor, thus enabling our YM-YWCA to continue to service the needs and interests of the citizens of Georgetown and District.

Sincerely,
Joanna Dobbin,
Cheryl Lightowler,
Lyndsey Thom

the HERALD
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Halton's History

From the Herald's files

CANDIDATES ACCLAIMED
... THIRTY YEARS AGO — Mayor Joseph Gibbons was returned for a 13th term at Friday's nomination meeting. He was acclaimed to the position, as were Jack Armstrong for the position of reeve, and James Goodlet for deputy-reeve. There will be three council candidates in Ward 3, but all others were returned by acclamation.

Over 90 guests called to wish Mrs. Samuel Webster of Norval a happy birthday when she held open house last Thursday to celebrate her ninetieth birthday. Mrs. Webster, whose bright spirits and active life would do credit to a lady of 60, has lived her whole life in the village. Her husband, who practised medicine in Norval and Georgetown, passed away 20 years ago.

The month of November is nearly over and the weather still keeps quite open. In fact, up to date there have been only 9 days with below freezing temperatures, which is much better than November, 1947, which had 24 days below the freezing point. The lowest last year was 10 degrees, while this year the lowest was a balmy 25.

POSTMASTER VISITS
... TWENTY YEARS AGO — Nomination night was quiet in Esquesing Township Monday night. The five-man township council was acclaimed for its third year in office, with acclamations accorded to Reeve George Currie, Deputy-reeve Campbell Sinclair and Councillors Wilfred Bird, Walter Linham and George Leslie.

The local post office staff were surprised and honored on Thursday by a visit from the postmaster-general, the Honorable William Hamilton of Ottawa. Mr. Hamilton was passing through town on business, but stayed long enough to meet the post office staff and discuss the local expansion problem with postmaster Harold Marshall. It was the first time any postmaster general has paid a visit to the Georgetown post office.

An award for the store with the largest sales increase in sales during 1958 was presented to Bob Cadwell and Bruce Williamson, co-managers of the local IGA Foodliner, on November 19 at the annual IGA supper and dance at the Royal York Hotel. It was the second time in years that the award has gone to the Georgetown IGA, which has shown a sales increase of 400 per cent since opening in June, 1954.

It looks like a big season on foxes in several Halton gun and sportsmen's clubs being their contest to bag the most foxes between now and February 28. Halton County Game Warden Bob Reid of Milton, anticipating a flood of bounty hunters to begin the bagging operations in full scale this weekend, urged hunters to respect farm and public property. Many farmers will grant permission to hunt on their properties if asked in advance.

The entries of S.G. Bennett of Scottdale Farms, Georgetown swept the male championship slate in the Shorthorn show at the Royal Winter Fair. The senior champion male was Scottdale Lucifer, with his winning senior yearling Rothney Juggler in the reserve positions.

The remarkable safety record being established at Harrison Public School was recognized yesterday morning with the presentation of a safety plaque by Provincial Paper Ltd. in a ceremony at the school. Ross Duncan made the presentation for an accident-free period from December 1957 to June 1958.

SYKES BAKING PRIZE
... TEN YEARS AGO — Thirty-six years of municipal service — 22 of them as an elected official, 14 as an appointed one, ended last Wednesday night, November 20, when Mayor Joseph Gibbons died in Georgetown hospital following a heart attack in the early evening from which he failed to rally. The previous week he had called a press conference following a council meeting to announce that he would not be seeking re-election in December. At a special council meeting Thursday morning, council appointed Reeve Wm. F. Hunter to be acting mayor for the duration of the year.

With only one year's experience in the baking business, Bill Sykes, son of the owner of Sykes Scotch Bakery, copped first prize in a cake-decorating competition, against a "baker's dozen" of seasoned experienced competitors. A fifteen minute limit was placed on each contestant.

Possibility that Georgetown may get its long awaited dam next year was voiced by Coun. Roy Ballantine Monday. Coun. Ballantine told council that a group of conservator officials had visited the dam site and it is being given top priority. The dam hinges or what development takes place on surrounding land owned by Brumac Developments, he said. A bridge and four land roads would be part of a dam project.

The executive of the Halton Regional Conservation Authority has been told it must raise about \$100,000 for maintenance costs in 1969 or it will be in "very severe" financial difficulties.

BETTER READERS
... ONE YEAR AGO — Extended care facilities in Halton are not suitably located to serve the majority of people in the region, a public institutions inspection panel has found. The panel recently inspected a number of publicly-funded institutions in Halton, including Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

Halton Hills has lost its clerk-administrator to the warmer weather and drier climate of the Okanagan Valley. Doug Pritchard has resigned effective December 31 and will assume his duties as administrator of the city of Peniticton, British Columbia, on January 3, 1979.

Expropriations will take place along the Halton Hills Concession 5 for the Bradley-Edwards hydro transmission line. In a decision approved November 18, but not released until Thursday, Ontario Energy Minister James Taylor found that an order-in-council setting Birnchouse as a crossing for connection of a hydro corridor from the Bruce generating station to the Nanticoke-to-Pickering corridor to grid "is binding on Ontario Hydro and determines the scope of its objective (Million) in the expropriation process."

By the time students in Halton get to Grade 9, they are slightly better at reading than the average Canadian child, Halton board of Education was told Thursday. Kit Rankin, an English teacher at Gordon E. Purdie high school in Oakville, told the board during a special meeting on English language programs standards and expectations that Halton is always a little ahead of the rest of the country in reading.