

Hospital cuts inexcusable

It's a good thing that US Senator Edward Kennedy came to visit Ontario in 1977 to study this province's highly touted public health system as a model for a similar American plan that he is advocating.

If he came this year he wouldn't be as impressed.

Since Senator Kennedy visited Ontario the government has attempted to jack up OHIP rates to \$22 per single person per month. Finally, bowing to public pressure the government had to settle for a five dollar hike to \$16 per month.

At the same time the government has been steadily reducing grants to Ontario hospitals by "increasing" operating grants at a level that falls well below the inflation rate.

The government's cut happy policies came to a ludicrous peak Friday when minister of health Dennis Timbrell announced that despite years of steady cuts, the province's funding to hospitals would once again fall below the inflation rate.

Perhaps the most distasteful aspect of Mr. Timbrell's Friday announcement was the government's decision to begin levelling a \$9.80 per day levy to chronic care and psychiatric patients who are hospitalized for more than 60 days.

Considering that chronic care and psychiatric patients can sometimes be hospitalized for a matter of years, the families of the patients or the patients themselves could be saddled with thousands of dollars in medical expenses.

Surely Ontario's public health system was designed to avoid just this type of burden. While the government insists the cost will not be forced upon those families who cannot afford it, only those on family allowance and welfare are mentioned in this category.

Mr. Timbrell makes no allowance for those low and middle income earners who would be pushed to the brink of financial ruin if forced to pay almost \$300 a month to keep an ailing relative in the hospital.

Local Liberal MP like opposition

From the way Georgetown's federal member of parliament, Liberal Ross Milne, spoke at his "town hall meeting" last Thursday night, one would almost think he was campaigning for the Progressive Conservatives or the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Milne is a thoughtful man, and should be congratulated for his town hall meetings program. However, as a thoughtful man he was unable to try and dupe his audience and pretend that the many problems facing this country do not exist.

In so doing, Mr. Milne began to sound like an opposition candidate. He detailed the country's economic woes, problems with developing industry and failure to develop new foreign markets for Canadian products. Only instead of wrapping up his speech with an impassioned "and so ladies and gentlemen, this is why I think you should dump the Liberals in 1979" he urged his audience not to dwell on the negative aspects of the country and instead, have faith in his vague solutions to the problems his party has helped create.

Canadians have endured Mr. Milne's party for more than 15 years and, quite simply, it is the Liberal Party which must now bear a large amount of the responsibility for the mess this country is now in.

If, as he said in his speech Thursday night, Mr. Milne thinks Canada has failed to aggressively pursue foreign markets then it is his party which is responsible. They have had the opportunity to ensure these markets were pursued. Why didn't they?

The same goes for the failure to develop Canada's manufacturing industry, the decrease in Canadian research and many of the other problems Mr. Milne outlined with a detached concern on Thursday.

Since the Liberals have been in power for more than 15 years, they

In discussing the sad state of Ontario's health care program, Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital administrator Fred Morris says that the money to pay for higher funding should be found within the ministry or, by increasing user costs of Ontario's health system.

Ontario residents already pay enough in direct cost for health care through their OHIP payments. The cost of keeping Ontario's hospitals in line with inflation should be covered from within general government revenue, including money raised through taxes raised from businesses, corporations and individuals.

Ontario's government is also guilty of farming out their 'fiscal restraint'. While hospitals are forced to operate with funding below the inflation rate, salaries of minister like Mr. Timbrell and top level bureaucrats continue to stay healthy ahead of inflation.

We wonder how financially responsible the provincial government is when they waste \$50,000 in one day ferrying in hospital administrators from across Ontario to Toronto only to be told in person that they must tighten their own belts.

Fifteen chronic care patients could have been hospitalized for a year without having to pay their \$9.80 at about the same cost as Mr. Timbrell's one day information session.

We shudder to think how many other less obvious cases of fiscal irresponsibility the government is guilty of.

The solution to Ontario's health disaster is not for hospital administrators to again pull out the knife and cut back local services to a point where some hospital staff are predicting danger to patients. And the solution is not to increase direct costs to system users.

Instead, Ontario's hospital staff, users and administrators alike must stand up and demand that the government retain reasonable health service as a budget priority.

have been in a position to see many of the problems the country is currently facing in advance, and even attempt to head them off. However, they have failed.

Mr. Milne almost sounded surprised on Thursday night when he explained that Canada is in the bottom 20 per cent of countries in the world for research. How can he be surprised when it was his own Liberal government that gave foreign corporations almost carte blanche permission to develop Canada's industry back in the Sixties, and earlier. Surely Mr. Milne is not now surprised that these same companies prefer to conduct research under the auspices of their own head offices back in their home countries?

Mr. Milne is again correct when he says that Canada has become too dependent on the sale of raw resources for exports. He says that there is also a desperate lack of manufacturing jobs in Canada. It's ironic that the refinement of Canada's natural resources do create manufacturing jobs. Unfortunately, these jobs are in Norway, the United States and Japan where our foreign owned companies send Canada's resources to be manufactured.

Again, it was Mr. Milne's Liberal government that has allowed this 'no strings attached' exploitation of Canada's natural resources by foreign companies. Now we are paying the price.

It seems to us that had Mr. Milne's Liberal Party done their job properly in the first place - during the last 15 years they have been in power - they would not now be in the position of desperately trying to come up with solutions for problems they created or allowed to develop.

Whether Mr. Milne likes it or not, an incumbent government must run on its record. And for the Liberals, even based on Mr. Milne's own statements, the record has not been that good.



Crombie was tiny, perfect but has large flaws as MP



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald
David Crombie might have been the tiny perfect mayor of Toronto, but in striving for similar perfection in federal politics he must learn to be more evasive about hypothetical questions.

There he was on national television telling us, in effect that a federal Conservative government would negotiate with Quebec Premier Rene Levesque on his proposed sovereignty-association. "I think anyone who refuses to negotiate is silly," said the Tory MP from Toronto Rosedale.

And this forthright declaration came just a few weeks after Party Leader Joe Clark slipped into hot water for making a similar comment. He was quoted as saying that "if they (the Parti Quebecois) win with more than 60 per cent of the votes, and if the question permits a certain flexibility, I'd negotiate."

Despite party claims that the Clark statement was taken out of context, the fact is that he has expressed some willingness to sit down with Levesque and talk about sovereignty-association should a sizeable

majority of Quebecers support a referendum for such negotiations. Perhaps any federal prime minister would be forced to sit down for talks in such an eventuality, but considering it's not something you agree to while it's still hypothetical.

For political purposes, the Clark-Crombie statements don't stack up well against Prime Minister Trudeau's pronouncement that "the future of Canada is not negotiable."

CREATES FEARS

But Crombie went on at great length, during his television interview, to argue that just about anything is negotiable. "I have no doubt that the Quebecers are interested in separating from Canada," said Crombie. "But you have to remember that Quebec is still landbound to the rest of the country. It's not going to sink into the Atlantic Ocean. There still has to be relationships or jobs between, for example, the provinces of Ontario... we have a reality. For 300 years we have worked out forms and for someone to say that because they call what they want to happen by a label we ought not to talk about it. I think that's wrong. In fact, I think it's trading illusions and creates unnecessary fear."

What is also does is give the Trudeau government just the kind of ammunition it wants as it cranks up toward a general election campaign based on national unity. There is little doubt that Trudeau and his ministers will be portraying the Liberals as the only party committed to unity, the only party able to stand up to Rene Levesque, the only party capable of holding the country together. And by agreeing to hypothetical

negotiations, the Tory spokesmen are playing into Liberal hands.

LALONDE FIRM

Justice Minister Marc Lalonde has been particularly active in telling Quebecers that neither the federal government nor the provinces will be willing to negotiate any form of sovereignty-association. "I have the impression that the strength of English (Canadian) cohesion has always been underestimated in Quebec," he has said.

He has also warned that "the collective bargaining strength of the nine provinces could leave an independent Quebec in a less favorable economic position. The adjustment problems for Quebec would be severe."

The entire thrust of the Liberal message is that Quebecers would vote for sovereignty-association at their peril; that no goodwill should be expected from Ottawa or the other provinces if they decide to bend the bonds of Confederation. As a result of this approach, Quebec Finance Minister Jacques Parizeau has accused Lalonde of being an "economic terrorist."

No such accusations have been directed toward the federal Conservatives, who, Trudeau will tell you, are "soft on separatism." This is a perception that Clark's Tories must change if they hope for any kind of breakthrough in Quebec where virtually all federalists votes have gravitated toward the Liberals. And it will be very difficult to change so long as MPs like David Crombie are going on national television to indicate a willingness to negotiate sovereignty-association with Rene Levesque.

NDP's newest rising star may be Toronto's Ed Philip

By DON O'HEARN

Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald
TORONTO — In his life in Ontario the NDP-CCF has had four leaders. Ted Jolliffe, Don MacDonald, Stephen Lewis and now Michael Cassidy.

None of the first three was able to lead the party into power; though in 1943 Jolliffe came close when in a 90 seat house he won 34 seats against the government's 38. And to date at least it seems Cassidy won't do any better.

Now there is the obvious question: Is the party in Ontario always to be an also-ran?

PARTY UNFORMED

There is every temptation to believe this is so.

The New Democratic Party as of now, is a hybrid without any striking identity.

It is for labor, under any and all circumstances; it is for the "little man" and his causes, pretty well every little man and every cause; it is against the "big" man, and its wisdoms are those of class war; its intellect has mostly developed no farther than demagoguery. It is against many things, and really not maturely and solidly for anything.

Which would be a rather dismal situation, if it weren't that by contrast with the other two major parties the NDP, doesn't come off too badly. For they don't really stand for all that much either.

A LEADER?

Which brings us to Ed Philip. Philip is an MPP (Toronto-Etobicoke) an NDP'er and rather an unusual one.

Now 37, he has been in the house since 1975 and slowly has been becoming one of the more respected back-benchers of his party.

But perhaps not the most respected by his caucus, for he is not and has not been a

conformist. He has been an active member of the NDP since its formation in the early sixties, but he has never been an aggressive lip servant, as are so many.

Again as with so many in the NDP, his early inclination was towards education, and he took his master's degree.

But he didn't go into the classroom. Rather he ended up with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, as an organizer and then director of leadership training.

When he entered active politics in 1975 it was pretty well a siting Liberal, and the party didn't give him much hope, and practically no support. He won handily - and in the 1977 vote walked home.

As a member he has come across as reasonable and assured. Above all in no sense a zealot.

He himself would probably say his party would never elect him leader. Quite likely he would explain that he is too conservative.

But this ignores the fact that though a leader is very important, the party behind him is also very important.

And this is particularly so in the case of the NDP, which until now has been relatively unformed.

A CHANGE?

And if it is to get anywhere it obviously is going to have to change; and if it is to have general appeal probably get more conservative.

One can see the day when it will be seeking a man such as Philip.

As for his personal position at present within the party it really is not of that much significance.

A lesson of political life is that our really good leaders have seldom reached office on personal popularity. In fact most

of the big ones have tended to be loners.

It is normally only parties in disarray, such as our Liberals were here in Ontario for so long, who have sought messiahs and voted for what they thought was charisma. And lost with it.

Keep an eye out for Philip. He might turn out to be a hall-mark in our political development. At this stage he appears as a person the public might have faith in. And that is the real test of winning politics in a leader.

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Halton's History

From the Herald's files

BETTER CHURCH FACILITIES
THIRTY YEARS AGO — The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Georgetown United Church was held on Monday evening. The meeting accepted the recommendation of the Building Committee that in view of the present and urgent need for enlarged and improved facilities that the church proceed with its building plans. The commitment for 1949 calls for the building of a new Sunday School Hall and the division of the present hall into suitable classrooms.

Georgetown Fire Brigade were called to Brampton last Saturday morning to help fight a serious fire on Main Street. The fire gutted the premises of the Green Lantern Restaurant and fire and smoke caused extensive damage to the adjoining McKillop's Furniture Store. Three residents of apartments over the stores escaped before the flames and smoke reached their height.

With over \$3,000 raised for church purposes in 1948, a record financial year was reported at the annual meeting of the Norval United Church held January 7.

John Bingham was chosen chairman of the board of trustees of Esqueping School Area 1 when the board met in Georgetown on January 17 at the office of the secretary-treasurer Miss Ruth Evans.

NOBLE BUYS DAIRY
The Georgetown Dairy, owned and operated for the past three years by Riley Brethour, changed hands on Monday when Mr. Brethour sold the business to Irwin Noble of Hanover. Mr. Brethour came here from Hespeler, purchasing the business from E.B. Tyers, who in turn purchased Cedarvale Farm.

TWENTY YEARS AGO — Mechanization of the town business office, with an addressograph machine as the first step, was proposed by Mayor Armstrong, at council's first business meeting of the year last Thursday. The mayor estimated that up to \$15,000 could be spent in equipment needed by a town of this size which is becoming imperative for efficient handling of water and tax accounts. This would include a billing machine, eliminating the present typing and handwriting of accounts.

At the last meeting of the Kinsmen Club it was decided that the club would be responsible for the transportation of children to the Sunshine School for Mentally Retarded Children in Milton daily.

A resolution which Woodstock council forwarded to Georgetown council was ordered filed. It dealt with inflation due to wage increases, claiming this adversely affects Canada's position in the world market, and expressed this concern in a letter to the federal government. Mayor Jack Armstrong said he does not consider it a local council's place to advise a higher government, no matter how sincere the request might be.

CONN SMYTHE VISITS
If all goes well Club Midtown will have a distinguished visitor this Friday in the person of Conn Smythe. Mr. Smythe will be here in connection with a proposed YMCA.

TEN YEARS AGO — Judge John Ord walked out of a Halton County Board of Education meeting in Milton Thursday, after announcing his resignation in protest over the \$4,000 salary hike given the new top administrators. The judge, a member of the Georgetown District High School Board recently appointed to a "continuing committee" by the Halton board, told the Herald he would make his resignation official at Georgetown council meeting this coming Monday.

CENTENNIAL ADDITION
Final approval from the Ontario Municipal Board is the only hurdle to be cleared before construction starts on the long-awaited Centennial school addition — an addition four times larger than the existing school.

Condition of washroom sinks in Halton County jail was cited as a health hazard by the Grand Jury Wednesday in a report to Supreme Court judge Mr. Justice LaCourciere. Heating, piping, electrical wiring and the spiral staircase are in "very poor condition" and there is very poor ventilation and very low humidity throughout the building, the report said.

At the first meeting of the Municipal Safety Committee this year, Chairman Colin Blight, charged that regulations governing the fencing of open excavations were being "flagrantly ignored" by building contractors and town works department alike. He stated it was the duty of the committee to take necessary steps to ensure that existing regulations are obeyed, by constantly harassing the town building inspector, safety officer and newly-elected town council.

Georgetown's new water commission is already at work and on Monday asked council to seek Ontario Municipal Board approval for a \$250,000 debenture issue for capital works planned this year. The debenture would include \$95,000 for exploration and work on No. 4 water main; \$55,000 for a planned No. 5 well; \$20,000 for relocating waterlines in the Main Street bridge reconstruction; \$50,000 for reconstruction on Maple Avenue and \$30,000 for waterlines on Mountainview Road South.

ACTONIANS FOR ACTION
ONE YEAR AGO — Financial information from elected officials which would indicate whether Acton is better off under regional government is not being supplied to the Actonians for Acton, the Ontario Liberal caucus on regional government was told Wednesday. Norm Elliot, spokesman for the 18-month-old group of Acton residents said it is not opposed to regional government, but wants to make clear Acton's situation in regional government.

Halton separate school teachers have requested a final vote on latest contract proposals from the separate school board, a move interpreted by the board's chief negotiator as a strike vote. Hartley Sherk, trustee for Halton Hills, disputes the position of the teachers' bargaining unit, which says several other options exist still including further negotiation, arbitration and final offer selection by the Education Relations Commission.

Attempts to set up a hostel for battered wives in Halton moved forward a step last week with the setting up of subcommittees to define the exact function of the proposed hostel and the extent of the need for it, as well as a means of funding it.