



RENOVATIONS CHEQUE

Ed Hretchka, left, president of the Georgetown Lions Club, and Jack Fisher, right, club treasurer, presented Halton Hills mayor Peter Pomeroy with a cheque for \$5,000 as the final

payment in the club's \$15,000 pledge for the renovations on the Georgetown Memorial Arena February 20.

Letters to the Editor

Reader says unionizing article exposes Acton 'sweatshop'

To the editor of The Herald:

I want to thank your staff writer Maggie Hannah, and Bill Rannachan of the Canadian union of United Brewery, flour, cereal, soft drinks and distillery workers for bringing

to the attention of your readers the unbelievable working conditions that exist at the Acton's Superior Glove Works Ltd. When I first read it I thought I was reading an article concerning the early 1900s. In this day and age I

cannot understand any employer running a sweatshop and harrasing the female employees. I am sure the co-owner Frank Gang would not have done so if the employees had been males.

It is articles such as these that will expose those who put profits before people and bring a much better understanding for workers and management.

Bill Cumpsty
Georgetown

Georgetown ratepayers group opposes Focal's survey plan

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the Mayor and Georgetown councillors on behalf of the executive of the Georgetown Ratepayers Association.

To the Mayor and Councillors of Georgetown

Dear Sirs, and Madam, We are writing to express our reservations concerning the proposal to ask developers to fund a study of development in the Georgetown area. The Region of Halton has had its professional staff prepare a draft official plan and in this document the planned growth rate for Georgetown is given, and the envisaged boundaries of the town are shown. Analysis of the surrounding areas is also given. The other limiting factors to growth are the available sewage capacity and the desire to maintain a reasonable ratio of industrial to residential assessment. The factor of sewage capacity should cease to be a matter of

conjecture very shortly when the region makes available data on the new facility. These factors have been discussed in the GARA report recently presented to the council.

The town maintains a planning department, staffed by professionals, and it would be hoped that this department could take the available information and furnish council with an update on the situation.

We question whether a further study is required at this time, before considering information that is, or will shortly be available. We also note that previous reports have demonstrated that conclusions can be reached that satisfy the sponsors of the report and there could be a danger of this if developers are providing the funds. If it is firmly established that a report is necessary then funding by the town or province could be more appropriate, particularly when

one developer has lawsuits outstanding against the town on one of the central issues a report would address. We hope that you will consider these factors before authorizing such a study, and that any

decision will be based on sound planning with the welfare of the citizens of Georgetown as the over-riding consideration.

Yours faithfully,
Dr. J.A. Thomas
For the Executive of GARA

Reader corrects Countryside story

To the editor of The Herald:

In your February 14th edition, an article appeared on page 7 that has given me concern. The article headlined "Labour Board Upholds Firing of Counsellor" is an accurate report from the Ontario Labour Relations Board, except for the third paragraph from the bottom.

This particular piece of information was not in the Labour Board report and is inaccurate.

Mr. Jake Kulken was not a member of our association's governing board of Countryside, and was not involved in the decision by our Board.

I appreciate very much the coverage the newspaper gives our association and felt that you would like to set the record straight for all concerned.

Sincerely,
Edith Hillman,
President

Ask questions about Superior

To the editor of The Herald:

I could hardly believe my eyes when I read in The Herald accusations regarding conditions at the Acton Superior Glove Works Ltd. plant. Those of us who supported and demonstrated with the women at the Fleck plant didn't obviously know what was going on in our own backyard.

Stelco, Great Canadian Oil, Canox and others, should start asking questions about Acton Superior Glove Works Ltd. and if these accusations are substantiated, they should take the appropriate action.

William A. Johnson
President Local 00144,
Environmental Camp,
Public Service Alliance
Of Canada

'News' that's not really news

Have you ever noticed that when a politician feels that he or she is in trouble they indulge in a little media-baiting?

When Joe Clark recently returned from his disastrous around-the-world tour, he pinned the blame for his flop on the media rather than his own shortcomings.

Toronto mayoralty candidates Tony O'Donohue and David Smith blamed the media for their dismal showings in last November's elections.

Back in the old Watergate days (remember them?) President Richard Nixon blamed his fading fortunes on the Press, not on the fact that he was a crook.

NOT A FAN

And of course, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has never been overly fond of the Press, it seems they have this bad habit of reporting on things when he fouls up.

Now, local MP Dr. Frank Philbrook, a Liberal representing Halton has joined the fray. I would definitely classify him as a politician in trouble since that's a term you could pin on almost any incumbent Liberal MP. Dr. Philbrook's "trouble" is increased by the fact that he is running against arch-conservative Conservative Otto Jelinek who already appears to be the favorite in the ever-impending federal election.

So Dr. Philbrook has decided to do what any incumbent politician would and, what the Liberals seem especially determined to do. He is telling us that, despite what we may be observing, things are really going well in this country.

"GOOD NEWS"

Dr. Philbrook has begun circulating something called "Dr. Philbrook's Regular Good News Letter". In this semi-regular three page report, Dr. Philbrook outlines the "good" things that have been happening to the Canadian taxpayer under the Liberal regime.

It's at the end of his most recent report that the good doctor takes his shot at the Press.

After listing his news he says "... If the local newspapers dare to publish his good news, please let me know your reaction".

Dare? The Halton MP is suggesting that newspapers are only interested in printing the bad news. Perhaps he has been feeling the heat a little because there certainly hasn't been that much good news for us to report about the federal government. Dr. Philbrook suggests there is good news out there relating to the federal government but apparently believes that we refuse to cover it.

TAKE CREDIT

What we at The Herald do not publish is unedited politician propaganda, like Philbrook's or that from any political party.

In Philbrook's "good news" he, very briefly, lists about 30 items which he appears to be taking credit for on behalf of himself or his Party.

For example, he refers to the good news relating to Canada's resource sales. The doctor notes that Canada's potash sales are up 31 per cent. He doesn't mention that one of Canada's biggest exporters of potash is the provincially-owned potash corporation of Saskatchewan, an NDP company.

His good news glosses over the serious bad news relating to our resource industry; just ask the INCO workers in Sudbury what the market is like for nickel.

He points happily to the \$40 million which foreign corporations have been promising to spend in Canada since 1969 on research and development in Canada.

R&D PLUMMET

It sounds like a lot of money, but spread over 10 years it's peanuts. In fact, neighboring Liberal MP Ross Milne recently said that while Canada once had an "average"

amount of research and development, it now has plummeted to the bottom 25 per cent of the world's countries.

I think it's fair to say Dr. Philbrook's bit of "good news" about research and development is a little misleading.

Dr. Philbrook gloats about our food prices being the lowest among 16 nations surveyed by a U.S. agency and the list includes Japan, France and the U.S. itself.

I think Canadian consumers are more concerned that



Michael Hollett

Herald editor

last week's announcement that the current 8.9 per cent inflation rate, according to Statistics Canada, is primarily fueled by high food prices.

Philbrook's good news report is a fine example of viewing the world through rose colored glasses. He says Americans are now driving across our border to buy cars and to hold their conventions due to our "competitive dollar". How about our demolished dollar? Philbrook also doesn't mention that the U.S. government has re-introduced tax write-offs for American corporations holding conventions in this country.

Bearing all of this in mind, I find it a little presumptuous for Dr. Philbrook to ask newspapers to print the reports which are simply pro-government propaganda. His "good news reports" raise the whole issue of whether or not community newspapers should publish politicians' reports.

I don't think they should.

On a more or less regular basis, The Herald and other newspapers in the area receive columns from federal and provincial members of parliament and, in some cases reports from municipal politicians.

DON'T PUBLISH

MP's Milne and Philbrook, as well as MPP Julian Reed and school board trustees, all send along columns for publication. Generally, we do not publish these.

I have a number of hesitations about running these types of articles but the main one is that they tend to reinforce the status quo, regardless of its shortcomings.

Why should incumbent politicians be handed free newspaper space in which to electioneer when the same space is not available each week to opposition candidates?

I think that if The Herald ran a weekly article from MP Ross Milne each week, Conservative candidate John McDermid and NDP candidate David Moulton would be entitled to complain about the lack of equal time. At the same time, the newspaper simply would not have the space to throw open to lengthy, weekly articles by members of each political party.

In the case of the federal and provincial members' report, a certain amount of useful information is contained in the articles but, needless to say, it is presented in a partisan manner. It would seem that type of electioneering is better presented in an advertisement or through a direct mail report to the voters, something that many politicians also do.

We do make a point of reading the weekly reports and weeding out valuable information for publication.

The same goes for reports from school board trustees Barry Shepherd and Betty Fisher. Hopefully, the newspapers sufficiently report the actions of the board in a non-partisan way. If we aren't doing our job reporting, we invite criticism from readers and trustees alike.

The reports we are given for publication generally end up reading like election material. Barry Shepherd's latest report basically consists of a list of places the trustee has been during the past month. Rather than being the type of information a parent may need to know about the school board's policies, the report ends up being a personal plug showing that Shepherd has been a busy trustee. That's electioneering, not board information and it simply would not be fair to publish that information when we would not run similar articles from future candidates.

Needless to say, the "Letters" section of the paper is open to politicians and candidates alike to speak their mind in the area of the newspaper that is clearly known as the opinion section.

So, no, Dr. Philbrook, we won't take you up on your dare. If you want to circulate campaign material, you will have to do it yourself.

VARIAN CONTRACT

From the Ottawa Bureau

Of The Herald

OTTAWA — A federal contract worth \$77,418 has been awarded to Varian Associates of Canada of Georgetown to provide the Transport Canada and the defence department with electronic equipment components the department of supply and services announced Monday.

It was one of 247 unclassified contracts worth \$10,000 or more that were awarded by the department to Canadian companies during the week ended Feb. 9. Total value of the contracts amounted to \$10,662,894.

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Toronto Conservatory exams

At the recent mid-winter music examinations set by the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Stuart McClure passed his Grade 5 Piano with Honors. Islay McClure obtained her Grade Six Piano and passed her Preliminary Rudiments with first Class Honors. Both are students of Mrs. A. Allen and children of Mr. and Mrs. John McClure, Georgetown.

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