

Provincial minister plans chicken talks

Herald Special
Ontario Agriculture Minister Lorne Henderson has joined the province's chicken producers in their fight to stop U.S. imports from flooding the market.

Mr. Henderson plans to meet federal trade minister Robert de Cotret next week to discuss controls on chicken imports. Producers argue their birds are dying because of the numbers crossing the border.

An excess of chickens in the United States has seen the price per pound drop to 25 cents, 13 cents cheaper than the price of domestic chickens as set down by the Ontario Chicken Producers' Marketing Board.

Producers say they would go bankrupt if their price per pound equalled that of the imports.

FULL SUPPORT
"They, the chicken producers, have my full support."

said Mr. Henderson. "There's no question that imports should be regulated."

One of the major processing firms importing the chickens is Maple Lodge Farms in Norval, Maple Lodge, site of a demonstration last week by producers, imports up to 30 per cent of the 140,000 chickens it processes each day.

Spokesmen for the company blame the marketing board for the import problem, saying it doesn't guarantee delivery in times of shortage or surplus. Spokesmen deny the American chickens are cheaper.

Calling the 10-per-cent import figure a "blow to Ontario producers", the agriculture minister said the only answer is federal regulation.

NATIONAL BOARD
The federal government intended to establish a national marketing board for the purpose of regulating imports, but since the announcement by the former Liberal government

last January, nothing has been done.

Mr. Henderson says he believes in having some imports in the event of an emergency, but his main concern lies with the plight of the chicken producers.

"We also need to have control of our own economy and the only way to do that is through controls over imports," he said.

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermaid says some importing has to take place.

"I don't think we can cut it off at the border," said the Progressive Conservative MP. "If we start doing that it will be the consumer who suffers."

The MP is sympathetic with Maple Lodge, saying the company must have a guaranteed supply.

"Those same farmers that picketed a few months ago, couldn't supply the chickens," he told The Herald.

Ontario producers say at least 500,000 chickens are backed up because of the present import policy.

Bob May, co-owner of Maple Lodge Farms, says Mr. Henderson's objective is to support the producers, but he doesn't think the minister has all the facts.

Mr. Henderson has no idea of all the ramifications," said Mr. May.

He denied that imported chickens cost Maple Lodge less money.

With tariffs, transportation costs, and the value of the Canadian dollar the cost is no cheaper, he said.



(Herald photo)

UWC BURSARY AWARD

The University Women's Club presented a scholarship to Christa Mayhew, the outstanding woman graduate from Georgetown District High School, last week. Miss Mayhew is presently studying science at the University of Guelph, and hopes

to become a veterinarian. Janine Prouse also received a scholarship from the club. Presenting the scholarship to Miss Mayhew are club president Karen McClements and Carol Packer.

VIEWPOINT

Rip-off 'artists' still a minority

By Gerry Landsborough
Herald columnist

One-to-one honesty appears to be taking a back seat as of late. The phrase is "rip-off" and rip-off is used to describe just about any crooked happening.

The strange part is the acceptance of the word as a situation other than plain old fashion stealing.

Let me give you a case in point: a young mother was telling me how her lad had a job at the Maple Leaf Gardens selling pop in the stands. Apparently a good number if not all of the lads are jacking the price of the pop up from 40 cents to whatever they could get and they pocket the rest. It's call a "rip-off" - I call it stealing. The mother disagreed with me - rip-off is rip-off, and stealing is stealing.

NICKEL AND DIME

Of course pop is nickel and dime stuff, adults prefer their rip-offs with a little more meat. Theft from factories by employees is generally accepted by everyone, but the owners of the plant, as a compensation for low wages. Seldom is anyone prosecuted even if caught. Price gouging where the consumer continually gets it in the left ear, is another everyday rip-off. Unfortunately it's so widespread that the poor consumer expects it, therefore getting "less than you paid for" syndrome is a certain kind of fashionable trend, or respectability.

In the professions it has become so bad that you can no

longer be sure who the bigger crook is; the criminal or the lawyer that's defending him. Doctors are in the same boat - with the age of specialization you expect the specialist to charge you \$25 for telling you are very sick and of course his fee for treatment comes later. Written articles like the one on "The Wages of Sin" that appeared in last week's Canadian magazine add to the growing confusion. Here we are told in detail how much "tax free" money you can make by such means as car theft, loan shark, hit man, hijacker, shoplifter, bookie joint etc. the list goes on and on. The crooks are referred to as "rascals". Crime is given a professional status and glamorized as a great little money maker. The entire article is written in "cutesy" style.

PARDON ME

Well, pardon me but criminals are not just another group of poor working stiff but the very same that socks it to the basic hard working honest man. They attach themselves like leeches draining blood, sweat and tears from those who have earned what they have. Earned the good old fashioned honest way minus the rip-off.

It is almost as though high profit makes the most disgusting of crimes respectable. The article mentions the \$80,000 a year for a small time loan shark. That \$80,000 is bled from widows, sick people, the old and the unfortunate and of course no one snitches because you might get both arms brok-

en but of course it's all in good fun, or so they'd have you believe.

That kind of article accepted by a reputable magazine doesn't say too much for society.

Who likes dishonesty? It's like movie makers, they say there is no market for family type films yet whenever Disney makes a release you have to stand in line for two hours before you can buy a ticket. Who are all those "nobodies" from the no market, who buy the tickets? They're probably the same basic hard-working honest people that some are trying to convince us don't exist anymore.

One day the backbone of you average "nose to the grindstone citizen" is going to snap due to the constant manipulation by a group that I honestly believe is still in the minority. No matter how many articles push crime and try to convince us otherwise and no matter how many mothers turn their heads from a little rip-off I still believe the majority don't agree and sincerely believe that honesty is still the best policy.

Nothing that is achieved by "rip-off" ever has the same meaning - the kid who rips-off a stereo never gets the satisfaction from listening that the kid who saved for two years does. We value most what we earn through blood, sweat and tears. True satisfaction is always in the climb up the mountain reaching the top is just the pudding on the cake and being sent down by helicopter doesn't mean a tinkers damn.


Education conference here

The Halton board of education will be hosting an international conference on the gifted and talented student next spring at Sheridan College in Oakville.

Ron Chapman, superintendent of special education, said last week the conference would involve "high-ranking educators" from a number of countries who would be speaking about in-class activities and other modes of enrichment for Talented students.

atme conference will also include 22 workshops on the gifted students in the regular classroom "and the means by which teachers can identify and meet their particular needs."

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