

## Lung association sees pot threat

"Marijuana smoking constitutes the greatest single new threat to the health of our lungs and in the next ten years, the potential exists for an enormous worsening of the respiratory health of all, unless we do something about it now," says Robert L. Dupont, M.D., the former director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

While most new drugs are considered dangerous until proven safe, for marijuana, the assumption has been the reverse as it has been assumed to be safe until proven harmful.

It is pointed out that marijuana smoke contains more tar and known cancer causing agents than tobacco smoke. He presents the findings from a study showing that a single marijuana cigarette smoked for 15 minutes produces as high a level of carbon monoxide in the blood as do 10 to 20 tobacco cigarettes smoked in the course of a day.

"American young people are literally the only population in the history of the world in which large numbers of an

entire generation have smoked marijuana," he says in a recent Christmas Seal publication. "The use of marijuana in other countries does not involve an entire society; generally its use is limited to either religious groups or social classes that are relatively isolated and generally looked down on in society". He believes the lung health of this generation is in jeopardy.

"The most bizarre thing that strikes me about young people is that so many are concerned about pollution, worried about the environment, believers in eating natural foods, crusaders against the problems of nuclear energy - and yet they continue to smoke marijuana cigarettes", Dr. Dupont says. "There is a growing body of information about health risks, and we need to get that across".

To find out more about threats to the lungs, contact the Halton Lung Association - the Christmas Seal people. It's a matter of life and death.

-Submitted by the Halton Lung Association.

## Demand for blood takes no holiday

Well, the holiday season now is over for another year, and it's time we all got back to thinking about bleeding more than just through our eyes, as the hangover saying goes.

The usual concentration on enjoying the holidays, plus the cold weather and the flu bug currently felling us like flies, have meant that people have not been donating blood as frequently as normal. As a result, the Red Cross Society is now operating on a

perilously low blood bank holding about a two-day supply. The poor reserve means that the society is issuing blood only on an emergency basis.

Red Cross officials are worried, and they need all types of blood. Watch for announcements of clinics being held at local schools and industries, or call the Halton Unit of the Red Cross to see how you can help.

Courtesy Brampton Daily Times

### Book review

## The faceless elite that runs Canada

By EARLE GRAY

Since Canada as a nation survived last May 20's Quebec referendum, what sort of state will finally emerge?

In our pre-occupation with this question, it might be well to spare a moment to consider the type of ship of state on which we sailed into this storm in the first place.

One view of this sorry vessel is provided in *The State Elite* (McClelland and Stewart; 148 pages; \$14.95) by Dennis Olsen, a professor of sociology at Ottawa's Carleton University, who professes to view the state from the perspective of a former "working man." (Among other things, Olsen was a construction worker before returning to university.)

The author examines by class definitions (upper, middle and lower or "working" class) the elite who run the instruments of our state, including legislators, the judiciary and bureaucrats. He notes the proliferation of regulatory boards run by the bureaucrats, from the National Energy Board to "Ontario's Pregnant Mare Urine License Review Board."

### GROWING ROLE

Olsen seems concerned about the ever-growing role of the state in our lives, which he says is "one of the most prominent features of advanced capitalist societies." Governments accounted for five cents out of every dollar spent in Canada at the time of Confederation, but today it's nearly 50 cents. One-third of all Canadian adults now derive their incomes from the state, in the form of either wages, pensions or welfare payments.

He is also concerned about the massive shift of power from the federal to the provincial governments, resulting in inequalities in income, taxation, and standards of education, health care and other services. "The rational Canadian," suggests Olsen, "should shop around to see in which province it would be most beneficial to reside."

But most of all he is concerned about our alleged class system of government, with nearly all the power and privilege reserved for the middle and upper class of French and British origin, to the exclusion of the working class and those of other ethnic origins.

Our middle-class legislators work in league with the upper class. The judiciary sustains "a system of class justice," with economic inequalities and inequalities in justice. The bureaucrats, meanwhile, provide "an important mechanism for the renewal of the dominant class." Such is Olsen's analysis.

Olsen anchors his conclusion on a mind-numbing array of statistics (92 per cent of the bureaucratic elite hold university degrees, versus eight per cent of the labor force), which he interprets with the aid of quotations from Karl Marx ("the more the ruling class is able to assimilate the foremost minds of a ruled class, the more stable and dangerous becomes its rule").

### PUBLIC GOOD

He has examined the Canadian state, he says, in terms of whether it has reduced inequality or extended democratic participation. "My effort to

find either being improved by the Canadian state was unsuccessful," he reports.

It almost sounds like the conclusion Adam Smith reached in *The Wealth of Nations* 200 years ago: "I have never known much good done by those who affected to trade for the public good."

The diagnoses may be similar, but the prescription is not. The disciples of Adam Smith, today's neo-conservatives, prescribe less government, and more regulation by a competitive market economy. Olsen proposes more government (he favors nationalizing the oil industry, for example), and an alliance of the middle and working classes to bring about a "true democracy."

The fact is that there are few other societies that offer greater opportunity for upward mobility - where a working man, for example, can become a professor of sociology.

The State Elite, we are told, "follows the honored tradition" of two earlier studies of class barriers to power and privilege in Canada - John Porter's *The Vertical Mosaic*, and Wallace Clement's *The Corporate Elite*. Perhaps it is time for a fourth, dealing with the Academic Elite.

Meanwhile, we can look elsewhere in our search for the type of state that may emerge in the Canadian nation. Or the type of state that might hold the nation together.

Earle Gray is author of *Super Pipe*, an account of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline hearings.



## After an incredible 1980, Canada deserves a better year



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

When you stop to think about it, 1980 really was quite an incredible year in Canadian politics.

It seems like an eternity ago, but the year actually started off under the stewardship of Prime Minister Joe Clark. Pierre Trudeau was being dragged into the fray, trying to convince himself he was eager for another campaign, but publicly telling his troops "they had better produce." His Liberals were denouncing higher oil prices that had been proposed by the Tories. They were also denouncing high interest rates, high inflation. If only they could get the dreaded Tories out of office.

Trudeau was promising that, if given one more crack at the prime minister's office, he would quit before the next election. No other Canadian leader had ever run on such a platform.

In Quebec, you may recall, Premier Rene Levesque was riding

high, confident that his "yes" forces would win a forthcoming referendum on sovereignty-association. He hadn't heard about western alienation, but none of us were sure whether Quebec would remain within Confederation. Everyone was preoccupied with Quebec.

### TIME FLIES

And it was less than a year ago that we were being told that the Alberta government and the federal Tories were within a whisker of an agreement on oil pricing. Premier Lougheed wasn't saying anything critical about Ottawa.

It's difficult to believe that these conditions actually existed within the last 12 months. But it was an amazing year.

We not only had the resurrection of a Liberal government, coupled with the defeat of the long-suffering Tories, we actually went through that historic Quebec referendum, which sent vibrations of fear across the entire country before we all settled back to forget about it. There has been unprecedented federal-provincial bickering involving everything from oil prices to human rights.

British Columbia is withholding federal taxes as part of its financial feud with Ottawa. Other provinces are taking the federal government to court over its constitutional proposals. More lawsuits are threatened over taxing

And Ottawa and Alberta remain deadlocked in a state of economic war, with Alberta planning to cut back oil production as one of its powerful levers in the dispute.

### GETTING WORSE

In the wake of the Quebec referendum, this was to have been the year of great constitutional accord. And as the year ends, the battle rages as never before. The Liberals who were so quick to criticize rising inflation and soaring interest rates, now we are watching them climb still higher. And our dollar is foundering in international markets.

And just a year after a confident prime minister Joe Clark was plunging into an election campaign with obvious glee, he now is facing a party convention that will put his own leadership on the line. At 42, Clark could be looking for work.

Even New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent can't consider 1980 to be an unqualified success. True, he picked up seats in the February election, but in a majority Parliament he doesn't enjoy the clout he had when Joe Clark headed a government. In fact, it was an NDP motion that brought down the Tories.

And as for the federal Social Credit Party, it was wiped out.

It was indeed an incredible year. But by no stretch of the imagination was it a great one. The country deserves better in 1981.

## Fuel conservation campaign fell short of objectives



### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

### Queen's Park Bureau of the Herald

People's ambivalence on the energy situation in Ontario is nicely illustrated by the just released results of an Energy Ministry poll of their conservation habits.

Consider these findings: Ontario is especially vulnerable to oil shortages, 80 per cent believe.

Agreement hit 90 per cent for the statement "if you are at all concerned about doing the right and proper thing, you'll use less gasoline and heating oil."

Yet in contrast, 65 per cent argued, "I do more than my fair share to conserve gasoline and heating oil" already.

And 71 per cent said they drive six or eight cylinder cars, while rejecting public transit (65 per cent) and car pools (63 per cent).

In general, what seemed evident from the survey, as the ministry noted, is "the greater the personal effort required for conserving energy, the less likely consumers would do it."

FIRST SURVEY What is disturbing about these results is that they mirror attitudes revealed in another ministry survey earlier this year.

The expensive "preserve it, conserve it" advertising campaign by the ministry appears not to have made any fundamental difference in people's views since then.

And the government worries that conservation has been downgraded in people's minds because there is a wide-spread belief no energy problem actually exists.

In the first survey this year 56 per

cent said Ontario is facing a "real energy crisis," but in the latest 69 per cent said Ontario is not "facing energy shortages now."

Part of the problem with drawing a conclusion from that kind of survey result, of course, is that the questions are vague and misleading.

### OIL ONLY

To start with there is no energy crisis and never was. The problem is oil, to be precise the 30 per cent we import from insecure sources of supply.

There is no oil shortage as of now, but that's liable to change if the Iran-Iraq war continues or spreads.

Interestingly, most of the detailed questions on the second survey do deal with either automobiles or home heating, the two heaviest uses of oil by Ontario consumers.

Naturally enough, as advocates a government that has long advocated cheap oil policies, the surveys contain no questions seeking to discover how oil price hikes might affect consumption levels.

### NEW PLANS

Ontario's goal is to slow the per capita growth in oil consumption to zero by 1983, a target that is going to be tough to reach without the deterrent affect of much higher oil prices.

Still, perhaps because of the recession, the preliminary figures indicate gasoline consumption in Ontario levelled off in 1980.

And conversion of home heating equipment from oil to natural gas is in full swing.

The government has also pledged \$75 million towards stimulating the development and marketing of alternative transportation fuels over the next five years.

Propane-powered cars already exist, and gasoline laced with 10 per cent methanol is a real possibility by the end of the decade. New car engines are much more fuel-efficient.

## Don't forget our policy on unsigned letters

The Herald has received a letter to the editor regarding curbside parking in Georgetown, but cannot print it because its author has opted to remain anonymous. The Herald reminds its readers that letter-writers can retain their public anonymity and letters WILL be published without names, but the editor must know the author's identity. All letters to the editor submitted for publication MUST be signed, although the writers' names will not be published if that is their wish.

## Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—At a meeting in the fire hall Sunday, at which Mayor Harold Cleave was chairman, members of the fire brigade chose their officers for 1951. Harry Savings continues as fire chief and William Hyde deputy-chief. Erwin Lewis is truck driver, with William Ritchie, Bob Bonfield, Will Breen, Walter Richardson and Don Barrager assistant drivers.

"We must be as economical as possible in 1951, as long as it is sane economy," said Mayor Harold Cleave in his inaugural address to council Monday night. Mayor Cleave said that 1950 had been an extremely happy year for him as mayor. There had been no petty politics and he had felt council and town employees had co-operated to make it a banner year.

Murt Allison has taken over the Massey-Harris dealership in Georgetown. Mr. Allison began business here last week, succeeding Doug Swackhamer, who will operate a farm near Brampton.

Fear of the worst flood in years is giving residents of Glen Williams much concern today. At present the river is jammed with ice from the Ninth Line bridge down past the William Davison farm and the houses which fringe the Glen Road along the river. Cellars are flooded in all the houses in the district.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown may set a "first" in tax collecting this year if plans hinted at by Mayor Ern Hyde in his inaugural address to council on Monday work out. He hopes the finance committee can come up with a first in Canada—monthly tax instalment payments. He said it would be an advantage to individuals and a distinct advantage to town financing.

Tentative approval was received at last week's Acton council meeting for the construction of a \$150,000 waterworks project. The project includes a 1,000,000-gallon reservoir and the necessary watermain to connect with the present town system.

A local octogenarian is one of air travel's best advocates. Nellie Hersom, 84, took to plane again last week bound for Tampa, Florida, where she will spend three weeks in the sun. One of the pioneers of air travel for women, Mrs. Hersom enjoyed a flight to Winnipeg in 1942 when the airplane was still considered a male mode of transportation.

Excessive speed was the major cause of accidents in Georgetown in 1960. In a statistical report issued last week by the police department, speeding played a part in more accidents than any other single factor. Of the 42 people injured in accidents, 12 were children under the age of 15. There were no fatalities within the town limits. It was the first time in years that police were able to record the accident total at less than 100.

Still busily engaged with the task of finding accommodations for the hundreds of youngsters who will invade town Easter week for the Bantam hockey tournament, the All-Star Support Ladies' Auxiliary set up a phone committee at their Monday meeting.

TEN YEARS AGO—Georgetown's CN Station and train yard will pop up in a Warner Brothers movie to be released this year—unless the sequence filmed Monday ends up on the cutting room floor. The station area was swarming with actors, crew and equipment Monday morning for the shooting of a scene to be used in the Warner Brothers movie, "A Fan's Notes". The cast includes Burgess Meredith, Jerry Orbach, Rosemary Murphy, Pat Collins, Conrad Bane and Julia Robinson, to name a few.

Georgetown is making its name in the world of amateur wrestling. "Tiger" Joe Fobert just returned from Europe as part of the Canadian wrestling team and is now the unofficial junior free-style wrestling champion of Yugoslavia. He can't be the official champion since the team just happened to be there and let them participate on an exhibition basis, but Joe did win the championship. The award was given to the next best Yugoslav.

Halton County's Crown Attorney, Douglas Latimer of Georgetown, has been appointed Queen's Counsel by the Ontario government. A Norval native, Reed Hunter, now practising law in Toronto, was also a QC appointee.

Speed buffs who throng to Georgetown Jaycees International Snowmobile Races next month will see a better show than the one that thrilled spectators at Mosport this past weekend, and for a cheaper price. The event at Stewarttown this year is an Ontario Snowmobile Racing Federation 'A' sanctioned project, which means the world's best drivers will be participating in a grab for points.

ONE YEAR AGO—Claims by the Halton Children's Aid Society (CAS) that unique servicing problems encountered in this region should qualify it for funding beyond provincial guidelines have been endorsed by a specially appointed Child Welfare Review Committee. If accepted by the Ministry of Health, the committee's findings could see the Halton society's deficit of \$200,000 for 1979 reduced to \$20,000.

Members of the Optimists Club of Acton will again be pitching in alongside hundreds of similarly charity-minded volunteers and dozens of international entertainment celebrities for the "Weekend with the Stars" telethon for cerebral palsy this Saturday and Sunday.

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has ruled in favor of a proposed retail garden centre to be built on Concession 10 in Glen Williams, noting that objections raised about the project "might have been avoided had there been better communication between the objectors and the (town) planning department."

## Poet's corner

### END OF MY PRIDE

My old car has seen its day  
If I ride, I must pay  
The tires are smooth, they grip no more  
Some are split and some are tore.  
The wipers won't work and the doors don't shut  
The engine backfires and it has no gut  
If I get started, I have to keep going  
Horn got stuck and kept on blowing.  
Steering is loose and the brakes are weak  
Once in awhile the transmission does squeak  
Hole in the top, a draft in the side  
A wire in the seat makes a very rough ride  
She burns up gas and too much oil  
Gas tank leaks and the rad does boil  
Radiator blew a cloud of steam  
To me it was like a very bad dream  
Insurance man demanded a thorough test  
The poor mechanic did his best.  
I drove straight to the wrecker's shop  
Keep on going for fear he'd stop  
Then it drops in a heap  
I will walk, and it can sleep.

-by Albert Brooks

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