

Pierre, we're worried about the Beaver

...and other passing concerns

This week, an editor's round-up of issues and events in the news. It's not all bad and it's not all good. Mostly, these items deserve only passing attention pending their ultimate resolution, and thus the shortened commentary...

An editorial DART is aimed at Pierre Trudeau, whose lingering Liberals claim the divine right to amend our revitalized Constitution with or without the help of the provinces; admittedly, dealing with the provinces' incessant demands could delay the process indefinitely, but alas, that seems to be what this democracy (as stated within most national constitutions) is all about.

Another DART to that Conservative gentleman across the Commons floor: Joe Clark's Tories, we feel, are indeed making a mountain out of a molehill. Despite the well-intended but poorly planned efforts of Conservative MPs like Otto Jelinek, who's arranged public forums to hear what the people think, the party seems bent on the politics of confrontation when it comes to Trudeau's unilateral amendments; they appear more intent on bringing the Grit government down on some grandiose point of order than in resolving the issue through open negotiation.

While we're poking at the politicians, let's chuck some more DARTS at Ontario's Unholy Three: Davis for making political hay only when it counts most to the Tory power structure (BLD, Site F, bulletproof vests...) and Smith and Cassidy for providing voters with such smirking alternatives to (ahem) "Strong Leadership" Bill.

Just to show we can be "nice guys" too, here's a LAUREL for Ronald ("I'm no crook, nor will I ever lie to you") Reagan, who's doing all of us small-L liberals a big favor by very quickly making good on our pre-election warnings: his economy-saving ambitions are doomed to fail, his militaristic tough-guy stance has the Soviets upset for the first time since Kennedy vs. Khrushchev, his quasi-religious

fundamentalism, already smelling of corruption from On High, recalls Nixon's Quaker roots and Khomeini's thick-headedness, and to top it all off, his best friends - from Sinatra to Haig - appear to have marched right out of the latest Doonesbury comic strip.

With the world as a whole apparently heading for hell in a shopping cart, the local scene offers some truly deserving items of interest:

LAURELS to the Red Cross for putting on a great show with the mock air crash (didn't look a BIT like a DC-10 anyway!), an only slightly flawed demonstration of what might happen here in a real emergency.

LAURELS to the residents of Acton who made believers out of skeptics both on and off the Halton police force: 200 of them attended special meetings just to say hello to the new 12-man "detachment".

Another DART for another politician: Jack Raffis looks like a reactionary buffoon every time his eyes narrow, he peers around the regional council chamber and he vows to hang the councillor who's leaking "secret" information to the press. Raffis boarded the chairmanship amid criticism over his disdain for council's democratic rules of procedure; now he seems to be taking that one step further, getting ready to impose martial law at regional headquarters.

Another LAUREL for another local group: the Halton Hills Arts Council did us yet another big favor by bringing the Tapestry Singers to town; by all accounts, that kind of classy entertainment is just a taste of what the new arts complex can do for Georgetown.

A special LAUREL for Bud James and his recent benefactors, the Hockey Heritage Council. The stars who turned out for last week's annual banquet were evidence of Georgetown's status among hockey-oriented communities, and Bud James provides plenty of evidence himself of the kind of talent and spirit that resides here.

February is Heart Month

High blood pressure deadly but controllable

During the past few years, Canadians have been exposed to a mass of information through television, radio, newspapers and magazines on the subject of high blood pressure and the necessity for having their blood pressure checked.

Screening programmes have been carried on by the Heart Foundations and other groups to help identify Canadians with elevated blood pressure and persuade them to check with their doctors to establish whether they do or do not have high blood pressure.

Why all the fuss? Is this just another in a long list of promotions to persuade us to do or not do something because it is good or bad for us? Much of this advice counsels us to do things we don't like to do or not do things we do like to do for the sake of our health. Is this another of these "punishments" we seem to merit because of our lifestyles in Canada, or North America, or the western world?

The reason for the fuss, of course, is that high blood pressure is the single most important and identifiable factor contributing to heart attack, stroke and kidney disease and is also a factor in more than half of the deaths due to heart disease. Nearly two million Canadians have high blood pressure. Half of them don't know it and many of them will risk premature death and disability unless their blood pressure is reduced. Of those who know they have high blood pressure, only half have it treated and, of the latter, only a small percentage cooperate with their doctors in the long-term control of their condition.

High blood pressure is an insidious problem and can occur at any age. It usually produces no symptoms until it's too late. In most cases, the cause is unknown and it cannot be prevented but it can be controlled and control pays dividends.

Obviously, therefore, everyone should have a blood pressure check regularly. The test is simple, painless and inexpensive and if your doctor should diagnose high blood pressure, it can be controlled usually by drug and diet therapy.

While the means of controlling high blood pressure are readily available, the incentive to seek out and continue treatment is too often lacking in those who have it. This despite the fact that it doubles the risk of heart attack and increases the chance of stroke by four times. Data based on long-term studies has shown that control of high blood pressure may prevent stroke. Therefore the most promising key to prevention of stroke is the early detection and control of high blood pressure.

Surely these facts justify the "fuss" and continuing programmes of the Heart Foundation to alert Canadians to the dangers of high blood pressure and the need for regular blood pressure checks.

The question of whether high blood pressure is a problem only of North America or the western hemisphere has been answered by the World Health Organization, which, in co-operation with the International Society and Federation of Cardiology and all of the national heart foundations declared April, 1978, as World High Blood Pressure Month in an attempt to draw international attention to this disease and improve efforts to control it.

Among the eastern countries playing a prominent part in this project were India and Japan, where high blood pressure and stroke have a much greater incidence than Canada or the United States.

For free, detailed information on high blood pressure, contact your provincial Heart Foundation.



Volunteers pack kits for Red Cross canvassers

THE MAKING OF A P.C. CANDIDATE - '81



Clark's leadership review more than just percentages



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Much to Joe Clark's distress, his fellow Conservatives keep talking about the percentage of support he will need at the Feb. 27 national convention if he is to remain as party leader.

The one thing that Clark wants to avoid at all costs is having his future bound to a specific level of delegate support. And at every opportunity he and his supporters downplay the importance of actual figures. What's important, they always say, is the mood of the convention.

Technically, Clark can survive the leadership review question if 51 per cent of the 2,000 odd delegates vote against it. But everyone knows that, if the percentage is even close to this figure, it would be impossible for Clark to try and carry on without calling for a leadership convention. The trouble is,

no one seems to agree on what this percentage should be.

I've heard some of Clark's supporters say he could easily carry on if 60 per cent of the delegates voted against a leadership review. In fact, I've even heard one better than that. "Don't forget that Newfoundland entered Confederation with only a 51 per cent majority."

But no one would take a serious view of this comparison.

FIGURE DROPS
Until very recently, it seemed that most commentators and party insiders were talking about the magic figure being in the 30 per cent range. If not more than 35 per cent vote for a leadership review, they were saying, Clark could probably survive. If the opposition was at 30 per cent, he would be relatively safe. If it was 25 per cent, he would be a shoo-in.

But - and this must be of colossal concern to Clark - the magic figure seems to be dropping as the convention draws closer. There have been several editorial writers who have said the Tory leader must get at least 80 per cent support to survive with any comfort. And now, we are getting the same message from the party president, MP Robert Coates.

"If the vote for a leadership review is 20 per cent or less, he has no concerns," says Coates, who is not noted for his admiration of Clark. Coates pointed out that Prime Minister Trudeau was opposed by nearly 20 per

cent of Liberal delegates a few years ago and he was able to continue. The same benchmark should be set for Clark, he figures.

MANY BENCHMARKS
If anyone had the time, I'm sure they could research various party conventions to find benchmark votes that range anywhere from five to 45 per cent. At the last Liberal convention, which came after Trudeau had announced his resignation, some 13 per cent voted for a leadership review. His people had expected fewer than five per cent to express their displeasure in the circumstances.

In several interviews, Clark refused to discuss any specific percentages. "I simply think that what is going to be important is the mood of the meeting rather than some statistics. Conceivably, one could manufacture a very high vote or some disaster could happen just before people voted...what would count would be the mood of the meeting and what I need is a sense that the party is prepared to be led."

It would be nice for Clark if it were that simple. But so long as people talk about percentages and specific figures, he can't escape. And if it becomes the conventional political wisdom what the leader needs support from 70, 80 or even 90 per cent of the delegates, then anything under that figure could force him to call a leadership convention.

It's obviously frustrating for Clark, but it's not something he can do a great deal about.

Our low ranking, Re-Mor have Tories on the defensive



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Week One of the provincial election campaign appears to have unearthed a couple of soft spots in the otherwise solid front of confidence the Conservatives are wearing.

Reporters accompanying Premier William Davis say Liberal Leader Stuart Smith's oft-repeated charge that Ontario has sunk to tenth among the provinces has the Tories defensive.

And the Re-Mor investment quagmire, where the collapse of a provincially-licensed company wiped out the savings of several hundred small investors, is making the government look bad.

Davis has tried a double-barrelled approach to defusing the issue of Ontario's economic growth.

On the one hand he's said that excluding the auto industry, Ontario is up near the top of the economic growth heap, although how he justifies excluding such a big chunk of our manufacturing is hard to see.

A second tack is to send out Industry and Tourism Minister Larry Grossman to say Smith's charges compare apples and oranges.

BIG LEAP
One or two major plants would catapult Prince Edward Island into first place in terms of rate of growth because the province starts with so little, he said.

The same plants would have little impact on Ontario. The real measure is that Ontario is first, away ahead in

terms of total dollar growth, almost twice Quebec and better than nearby U.S. states that compete with us.

Re-Mor leaves an impression of a heartless, unfeeling government that is reinforced by campaign confrontations between Davis and worried pensioners.

The Conservative position is to provide compensation only if the courts find the government's handling of Re-Mor negligent.

Both the Liberals and NDP, however, say a legislative committee has already concluded that and the government should pay up pronto.

SMITH TOO
Meanwhile Liberal Leader Stuart Smith officially kicked off his campaign tour by trying to dampen the Tory charges that he's simply a purveyor of doom and gloom.

He lauded Ontario's potential, its "strengths and virtues," suggesting all that is lacking is a government in touch with the times.

He found it ironic that Davis was making leadership the issue.

"Let's not confuse leadership with image. Let's not confuse leadership with a smooth smile and a ready

handshake. Leadership isn't government by poll," he said.

THEN CASSIDY
And with that Smith attempted to bypass one of the other pillars of the Conservative campaign, Davis' personal popularity in the polls.

Whether it will work or not we'll not know until March 19.

Smith's kick-off speech had elements in it reminiscent of Ronald Reagan's successful quest for the U.S. presidency, including one almost identical line.

"Are there any in this province who feel better off today than they did five years ago?" he asked.

It is an explicit attack on what has always underlaid Tory power in Ontario, the belief in people's minds that whatever their failings in other ways, the Conservatives knew how to run the province.

By licensing Re-Mor, and by placing "tenth and last" in economic growth, what the Conservatives are doing is exploding the "myth" they are good economic managers, or at least that's the message the Liberals hope is coming through.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO - Pay raises for all town employees were made at a special council meeting Monday. The four town men, who work 48-hour week, received an increase of eight cents an hour and will now be paid at the rate of \$1.03 an hour. Any new employees will start at 95 cents an hour and will be raised to \$1.03 at the end of three months if their work proves satisfactory.

Arthur Linyard of Toronto suffered a broken shoulder and other injuries when his car went into a skid as it was going down the hill. The car crashed into the guard posts on the hillside, snapping off four of them, wavered on the brink of a 100-foot drop over the embankment, then plowed sideways into a car driven by Stuart Myles of Norval, who was proceeding up the hill. Mr. Myles was unhurt.

Georgetown's protests against Milton using illegal players has been turned down by the OHA executive. The OHA ruled "no protest" and returned Georgetown's bond which had been posted. The Raiders management had questioned the use of three Brampton players, Binsell, Raines and Cruikshank, on the Milton team, claiming that the players lived closer to Georgetown and the Raiders should have had first call on their services. The famous Pinkerton detective agency was called in by Georgetown to prove their point.

TWENTY YEARS AGO - The Brewer's Retail Store, part of the downtown scene for many years, is moving to another location in the spring. Sod was broken Monday for a modern 3,565-square foot building on highway frontage just east of the Delrex office building.

A private project which started as a hobby for Ron Clarke may become an assembly line product and consequently provide more work locally. The Aquabul, which is basically a pontoon with wings, was designed and built by Ron in snatches of spare time last summer and its performance in early trials exceeded expectations. Even at high speeds the exciting craft proved exceptionally stable.

A stubby cigar-shaped craft is the centre of attention today at Kitchener-Waterloo airport. When its wide rotors begin to churn the crisp winter air, the pulses of Avian officials at the field will accelerate sympathetically. The aircraft is the Avian 2-180, a prototype of the ill-fated autogyro which rose and fell in a crumpled heap of twisted metal in a freak accident at the same field over a year ago.

Frozen water sources are having their effect on township farmers. Freezing temperatures and the lack of snow or rain have made water so scarce that tank trucks are being kept busy hauling thousands of gallons to the farm wells and storage tanks. Some farms are without water entirely.

Ambulance calls averaging three a week were answered by the 90-man Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Association in 1960. It was revealed in a report of the year's activities at the association's annual meeting last week. The organization, a "first" in Canada when it was organized, came into being in 1957 when the local funeral director found it unprofitable to continue such service on a private basis.

TEN YEARS AGO - More than 1,600 eligible delegates from 117 Ontario riding associations made the final selection at the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party's leadership convention in Maple Leaf Gardens, which concluded early Saturday morning. Local delegates to the convention, which resulted in the election of William Davis as the new party leader, were Fran Baines and John T. Armstrong.

A 19-year-old Georgetown youth was remanded to Clark Institute of Psychiatry by Judge James Black for mental examination last week. He was sent to the institute for up to 60 days, prior to appearing on a charge of attempted murder. The youth was arrested after four shotgun blasts were fired at Georgetown District High School. One of the shots narrowly missed police sergeant Frank Arthurs.

Hillcrest United Church, on the Seventh Line between Ashgrove and Hornby, has a woman in the pulpit. Reverend Lynne Adams stepped into her new role as pastor of the Hillcrest-Beethel church Sunday after two years as minister of Fairlawn United Church in Toronto.

Three familiar faces appearing on television commercials have created a new parlour game, where watchers exclaim, "Isn't that, oh, you know". The three faces belong to Julian Reed, Bill McKeown and Bill Sykes and turn up regularly on the screen.

The Georgetown Fire Department is solidly behind the idea of having a full-time paid fire chief, it was revealed in a letter from the department to council at a committee meeting last Thursday night. The motion, backing a paid fire chief, was passed at a meeting of the firemen in a unanimous vote of the 24 members present.

The Terra Cotta preservation committee appears to be generally in favor of construction of a new bridge to replace the old structure, according to its president, Alan Agg. Mr. Agg said approval of the new bridge by the Peel good roads committee came as no surprise.

ONE YEAR AGO - A long evening of contradictory tallies and confusing reports ended in Brampton early Tuesday morning with re-elected Progressive Conservative MP John McDermaid crediting Georgetown voters - including two Halton Hills politicians he singled out in the crowd - for his return to office by a scant 300-vote margin.

The accolades poured in a never-ending stream at the 1979 Georgetown Lions Club's Citizen of the Year Award Dinner. Karen Harrison, who was awarded the honor last Friday for her outstanding work in the community, told the audience in the Lion's Hall that she was "overwhelmed" and "truly proud to be the recipient of this award."

The Ontario government has no interest in developing Halton's potential energy resources, according to a spokesman for the ministry of natural resources. Bob Heyward of the petroleum resources branch said last week there "very well could be" amounts of natural gas remaining in the pockets in the area, but the ministry is plugging existing wells which have been abandoned and left to deteriorate.

POET'S CORNER

Home, sweet home

Innocent smile of a little child
Yet the older youth, who lives so wild
A preacher with a worried face
Who has to deal with a difficult race
The lady with wrinkles and grey hair

She who has bear a load of care
I spoke to a man dressed shabby and old
Can I help you my friend, I did say
He said, I can help myself in my own kind of way,
It's for the rest of my family that I pray
The situation of life that they live today.

What could be worse than a broken home
Life is lonely wherever you roam
Little children from their families are torn,
So many homes where they can't be born,
Just for my life, I don't care
Cruelty to children I can't bear.

The man went away, I was proud to compare
There was someone else who really did care
Be good to your children, and love them today
Then you can be happy in the natural way
Must learn to love, for the world is wide,
They may grow up selfish and have no pride
Any kind of deed, that you live and do
They will naturally follow you.
It's only you who can make life worthwhile,
So let's all try and have a reason to smile.

—Albert Brooks