

You'll spot a big difference in foodstores soon

# Metric 'inches' a little further

By SEAN FINLAY  
Ottawa Bureau  
of The Herald  
FIRST OF TWO ARTICLES  
Bill Domm is angry about metric.

When he talks about metric, it's not in the calm, measured tones Opposition MPs usually use when talking about government policy.

There's passion as he rails against government plans to force retail food stores to sell and advertise individually-weighted items in metric starting Jan. 4.

There'll be civil disobedience, he says, quickly adding that he isn't encouraging it, as people start buying their meat in kilograms, not pounds.

"It's obvious, it's there," he says. "There is definitely civil disobedience going on now."

Mr. Domm, PC-Peterborough, may not be encouraging civil disobedience against metric, but he is the focal point for metric opposition.

As Jan. 4 gets closer, he gets more and more requests to do radio and television hot-line programs on metric: in the last 10 days of November, he did 18 hot-line shows.

Mr. Domm is from Peterborough, a hot-bed of metric opposition. The south-central Ontario city was a metric test centre: opposition to metric measurements in Peterborough was so overwhelming that it was called off.

Polls taken in Peterborough while metric measurements were being tested showed 88 per cent opposed, says Mr. Domm.

"That's who I represent, the 88 per cent of the people in Peterborough who don't want metric in the weights and measures divisions of retail food stores."

Mr. Domm also claims to represent retail merchants.

"The government isn't representing them. I can give you a list a mile long of business groups opposed to metric."

"I'm speaking for those people, too, because the government isn't."

Metric Commission officials would have people believe that he started the rebellion in Peterborough against metric, claims Mr. Domm.

"I didn't institute any rebellion," says Mr. Domm, who was first elected as Conservative MP for Peterborough in 1979, a year after metric was first introduced in Peterborough.

"All I'm doing is responding to my constituents today who don't want it, who don't want any part of it. If it was left up to them to move voluntarily, as it was in the United States, they wouldn't move."

"Neither would the westerners, neither would the people in B.C."

Kamloops, which along with Peterborough was a test centre, is scheduled to be converted to metric starting Jan. 4.

"They're in for a lot of trouble there," predicts Mr. Domm. "I just came back from a speaking tour through the Okanagan Valley, and there's so much animosity about this forced implementation program, that if there isn't a lot of civil disobedience, it'll be very much surprised."

Westerners, believes Mr. Domm, just won't accept what he calls a unilateral, dictatorial approach.

"There's a lot more backbone and spunk from westerners than there is from the soft-soap people in Ontario. We're so used to having it

rammed down our throats that it's a way of life."

He "rather suspects" that people in Atlantic Canada are opposed to metric; the Nova Scotia government, he says, is opposed.

**CUSTOMERS SAY THEY'LL PAY**  
In Peterborough customers are telling retail store owners they will pay any fine levied

for not selling in metric weights, says Mr. Domm.

Merchants not selling in metric can be fined or even jailed for refusal to sell in metric.

"Customers have come and said don't put in metric weigh scales; we have no intention of learning metric."

The government will have the same kind of problem all

across the country, says Mr. Domm and there are indications that consumer groups will refuse to order in metric units.

The government backed off a proposed switch to metric in the livestock industry when the Canadian Cattlemen's Association said flatly it would not go metric, says Domm.

Mr. Domm's opposition to what he describes as "the

forced march to metric" is shared by his party.

"We support the voluntary implementation of metric. It's the forced aspect of it we oppose."

And if anyone wants to measure out everything in metric, "more power to them."

"But don't walk in as a government and say: 'Do it, or else we'll put you in jail.'"

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## Ag. ministry opens OSCA to many more

By HENRY J. STANLEY  
Halton ag rep  
**STOCKER CATTLE PROGRAM EXPANDED**  
Agriculture and Food Minister Lorne Henderson has announced a change in Ontario's Stocker Cattle Assistance Program which will allow hundreds of additional beef producers to participate.

The program was initially open only to those farmers who bought at least ten calves, raised them in Ontario for at least 150 days, and then sold them for finishing purposes when they weighed 600 pounds or more. Those farmers were eligible to receive grants of \$20 per head of cattle.

The program is now open to all farmers who sold ten head of beef cattle for finishing in 1980 - whether they were bought as calves or raised by the farmers themselves.

"It's only fair," Mr. Henderson explained, "to offer farmers who raised their own calves the same assistance offered to those who bought calves."

The Stocker Cattle Assis-

tance Program has already paid out more than \$2 million to more than 800 beef producers.

This is one of three major Ontario programs designed to help the beleaguered beef producers with grants totalling nearly \$60 million.

Dec. 1 Mr. Henderson announced the \$20 million Cow-Calf Program which will give farmers \$40 per head for beef cows in their possession Aug. 1, 1981. Those cows must be part of a producer's normal beef breeding herd and have, or will have, a calf in 1981.

The Ontario Slaughter Cattle Program has already paid out more than \$28 million to more than 4,500 qualified farmers.

Amended application forms for the Stocker Cattle Assistance Program are now available at the agricultural office in Milton.



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