

**McDermid pleased subject getting attention**

# MP studies nuclear disarmament issue

By JOHN McDERMID, MP  
Brampton-Georgetown

No single issue has dominated the media or public consciousness in the past six months as much as the most crucial problem confronting mankind today: nuclear weapons and disarmament.

I applaud the fact that this issue is finally receiving its due consideration. Bilateral discussion on disarmament between the superpowers has been criticized by U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy as a "dialogue of the deaf, making propaganda instead of talking peace."

I feel that the concern of most people today is that in a world where nuclear overkill can be conservatively estimated at 20 times, we seem to be engaging in a game of "how high can we make the rubble bounce". This week's column shall, therefore, examine the rationale and justification for a specific element in the equation for disarmament; the movement for a world disarmament, through a global referendum. In my next column, I shall discuss the opposing viewpoint.

The concept of a global

**Next week: Operation Dismantle's opponents**

referendum on disarmament is the platform of an Ottawa organization, Operation Dismantle, (Box 3887, Stn. "C", Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 4M5 613-722-6001). The goal of such a global referendum is to "educate and mobilize public opinion" in as many countries as possible to the dangers inherent in the existence of nuclear weapons, and through the pressure of public opinion, generate the political will to initiate disarmament.

The results of the referendum would constitute a consultative world vote.

"It can be cogently argued that a strong mandate from a consultative world vote may, in time, become an irresistible force for change, i.e. turn out to be binding in terms of initiating a process, if not for the final goal."

This final goal is general and complete disarmament. (I shall offer the opposing viewpoint in my



JOHN McDERMID

a "key issue of the 1980s" and would hopefully create an atmosphere for mutual, balanced and verifiable reductions in nuclear arms that the current international climate does not seem to possess.

The mechanisms for the world referendum would be as follows:

The first step would be for one nation to propose the world vote in the United Nations General Assembly.

The second step is to formulate a ballot wording agreeable to all nations (based, of necessity, on the established long-range goal of general disarmament).

The third step would be for national governments to voluntarily conduct national referenda, one at a time, usually alongside national elections (to cut costs), over a period of five years (or more if necessary). U.N. observers may be necessary or desirable to monitor the efficacy of all national referenda.

It is generally recognized that the primary block to disarmament initiatives is the profound and continuing lack of political will. The power of public opinion is the result of the small but collectively significant amount of political power held by individual people. A consultative non-binding advisory referendum would, rather than replace government to government negotiations, put massive popular support behind these government negotiations and place formidable pressure on the negotiating parties to make real progress

towards disarmament.

The following are important points about this concept:

—It would pass in the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly, perhaps unanimously

—there would be easy agreement on the wording for the ballot

—there would be support for it from the Soviet bloc (these last two points are the sine qua non of the proposal — it is meaningless unless they are achieved)

—there are no insurmountable administrative, financial, or constitutional impediments that would preclude the successful completion of the referendum

—the large majority of Canadian and American people would support the concept

—Third World countries would support the idea, given the strong correlation between disarmament and development aid

—the number of nations that would conduct the referendum on their own accord would be enough to generate powerful international momentum, drawing in other nations — (estimated 25-40 of 156 countries would hold the referendum on their own initiative)

—world referendum would yield 75-80 per cent mandate for balanced disarmament.

A total of two million Canadians will soon be voting on this proposal at the municipal level in 27 different municipalities. It has been estimated that the cost of holding the vote world-wide would be \$400 to \$800 million (10 to 20 cents per voter). This is a small amount compared to the \$600 billion spent worldwide on armaments each year.

It would be difficult, if not impossible for national governments to oppose a worldwide, United Nations sanctioned, democratic approach to an agreed upon goal (in this case, disarmament).

This proposal could, if adopted, and carried through, allow the fundamental right of all people to participate directly in a decision that affects all mankind and therefore represent an irresistible global force for change, and result in balanced nuclear disarmament.

In closing, I would just like to emphasize that I am presenting points of opinion on both sides of this issue rather than my personal opinion. I hope this background information is useful. Next time — the other side.

**WAITING ON OUR CHAMPS**



Mayor Pete Pomeroy was pleased to serve cookies to a team of Canadian champion bowlers during a break in town council proceedings last week. The girls are (left to right) Toni McClements, Michelle Webster, Leanne Burt, coach Shirley Chaplin, Valerie Sabo and Lisa Brading and a few weeks ago in Saskatchewan, they won the National girls team Bantam bowling championships. The team bowls from Georgetown Bowl. (Herald photo)

## No written notice of analysis - man cleared of drug trafficking

Judge J.E. Robinson found Jeffrey Mastine, 23, not guilty of possession of drugs for the purpose of trafficking Thursday afternoon in Milton provincial court.

The Brampton man had been charged Dec. 15 when Halton regional police found three-quarters of a

pound of marijuana with a street value estimated at \$750 in a vehicle they stopped on Georgetown's Guelph Street.

Federal prosecutor William Manderson of Georgetown said the charges were dismissed because written notice had not been given to Mr.

Mastine that the crown was going to use certificates of analysis as evidence.

When a substance suspected to be a narcotic is found in an accused's possession, it is sent by police to a Toronto laboratory for analysis. There analysis issue certificates of analysis stating what

the substance is.

Mr. Manderson said the police officer, when serving Mr. Mastine with a copy of the certificate of analysis, had only given verbal notice to the accused that the certificate would be used in the trial. Written notice was required.

Therefore, Judge Robinson dismissed charges against Mr. Mastine.

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**ABOUT THE HILLS**

### A musical thankyou

A musical thankyou is being delivered this Friday night by the Cantante Singers. The choral group of 20 young women is putting on a concert titled "Thank You for the Music", after the song by Abba. Their evening concert will feature popular music by Barry Manilow, the Beatles, Barbara Streisand, Kenny Rogers and Abba. Guest artists are Janine Prouse and Bill Kent. Tickets for the concert taking place at the John Elliott Theatre at 8 p.m. can be purchased from Col-Craft in the Guelphview Square, or from the Halton Hills Cultural Centre box office Wednesday and Thursday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets will also be sold at the door Friday night. Don't miss what promises to be a one-night stand of great hits.

### Big blue denim machine

The Brampton-Georgetown Progressive Conservative Association gets casual with a Blue Denim Party June 4 at the Loafers Lake Recreation Centre in Brampton. The \$6 per person admission buys you a half chicken with all the trimmings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and dancing until 1 a.m. For tickets, call Adrene Cheyne at 846-2518, Judy Chant at 793-1012, Evan Siddall at 877-5675 or Vic Lewick at 451-9511.

### Moulden heads council

Georgetown's Dolly Moulden has been elected president of the North Halton Social Planning Council, which is currently studying housing problems in Milton and Halton Hills and will be investigating other social concerns. Also on the 1982 executive are vice-president Mrs. S. Symmes of Terra Cotta, vice-president Mrs. G. Ramsay of Georgetown, secretary David Craig, also of Georgetown, treasurer Karen Ferguson of Glen Williams and past-president William Thom of Milton. Share your concerns or ideas with the council by phoning 877-3219.

## Halton 4-H's safety club

**HALTON 4-H FARM SAFETY CLUB**  
By TAMMY HUNTER  
Halton 4-H

The first meeting of the Halton 4-H Farm Safety Club was held April 26, at the Agricultural Office, Milton, with seven members present.

Election of officers are as follows: President - Wayne Cunningham; Vice-President - David Wilson; Secretary - Dan Wickson; and Press Reporter - Tammy Hunter.

The topics to be covered during this year were discussed at the meeting. Each member took part in the quiz pertaining to safety with farm animals. We then watched a film entitled "Sixth Sense" which dealt with accidents

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