

A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited  
45 Guelph Street, Georgetown L7G 3Z6, Ontario

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Second Class Mail Registered Number - 0943

Page 4 - SECTION A, THE HERALD, Wednesday, September 29, 1982

## Grits push 6-and-5 scheme

# Promotion of plan a waste of our money

We couldn't agree more with Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid about the Liberal government's flagrant waste of tax dollars on the promotion of its "six-and-five" wage restraint scheme.

Big spending by government ministries and agencies has been a favorite target of our criticism all along, with Ontario Hydro and Bell Canada among the all-time worst offenders. It seems once a government or crown corporation decides something is best for its taxpayers, they spare no expense to convince us of it.

The Liberals in Ottawa haven't come up with this blatant waste of money on advertising in years, so it was almost as though they were inviting angry attacks from opponents when the big boxes of posters, pamphlets and pictures were mailed out.

Conservative MP McDermid was upset enough that he summoned the riding's news media to his Brampton office to rant and rave about the "boxful of goodies" which had just arrived. Who cares if the six-and-five plan is just a drop in the bucket as far as inflation fighting is concerned? Let's promote the heck out of it anyway, the Prime Minister probably said.

Getting it firmly across to the general public that a new idea exists is indeed important, as any experienced advertising man knows. But carrying news of a mediocre campaign that everybody's read about anyway on widespread and costly posters and pamphlets in a time of fiscal restraint is a direct slap in the face from Ottawa - and one more good reason why the Trudeau government has to go.

# Quietly serving

The very nature of their voluntary work prevents them from "going public" - anonymity is essential, for everyone's sake - but once in awhile, we are reminded that an invaluable social service is being carried on somewhere in

Georgetown 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The North Halton Contact Centre needs volunteers to answer its phones. If you'd like to help out the crucial public service, quietly and anonymously, please call 877-1211.

## The disarmament question

# Canada shows way to a worldwide nuke referendum

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Halton Hills council last week ratified its decision to include a public referendum on the question of nuclear disarmament in its Nov. 8 municipal election ballots. In anticipation of the vote, The Herald will carry a series of articles - some specially prepared by the town's own pro-disarmament "Vote Yes" Committee, others gleaned from alternative sources. Your questions and comments are welcome and will be published on request, the author's name withheld if also requested. In this first installment, Vote Yes Committee spokesman Janet Duval of Georgetown outlines the background to the nationwide movement behind the disarmament referendum.

By JANET DUVAL  
Herald Special

When voters go to the polls here Nov. 8, they'll join millions of other Canadians in over 100 cities voting "yes" or "no" for disarmament.

The results from each city and town will be forwarded to our federal government, and to the United Nations, in the hope that Canada's government will receive a strong enough mandate to press forcefully for global disarmament, and in the hope that the UN will willingly support a worldwide referendum on disarmament.

Preliminary lobbying shows that if Canada were to propose such a referendum to the UN, it would receive overwhelming support from nearly all members, including the Soviets.

Canada's part in this began last January when Ottawa city council, at the urging of Ottawa citizen Jim Stark and his Operation Dismantle organization, agreed to hold the referendum there this November. Mayor Marion Dewar then wrote to every major town and city in Canada, urging them to follow suit, and eventually many did.

In some cities, such as Toronto, the decision to hold the referendum was reached following long and stormy council meetings. In some, such as Mississauga and Brampton, the motion was turned down.

In others, including Halton Hills, the value of such a vote was quickly seen, and the decision to hold it was almost unanimous.

block to holding a referendum was the question of its legality. Could a town poll its voters on something that was not strictly a municipal concern? Would the elections for mayor and councillors be invalidated by adding such a question to the ballot?

In August, a letter from attorney-general Roy McMurtry to all Ontario municipalities stated that it would be "an almost impossible task" for anyone to convince a court of the referendum's illegality.

Most councils accepted this as sufficient "go-ahead", and so Halton Hills will join voters in Vancouver, Montreal, Winnipeg, London, Windsor, Niagara Falls, Hamilton and many other municipalities when they vote on this question.

In some cities, council has gone further than the referendum. Some, such as Milton, debated whether to declare themselves a "nuclear-free zone". In Toronto, the board of health recently requested funds to distribute 200,000 pamphlets about "the public health consequences of nuclear weapons and nuclear war."

Included in that proposed pamphlet would be the statement, "Everyone in the downtown core would be immediately vaporized, crushed or torn apart by winds of 600 miles per hour, or killed by lethal doses of radiation."

The actual wording of the question to be placed on the ballot is based on that originally suggested by Operation Dismantle. Many municipalities have chosen to change it slightly. Toronto, Halton Hills and other chose to insert the word "nuclear" in place of "general" disarmament. In all, the intent is multilateral, or global disarmament. The wording in Halton Hills will be:

Are you in favor of supporting the goal of global nuclear disarmament and directing your government to support this goal to the extent of their powers?

YES

NO



# Quebec-first purchase policy a new twist to nationalism



## Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Until I happened across this item in a Quebec newspaper the other day, I didn't realize just how far we have come in erecting provincial barriers in Canada. And this has nothing to do with political sovereignty. It's pure economics.

It used to be that the "Buy Canadian" slogan seemed unnecessarily nationalistic. But now, it seems, if you go outside your own province to buy you may be bordering on the unpatriotic. At this rate, we'll soon be labelling our merchandise by city, rather than province or country.

What gives rise to this is this story from Quebec that the government wants to bar all non-Quebec companies from competing with provincial firms for manufacturing and selling hospital supplies. From the government's point of view, it's probably all very positive - you know, extending a helping hand to Quebec industry in times of economic hardship, etc., etc. And we're not dealing with petty cash here; Canadian hospitals last year spent an estimated

\$1.2 billion on supplies, and, according to the story I read, about 70 per cent of this goes outside the country.

### UNIFIED APPROACH

So, two years ago, all provinces got together and decided there should be a co-ordinated action to keep more of this money in the country. In other words, there would be a "Buy Canadian" policy. A report written by then Ontario Industry Minister Larry Grossman explained that "each province will work to ensure that those responsible for purchasing in hospitals are made aware of qualified Canadian suppliers, not just in their own province or region, but in the country as a whole."

But now, it appears, Quebec has narrowed its horizons - a move that has clearly angered Ontario. "Quebec is just trying to isolate, or isolate itself," one Ontario official was quoted as saying. And this encouraged a Quebec official to counter with the accusation that "Ontario does the same thing - they just don't do it publicly."

The trouble is, this Quebec official is probably correct. And it doesn't just apply to Ontario. It's only natural that any provincial government, faced with today's unemployment, would be somewhat preoccupied with its own citizens.

It's just that, if the practice persists, we could eventually chop off our nose to spite our face. For that matter, perhaps we have done it already.

At least six provinces now have policies designed to give preferential treatment to manufacturers within their own boundaries, and others have certain incentives that are designed to achieve similar goals. In Quebec, for instance, we are told that the policy is to give government contracts to provincial firms even if outside bids are 10 per cent lower. And several other provinces have similar, if unofficial, policies.

Viewed from within a province, such policies may appear positive but when viewed from other provinces it's protectionism. And if it continues unchecked, it means that Canadian manufacturers will eventually be limited to markets within their own province. With these relatively tiny marketplaces, there will be little incentive for efficiency - particularly if the firms have a 10 per cent advantage over outside companies.

### WANTS MORE

And what if the Americans start retaliating by insisting that all Canadian bids be 10 per cent lower than U.S. tenders? We already have enough trouble selling our goods in the States.

The last quotation I heard from Rodrigue Biron, Quebec's minister of industry, was that he wanted a Quebec-first purchasing policy "with more teeth." I think he would be better advised to concern himself with developing efficient industries that would compete in an open Canadian common market. That way we would all benefit.

# Ombudsman proves costly on south seas fact-finder



## Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Remember the adage about "he who pays the piper plays the tune," meaning the person who pays for a service sets the rules.

Well-when it comes to the taxpayer-don't you believe it.

In an incredibly arrogant display before a legislative committee here Ombudsman Donald Morand, who makes \$83,000 himself, refused to tell MPPs how much he pays each of his staff.

Nor would he tell them how much it cost for an "official" trip he and his executive director took to Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia to see other ombudsmen's offices (in January, naturally).

The budget of the Ontario ombudsman office, about \$5 million, is beyond that of any similar organization in the world.

(The irony deepens when one considers that Morand has been trying to get the ombudsman considered a court of appeal against bureaucratic decisions, if and when the government ever brings in its freedom of information bill.)

Somehow Morand thinks telling taxpayers and their representatives how much his staffers are paid from public funds infringes on his independence.

### OTHERS TOO

And he is not the only one. Liberal Leader David Paterson complained in July that Ontario Hydro

wage costs for several hundred senior executives are "very secretive" and what is made public about them is probably "misleadingly low" as to the true level of their incomes.

Then there are colleges and universities. It is almost impossible to find out from these institutions what senior administrators are making. Even the Colleges and Universities Ministry has failed at times to discover what people are really being paid.

For example, an education in how to butt one's head against a stone wall can be had by a person trying to find out the salary of the president of the tax-supported institution of Loyalist College.

### ONE ANSWER

Now, finally, there may be hope for an end to this transgression of the rule that those who pay should know how much they pay.

The civil service is required to reveal by name the incomes of all those making \$30,000 or more a year, although admittedly the information is sometimes dated.

In May the Government brought in Bill 118, an act to make public what officers and employees of "public agencies and public bodies substantially supported by public funds" earn on

an annual basis. True, what has to be recorded is a range within \$10,000 of what the person actually makes and, while that isn't as good as having exact figures, it is certainly better than nothing.

### MUCH REACTION

In consequence, naturally, the reaction has been ferocious.

The last thing some of the overpaid and underworked drones in the parapublic sector (and I realize there are also many out there who do a fine job for their money) want is their income to be public.

The fact that taxes pay for their membership in the affluent society does not bother them in the least.

The one worry at this point is that Bill 118 may be stalled. It still hasn't received approval in principle, partly for technical reasons. On the other hand it is inconceivable that a controls program applying to semi-government agencies would not require those organizations to divulge current salaries.

How do you know the increase is justified if you don't know the starting point? By the time this column sees print it may be overtaken by a substitute for Bill 118 contained in the controls program.

## Some dental advice

Because of a recent shortage in fluoride acid, there may be periods of time over the next year during which the water supply for Oakville and Burlington areas will not be fluoridated. This could lead to a reduction in the prevention of dental caries (cavities). In order to counteract this loss of effect, the Halton-Peel Dental Society and the Halton regional health department are recommending that parents of young children consult their family dentist, who may recommend a home fluoride rinse program or topical application of fluoride for your children's teeth.



**THIRTY YEARS AGO**-An enrollment of 186 this year will grow to at least 200 next September and necessitate another teacher and another classroom according to the North Halton High School board. Georgetown principal J.L. Lambert said the school is crowded to capacity at present and teachers are overtaxed in teaching time. Ratio of teachers to students is one teacher to 26.7 students while the average school ratio is one teacher to 18. Next year Mr. Lambert predicts two large Grade 10s and a large Grade 11, and there is concern about distribution of students as there are only four large classrooms in the school.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**-Even before the last bricks of the new Composite School have been put in place, the Georgetown High School board is considering beginning plans for another secondary school here and a decision will probably be made next Monday. That's when the board is scheduled to meet with secretaries of the public school, Holy Cross Separate School and Esqueping school boards to receive actual enrollment figures in the district's elementary schools to determine when the building, still under construction, will be overtaxed. Preliminary enrollment study by the board indicates it will be either by 1984 or 1985 and since it takes at least two years to build a school, one for planning and one for construction, such a conclusion would mean immediate initiation of plans for a second building on another site in town.

**TEN YEARS AGO**-A 32-unit townhouse development is proposed for the corner of Sinclair and Duncan next to the A and P Store. Fred Zorge of Zorge Construction showed the plan to Planning Board Wednesday night. The three-bedroom, two-storey condominium townhouses will be broken up into six blocks so some face Sinclair, some Duncan Drive and two will be interior blocks. Each will have its own backyard with a six-foot-high privacy screen and a front lawn.

**ONE YEAR AGO**-The province's strongest high school cross country team for the past four years, the Georgetown Rebels, claimed another victory at its first big meet of the new season last Saturday at York University. Battling tough competitors and bad weather conditions, the team won four of six divisional team titles as well as the overall girls, boys and school titles. This is the Rebels' seventh straight year as overall school champions of the York University meet.

## POET'S CORNER Village Dweller

Invisible walls confine me,  
The same old faces bore me,  
I seek vigor and vitality.

Guarded secrets, guarded lives,  
I want to scream.  
Frustration eats away inside me.

Life promised me more than this  
Become part of my past  
This I beg of you.

-By Antony Saxton,  
Actor

## The Heavens Gave Birth

It started by coming from the heavens,  
Pouring from the sky,  
It flowed around the world,  
Bringing new generations with each shower.

Numerous types became,  
Each partly different from the other.  
But one basic element stayed,  
The ability to flow in perfect time.

As the world began to flood,  
Angry torrents raged the soaking earth,  
Still more rain fell,  
Until the final thunderstorm commenced.

By CAROLINE MOTT,  
- AHS student

## Seasons of Love

Love is like the weather through the seasons,  
Beginning of spring roses,  
Commencement of our love,  
Blazing heat across the universe.

Fire of the sky, then like a coating of scorching wax,  
Melting our love away.  
Roaring lions of the north winds,  
Whipped against our sad faces,  
Bringing the wind of new loves.

The winds left and you went away,  
Winter came with leafy trees,  
Bare and sparse with agony,  
My heart feels like frozen ice,  
Never thawing until spring-time again.

By TERESA TARRANT,  
- AHS student

## Haiku

I see the wind  
Whirling through time's empty space  
To a land unknown  
By KIRSTINE STEWART,  
- AHS student