

Trustees veto raises

'Politicians' on their toes

Are Halton board of education trustees politically wiser than Peel, Toronto, North York or East York trustees?

Last Thursday night they unanimously passed a motion that would keep their current salary of \$7,200 unchanged for the next three years.

Peel trustees recently agreed to boost their pay, effective when the new board takes office in December, to \$10,450 from \$7,200.

Toronto trustees voted 13-11 to inflate their current annual salaries of \$7,200 to \$15,120 as of Dec. 1, then nine per cent more in each of the two succeeding years.

North York trustees gave themselves a 90 per cent raise from \$7,200 and East York trustees did them one better by giving themselves a 129 per cent raise from their \$4,800.

Yet, Halton trustees kept their fingers from the public purse and said "It is our belief that restraint is essential in these difficult economic times."

Are Halton trustees trying to curry favor with the people they represent? A taxpayer would certainly say they have

ample reason for trying.

Regarded non-too-kindly by voters this spring when they passed a \$132 million budget that raised the mill rate 18.5 per cent, or about \$91 per household, trustees are eager to get into the good graces of voters.

With municipal elections around the corner, Halton's trustees are on their toes. They don't want to be chopped from the fold in these days of lay-offs and collapsing businesses. A job is a job, even if you haven't had a raise for eight years — that's when Queen's Park froze school board salaries.

Having been soundly blasted this year by regional councillors, chambers of commerce and municipal governments for their budget, Halton's trustees are hoping to clear the spring stink by making late amends designed to soothe any remaining public discontent.

It remains to be seen if their effort to help taxpayers fight hard times is to be a continuing effort or just a little pre-election campaigning. The 1983 budget will tell, if voters give returning trustees a second chance.

Don't take 'em for granted

Did your Herald arrive on time and intact today? Did your carrier leave it in the right location for you to retrieve it easily? Is your carrier courteous and accommodating?

If your answer to these questions is "yes" or even "usually yes", then perhaps you should ask yourself another question: Do I take my carrier for granted?

Saturday was National Newspaper Carrier Day across Canada. The Herald's circulation department always makes a point of observing this special occasion. The hot summer days are gone and the freezing, wet winter will soon be here. What better time to take a moment and thank our carriers for their quiet slogging around, their diligent tending to business, their sheer determination to try a little private enterprise?

Sure there are bad

carriers, and we hear about them. Once in a while, one will chuck his whole bundle down a sewermain. Sometimes they leave the paper scattered all over the yard. Here and there, they'll miss a delivery altogether.

Let's take a moment to appreciate the fact that these are by far the exceptions to the rule. Almost to a boy or girl, Herald carriers — and newspaper carriers in general — are honest, hard-working, dependable kids who honor their responsibility to the newspaper and its customers.

Herald carriers were treated to a snack at McDonald's Monday night and the best among them were duly singled out. We'd like to do a lot more for them, because they deserve it. Hopefully, all of you will help us let them know how much we appreciate their fine work.

Peter's gospel prompts poem

The 1981-82 Halton Hills council deserves a final, enthusiastic pat on the back for its fairly frantic efforts to get the town's first official plan off the ground. It now goes to Halton region and the province for approval and perhaps some alterations, of course, but the real work is done — and done well as far as we can tell.

The champagne was already providing an atmosphere of celebration in the council chamber last Wednesday night after the new plan's first bylaw went through, when Ward 1 Coun. Ross Knechtel, whose words seem as carefully chosen as his political stances, took the floor

to offer this humorous appraisal:

DOGGEREL

The councillors have scrapped and fought
For things that matter and some that do not;
We now have the Gospel According to Peter,
Although parts of it don't have the proper meter.
There may be referrals in number perhaps legion,
However, we'll gladly submit to the region.
Our plan is as brilliant as ABC,
Provided we ignore the NEC.
Three cheers for all who sweat and ran,
While giving birth to the official plan.



Grits find silence is golden in provincial electioneering



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

The one surprisingly pleasant turn of events that happened to the federal Liberals this year — yes, something nice actually happened to them — was they have been relatively ignored in provincial election campaigns.

In normal times such a happening, or lack of a happening, wouldn't be considered an unexpectedly happy occurrence, but it certainly does in 1982 because the federal Liberals had expected an unmerciful battering on provincial election platforms. It was to be a year of continuous Trudeau-bashing.

And it's true that there was a fair amount of this in the Newfoundland campaign because, with the provincial Tory government and the federal Liberals locked in a marathon stalemate over an offshore resources agreement, the Trudeau government was an obvious target for Premier Brian Peckford. But even in this campaign the language was relatively moderate. While the Premier received the mandate he sought in his continuing confrontation with Ottawa, the Trudeau Liberals emerged from the campaign in much the same light as

before. They were greedy, but they weren't gangsters.

Some federal Liberals had expected much worse.

GETS BETTER

And, generally speaking, it has been uphill ever since. In both Saskatchewan — as in Manitoba last fall — the Ottawa Liberals figured fairly prominently in the campaign, because both the National Energy Program and the constitutional accord happened to figure fairly prominently. Even though the electors in the two provinces turfed out the presiding premiers who had signed the constitutional agreement with Prime Minister Trudeau, there wasn't a great deal said about the prime minister. Perhaps it wasn't necessary, but in any event Liberals ears in Ottawa were not burning constantly as Saskatchewan voters changed governments.

It was thought that the Prince Edward Island election might bring out the best of the Trudeau bashers as the Conservative government went after another term. But again it didn't materialize. At that time the Federal 6-and-5 restraints program was gaining a full head of steam, and the Ottawa Liberals didn't figure prominently in the campaign. And now the same thing is happening in New Brunswick where Premier Hatfield is seeking a new mandate.

Since the premier was one of Trudeau's closest allies in the constitutional battle, it was assumed that his criticism of the prime minister would be more muted than with other premiers. But even the most optimistic Liberal officials didn't expect to escape this easily.

"Since there seems to be a national pattern here," says one highly-placed Liberal, "we can only assume that the prime minister is far more popular than most of you guys think. If there was mileage to be made in attacking him, you can bet your life that he would be attacked."

Now these Liberals are not even worried about Alberta where Premier Peter Lougheed has called an election for Nov. 2. In fact they are less worried about Alberta than they were about any other provincial election. They figure that the premier is the only Alberta politician who has any credibility when it comes to attacking the federal government and, at this time, he is in no position to launch such an attack. He is the same man who drank champagne with Trudeau to celebrate the signing of a new energy agreement, and he was also a party to the constitutional accord.

There really isn't much point in dwelling on the federal Liberals as Lougheed sets out to fight the fledgling separatists. "For Alberta" will be the Tory slogan, which suggests a more positive approach than the last campaign which clearly established the Trudeau government as the No. 1 enemy. As the premier loosens the purse strings on the \$11.7 billion Heritage Trust Fund and emphasizes his government's "Economic Resurgence Program", it's unlikely that much attention will be devoted to Pierre Trudeau. An occasional backhand, perhaps, but no full-scale verbal assaults.

And for edgy Liberals, who had expected the worst, the silence is golden.

Too cheap money too long dumped economy - Coutts



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

The reason most of the Western world (but not Japan or Switzerland) are in the economic troubles they are today was caught rather neatly — if inadvertently — by backroom Liberal Jim Coutts recently.

Coutts, former secretary to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, leapt to fame when a Toronto MP was retired to the Senate to make room for Coutts to enter parliament through a by-election.

Except he lost to the NDP's Dan Heap.

Ever since Coutts has been campaigning for the next federal election, as well as pushing a particular solution to the economy that is common to the (so-called) left-wing of the Liberal Party, the Toronto Star and the New Democratic Party.

Coutts, speaking to a London convention of young Liberals, advocated increasing the deficit of almost \$20 billion in Ottawa by another \$4 billion to "create" 500,000 jobs.

(That \$4 billion would not come close to producing so many jobs seems self-evident, and one member of the audience later took Coutts to task his assumption that it would.)

WHO CARES?

When asked whether this further one-fifth increase in a federal deficit already proportionately larger than the much-reviled \$100 billion deficit in

the U.S. mattered, Coutts verbally shrugged.

"The deficit — the finance department worries about it. They always worry about it. Let the banks worry about it. We don't have to worry about it."

That attitude got us into this mess. One does not have to be an economist to realize that one cannot always spend more than one earns. (During my two years of economics at school it was hinted that one, in fact, could but to me that flies in the face of common sense.)

It is not the deficit per se that is the problem; it is deficits every year with larger totals annually that are killing us economically.

ONE THEORY

The theory of Coutts and NDP Leader Bob Rae and others that large additional deficits now are necessary for us to spend our way out of the recession is reasonable if you make two assumptions.

The first is that if it worked and government income rose again to where a surplus was possible the politicians would not instantly figure out new ways to spend it in election goodies.

But they would. This is true of all parties and especially, politicians like Coutts who view debt from the public opinion poll

perspective that "it is not an issue with the public," but unemployment and inflation are.

Great leadership there. (Rae at least understands debt is dangerous, if for no other reason that it reduces a political entity's options to what banks will approve.)

OTHER POINT

The second assumption is that a province or country can any longer stimulate its economy through government spending to actually restore growth.

President Francois Mitterand of France was elected to do just that. The latest results, according to the Financial Times (London), indicate accelerating inflation and rising unemployment, with the consequence that France has now gone to wage controls, social security cutbacks, and investment incentives.

Whether the current fumbling, inadequate attempts to impose fiscal and monetary restraint on government budgets in Canada succeeds is unknown, but the Coutts solution would lead to hyper-inflation and middle class destruction.

Too many years of too cheap money propelled us into the economic swamps — and governments are totally to blame for allowing their people's expectations to become so divorced from reality.

Town offers shut-ins crafts

The Halton Hills recreation department has started a new program called Travelcrafts which serves people unable to be out in the community for physical reasons. Program co-ordinator Joan Albert discusses the person's arts and crafts interests in her first visit to their home, purchases their craft materials, then returns to get them started on the project they have chosen. The Travelcrafts program is running on a trial basis for six weeks. Men, women or children confined to their home on a temporary or permanent basis that would like Travelcrafts to visit them should call the recreation department, 877-5185, ext. 61.

Halton's History from our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—The public is cordially invited to attend the official opening of the Howard Wrigglesworth Public School by L.L. Skuce, Halton Public School Inspector, Thursday, Oct. 30 at 8:15 p.m. The school will be open for inspection on the same day from 2 to 5 p.m. This invitation is featured on the front page of The Herald.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—First dispatches from the YMCA-YWCA campaign headquarters on Main Street indicate that there will, in all likelihood, be a Y program operating here this winter. Eric Eamon, executive director of the Brampton Y, will serve here part time in the same capacity. He told The Herald Tuesday that the 400 subscription cards returned to date had pledged \$1,939, one-fifth of the target amount of \$10,000. There are approximately 3,000 pledge cards out, 2,000 as part of the general canvass and the rest are held by commercial businesses and industry. "We are more than pleased with the way the Georgetown people have responded," he said. "When Brampton held their canvass only one of every three doors yielded a donation. Here, three out of every five are helping the campaign."

TEN YEARS AGO—The existing CN station will be used as the GO train station and ticket agency if a recommendation of Georgetown council backed by two representatives of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, is implemented. Representatives Hugh Clelland, project development manager, and Steve Radbone, senior feasibility planner, spoke to council in committee of the whole Thursday night. Council originally suggested a site on Maple Avenue East near the town works garage as a GO train station, but Mr. Clelland said it would cost an extra \$400,000 to put in a spur line. Council also suggested the station be incorporated in the lay-over site proposed at the westerly limits of the town. The two representatives pointed out it would cause most of the commuters to backtrack all the way through town to reach the station, with the result that many wouldn't use the GO train service.

ONE YEAR AGO—Sunday afternoon, 240 people gathered for the official opening of the new Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre. "We've built a much needed library, restored the old church building, built a theatre, reached our fundraising goal and brought in the project according to budget," former Halton MP Rud Whiting said. Master of ceremonies for the official opening, Mr. Whiting said the completion of the project proves dreams can become reality and that it represents the "togetherness" of the community.

POET'S CORNER

The Phone Call

I called you up the other night,
like you asked me to.
But it seems as though,
you unexpectedly had to go out.
The phone rang and rang,
but you didn't answer.
So I figured you would call me.
I waited weeks for that phone call,
but I guess you never had the time.
One night, it must have been 11:30 or so,
when my phone rang,
I thought maybe, it was you,
So I let it ring.

—By JULIE TYERS, AHS student

I Dedicate This to You

Make it easy, make it fast,
Can you make this feeling last,
Give to me your love,
Yes, give me your love,
When I'm lonely, when I'm sad,
I'll know you give me what you had.

Gentle now, be gentle,
When we touch and when we kiss...

You made it easy, you made it fast,
And you made the feeling last,
You gave your love to me,
You gave to me your love,
I'm not lonely, I'm not sad,
I know you gave me what you had.

You were gentle, oh so gentle,
When we touched, and when we kissed...

Of love,
Let this never be spoken of,
But let it take you high
On the wings
Of unspoken words in a love song.

—By HEATHER MACLEOD, AHS student