

Productivity is the key word

Judging by the way Maislin Industries Ltd. has handled its financial problems recently, we wonder if president Richard Skilling ever glanced at a reference paper by Canadian Manufacturers' Association (CMA) "How To Improve Industrial Competitiveness".

It goes into considerable detail about the importance of building a new relationship between management and workers, similar to the productive alliance between the two now enjoy in Japan.

Surely, the relationship holds in times of trouble, too.

In the process to keep the transportation firm afloat, Maislin is re-arranging its finances. It has protected itself by law from hungry creditors, at least until October 31, but at the same time, Maislin has abandoned workers who will go hungry.

Paycheques to Maislin truckers bounced all over the country and in the US, embarrassing to individual workers and a tragic snub of the CMA's call for better employee-management relations which it feels would improve

national productivity and cut our horrendous record of strikes and lockouts.

Without doubt, the employee-management issue in Canada is extremely important if the country is to remain competitive in international markets and earn the confidence of new investors.

Management does not operate in a vacuum; the decisions it makes may build or kill new productivity, either course has ramifications on the production line and the workers who man it.

Maislin's callous disregard for the future of its truck drivers is the kind of feudal thinking which forces workers into adversarial "union-versus-management" relationship. All too often, that contest is fought for the benefit of a large powerful union or huge corporation rather than for the production floor staff.

Employers can now set their goals for future productivity with landmarks: put decisions like Maislin's behind them and follow the course suggested by the CMA.

Progressive birth control attitude

Should welcome northern clinics

While the progressiveness of health Peter Cole often rubs against the grain of some citizen groups and councillors wanting to keep tight purse strings around the health department's budget, it's simply a response to the realities of society today.

Birth control clinics are not in the business of mass murder; but they can help people, especially young teenagers, take a constructive approach to sex.

North Halton, Dr. Cole realizes, isn't immune to the social conditions and pressures which lead teenagers to become sexually active. Regional birth control clinics have already been successfully established in Oakville and Burlington and they're needed in the north as well.

Periodic sessions in local high schools can't possibly sustain an interest in getting sound advice on sexual activity. Birth control is also a highly researched area and there are frequently new developments. New noteworthy points raised could be a factor in any decision about becoming sexually active.

An unwanted pregnancy is a psychological handicap for parents which is often tragically passed on to a child when it's born.

We can lament about how society has drifted from moral social guidelines set by the church but standards have changed and previously accepted models are often too abstract for young people caught up in a bewilderingly high-tech, high-pressure world.

Trudeau gulled by American hawks



Staff Comment

By CHRIS AAGAARD

At the risk of stirring up that old hornet's nest, especially here in the office, I'm saying thumbs down on Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's decision allowing Cruise Missile testing in Canada.

I don't buy the reasoning that it reaffirms Canada's commitment to NATO, even though our military has been allowed to rust; nor do I hold with the airy philosophy that testing and developing the Cruise is another step in the "arsenal" of deterrence.

The decision has sullied Canada's traditional and acclaimed role as an arbitrator between conflicting national interests.

Surely to the world's non-aligned nations, our stand on the whole question of nuclear disarmament must be the biggest joke at diplomatic luncheons.

How can we, on the one hand, condemn the proliferation of nuclear arms on both sides of the globe and

then, on the other, allow the Americans to fly the Cruise in our own backyard.

Pardon the pun, but the Prime Minister has been gulled by the hawks in Washington. American military strategists now talk of "first strike" capabilities, and fighting a limited nuclear war; this isn't deterrence, it's thinking the unthinkable and the Cruise fits well into this twisted logic.

The Cruise decision has administered a real thrashing to the integrity of Canadian foreign policy.

I'm all for spending more money to build up a respectable military to patrol and secure our national boundaries, but I think we're really out of line when we contribute to the Cruise's development.

We do our best work to deter conflicts between nations at diplomatic bargaining tables. If we want to do something about the arms race, it should be done with our mouths, too.

Letters to the Editor are welcome.



Heavy construction equipment rolled into Georgetown's downtown area recently. Mill St. is undergoing a face-lift.

Gord Walker's meteoric rise stalls after growing bright



Queen's Park By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

A rising star, growing bright in the heavens, a stall -- and then a flame-out. That's the story of London MLA Gord Walker's meteoric career as an Ontario cabinet minister.

Walker was the big loser in Premier Bill Davis' recent cabinet shuffle, the biggest since 1975, and probably the last major shifts Davis will make for the next two years.

From being Industry and Trade Minister, a major responsibility in one of the so-called "line" ministries, Walker has been reduced to Justice Secretary, a backroom job with a low profile and -- if reports are to be believed -- little power.

First elected in 1971, Walker was beaten in the Tory debacle of 1975. He wrote a letter at the time to Davis blaming the party's defeat on its refusal to be more "conservative".

The letter, which was leaked to the media (although probably not by Walker), set the stage for Walker as the potential White Knight of the

right-wing, come to rescue the party from the pragmatist establishment.

GETTING GOOD

Returned to the Legislature in 1977, Walker sat on the backbenches until Davis, who apparently blamed Walker for the embarrassment created by the leaked letter, relented and gave Walker the testing ground ministry of Correctional Services.

While high profile, it is not a major administrative job, which gives Davis a chance to judge people in the portfolio while they learn the ins-and-outs of the cabinet system as well as running a ministry.

That was in 1978, and by all accounts Walker handled himself well. He certainly did in public, for it was in those days that more and more Tories who wanted someone more right-wing than Larry Grossman or Dennis Timbrell to succeed Bill Davis started to consider Walker as a potential leader.

In 1979 Davis also gave Walker the Justice Secretariat, basically the chairmanship of the committee that co-ordinates policy among the various front-line justice ministries.

NEW JOB

Then, after the 1981 election, Walker got his big chance. He was given the major portfolio of Consumer and Commercial Relations, kept the Justice Secretariat, and passed on Correctional Services to a newcomer.

It was a tough assignment, Consumer and Commercial, being the graveyard of more than one minister's hopes.

As Bob Elgie is finding out currently, it keeps springing surprises on ministers, lacks top talent, and has its responsibilities in separate little pigeonholes that are hard to control.

Less than a year later, in February 1982, Walker was moved again, with negative reviews of his performance. Still, he received a second chance with the equally important line ministry of Industry and Trade. At that time, too, he lost the Justice Secretariat.

GONE AWAY

Now he is back at Justice and without any line ministry duties. What happened?

Much speculation centres on Walker's hard-nosed run to succeed Davis even before the premier has decided to retire. This irritated Davis and in consequence he decided to demote Walker.

But Davis denied it to reporters. "I don't demote ministers. I give them responsibilities I think they will handle well", Davis said.

And that fits with the stories coming out of Industry and Trade, where Walker's bungling as the minister apparently reached the point his deputy, Bernard Ostry, refused to talk to him for a time.

So Walker is now back with what he can handle -- a secretariat -- and in the process his leadership ambitions have to all intents and purposes been extinguished.

He was a brief, bright flame indeed.

Former leader Smith tried to change blurred image

ONTARIO POLITICS IN THE '80s

Where the Parties Are Headed ()

campaign workers and antagonized politically active and influential unions. Why do that, Peterson asks?

The contrast between Peterson and Smith shows in another area, too. Smith was, in simplistic common parlance, a man of the Left within his party.

Interestingly, Peterson doesn't really peg on the spectrum at all.

But such a move to moderation begs the question: why then vote for the Liberals at all if they sound and look just like the Conservatives?

Peterson's task is to sell the public the idea that it is "time for a change" after 42 years. It won't be easy.

NEXT STEP

Because the Liberals are vague in philosophical terms (their caucus meetings with its mix of left -- and right-wing MLAs must be something to behold), they rely much more than the NDP upon their leader.

He defines the party in the public mind.

And if he fails -- as Smith did -- the price is his resignation.

The only test of Peterson so far was the Hamilton West by-election where Smith's seat, vacated by his resignation, went to the NDP, not a good start for the new regime.

Still, the real trial by ballot box will come with the 1985 election. Peterson must do at least as well as Smith to stay, and probably better.

If not, conventional wisdom has it that current Deputy Leader Sean Conway from Renfrew County is Peterson's logical successor. Moreover, some people see him as the man whose silver-tongued oratory can finally take the Liberals back to power.

THIRTY YEARS AGO—At Monday's council meeting, Mayor Armstrong and Finance Chairman McGilvray differed on whether sidewalk improvements should be paid for out of current revenue or by debenture. The matter came up for discussion when Joseph Gibbons requested removal of a tree which blocks his Church Street driveway. The mayor said there were not enough funds in the \$20,000 road budget to even cut a tree down and suggested the possibility of putting sidewalk repairs already made in a debenture issue which would also cover further sidewalk improvements. The mayor was supported by Coun. Norton who said there are two particularly bad stretches on Victoria Street and behind the public school which should be dealt with this year. "We allowed money for sidewalk work, why try to get back what's already spent? We've got plenty of new debentures coming up already for schools, fire hall and water," Coun. McGilvray said.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO—Five Guelph Street businesses suffered damage early Sunday morning when fire completely gutted Georgetown Creamery and most of the B and F Auto Body, and threatened to wipe out an entire block on the highway before firemen brought the blaze under control. Smoke from the fire caused damage to Georgetown Meat Market and the Ornamental Smiths, and water damage was heavy in Town Garage. The blaze was spotted by Cpl. Jim Bilsborrow and Const. R. Rollins at approximately 12:15 a.m. while on their way back to the station. They had passed the building just 25 minutes before and noticed no sign of flames. Firemen were on the scene within minutes of the call but had trouble containing the fire to the creamery as it spread rapidly along the roof into B and F Auto body. At the height of the blaze, flames were licking 20 feet into the air and were visible all over town. A quantity of butter was lost in the fire and two cars partially destroyed. Lockers underneath the creamery were untouched.

TEN YEARS AGO—A 57-unit, three-story apartment building to be built on Hall Road, next to YMCA property was proposed to council Monday night by Al Piliutti. Developer Al Piliutti said the luxury apartments would rise two and a half storeys above ground. The building reminded council the land was zoned R4, permitting apartments. He said he had sought a building permit from the building inspector and had been told it could be issued because of an upcoming OMB hearing. The hearing, to be held July, will consider an amendment to the present zoning bylaw to restrict R4 zone to a maximum density of semi-detached houses or duplexes. Mr. Piliutti said he had a choice of issuing a writ of mandamus or appearing at the hearing to object to the proposed amendment. "In the past we have been able to come to an agreement," Mr. Piliutti said. "If council would let me know what they would prefer in that area, I would try to work it out," he added. He suggested lowering the density to 45 suites. Coun. Roy Booth pointed out that the area was a development of single family dwellings and predicted a "great deal of static" from surrounding residents. He asked if Mr. Piliutti would be willing to go to lower density zoning. Mr. Piliutti said he was agreeable if something could be worked out quickly. Reeve Ric Morrow said a legal opinion should be sought since the land was properly zoned for apartments.

ONE YEAR AGO—Halton regional police suspect no foul play in the drowning deaths Monday of two young Acton boys at Prospect Park. Staff Sergeant Les Graham told The Herald that police were satisfied that there was no foul play in the deaths of seven year old Brent Patey of Acton's Victoria Street and another seven year old whose name police are withholding pending notification of his father. According to a pathologist's report released at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, the cause of death is believed to be asphyxiation secondary to drowning. Coronor Dr. A.E. Macintosh is to decide if a coroner's inquest will be held into the two deaths. Although two recreation department lifeguards were on duty at the Acton Fairy Lake beach and there were between ten and 20 other swimmers in the water, nobody appeared to notice the two boys' struggle in the water. "That's what's so confusing," recreation director Tom Shepard said. "There were other people playing in the water. It wasn't as if the lifeguards were alone; yet nobody saw or heard anything."

Poet's Corner

TOMORROW WILL ARRIVE

I heard the sounds of tomorrow
in the repetitious song
of an early April frog.
Warming up, warming up
he assured.
Whether his message
was meant for me
or just a reminder for
himself
he croaked
spring is coming.
The maple trees
seem uncomfortable
white petals
stapled
to their sides
the drip, drip
of plasma
increasing
with the temperature rise.
Somebody off
in the distance
tomorrow heads
reluctantly northward.
Harry up, slowpoke.
—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,
RR2 Poetess

Helpful Masons



CLARE REMPLE

Lawyers, doctors, industrialists, clergy, farmers, carpenters, men from all walks of life have joined forces as Freemasons to improve the quality of life and make it a better world. Founded in 1980, Friendship Lodge number 732, with its motto of "friendship" has 82 members from the Georgetown area.

with hearing problems, scouts and guides, the needy and students with bursaries for post-secondary education. Lodge master since last November, Mr. Remple and his membership have been busy this year re-assembling a pre-confederation lodge building that had been dismantled and stored. The lodge is being furnished true to that period and the public is invited to Black Creek Pioneer Village to view it. For more information about Friendship Lodge, contact Mr. Remple at 877-4970.