

There is no equity

"Senior citizens are often isolated, poor and in a crippling state of dependence," stated Brian Mulroney while on the election campaign trail. To correct this inequity, Mr. Mulroney vowed "to reinstate complete indexing of old-age pensions to the actual cost of living as of Jan. 1, 1985," in a speech on July 26, 1984.

Less than a year later the Conservative government is about to limit indexing of CPP pensions so that the first three per cent of inflation will be borne by pensioners. The result will be a pension decrease of three per cent in real terms.

Finance Minister Michael Wilson argues that all segments of society must bear the pain of bringing down the budget deficit and maintains that senior citizens will be happy to share this burden. Not so, it seems, as pensioners living at or below the poverty level are making abundantly clear.

The lower increase in pensions will save the government about \$15-million in this tax year but the saving will increase to an estimated \$1.6-billion by 1991. In addition, income taxes for individuals will rise more steeply than for corporations.

In the same time frame, the revised deal with western oil companies will cost the federal coffers in the multi-billions and the \$500,000 in lifetime tax-free capital gains for the wealthy will cost an estimated \$1/4-billion when fully implemented.

We question seriously the government's integrity, fairness and common sense. It can be and should be said that it has reneged on its leader's campaign promise to pensioners. It must also be said that there is no equity in sticking it to pensioners while doling out billions to the oil companies and giving the wealthy tax-free gains on investments which will do absolutely nothing to create employment. These trade-offs reek of inequity and should be remedied promptly.

—Courtesy Guelph Mercury



By PAT WOODE
Herald Columnist

Section 15, the equality provision, of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, came into effect April 17, 1985. With it many basic and far-reaching questions on the nature of equality in Canada have been raised.

To ensure that the federal laws do conform to the letter and spirit of equality and non-discrimination guaranteed in the Charter, a committee of seven members, representing all three parties in the House of Commons are examining these laws.

Hearings are being held across Canada and submissions from groups or individuals with a disability are welcome. Mr. J.P. Boyer, MP, is the chairman and has expressed interest in equality issues as they relate to people with handicaps.

The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal has made a decision relating to theatres which will have far-reaching implications for other provinces and in other areas such as employment, housing and transportation.

In 1980, a resident of Saskatchewan went to a Canadian Odeon Theatre. As

there was no specific space allotted for a wheelchair, he was advised that he must transfer to a regular seat or remain in his chair in front of the first row of seating.

Michael Huck filed his complaint to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission alleging that he had been discriminated against because of a disability with respect to a service customarily offered to the public.

The Court of Appeal upheld his accusation and rejected the interpretation of the lower court which ruled, "equal treatment" means "identical treatment". The court restored the board of enquiry's ruling that specific wheelchair spaces be provided in the three Odeon theatres.

The spaces were to be in groups of two or three and not in the front third of the theatre.

Locally, Cinemas Three, since opening have removed the step in front and provided accessible washrooms for the convenience of those in wheelchairs. With regard to the above ruling, they have this matter under review at their head office.

The importance of this court ruling does not end with theatres. It means that services generally provided to the public must make reasonable accommodation for the disabled.

Odeon did not intend to discriminate. This ruling was handed down based on the physical nature of the seating arrangement in the theatre.

Research is helping opposition parties



Ottawa Report
By Stewart McLeod

What's making life more difficult for the Mulroney government these days is the indisputable increase in research, both by the opposition parties and the media.

Unlike a few years ago, ministers can no longer - or so it seems - get away with unsubstantiated claims or generalities. The moment a ministerial statement is uttered in the Commons, opposition researchers, and reporters, are at work searching for disclaimers. And if they are found, they are unceremoniously thrown back in the minister's face. It wasn't always thus. Time was, not so long ago, when ministers could make outrageous claims and while the accuracy might be disputed, or laughed at, by assorted skeptics, the issue seldom went beyond that.

But now, it seems, practically every comment must be accompanied by proof. Part of this may be due to the smaller opposition, which feels it must work harder if it is to dent the government armor. Part may also be due to vastly improved research facilities, now computerized, on Parliament Hill. And I suspect an even larger part is due to vastly improved journalism.

In any event, ministers are finding they can't afford much loose talk.

BUDGET RESEARCH

When Energy Minister Pat Carney claimed that the energy accord with the producing provinces could create up to 300,000 new jobs, and declined to produce evidence, Ian Waddell, the NDP energy critic even applied under

the Access to Information Act for the departmental studies. What he established was that the department had not carried out any such studies in relation to the accord.

And just look at the research that has been devoted to Michael Wilson's controversial budget. Despite a monumental effort to deal in generalities, especially around increased taxes and de-indexed pensions, the opposition and, more particularly, the financial writers have been relentless in their research. Without this research, we would not have had any of those long-term projections about the effect of de-indexing, or the full impact of tax changes.

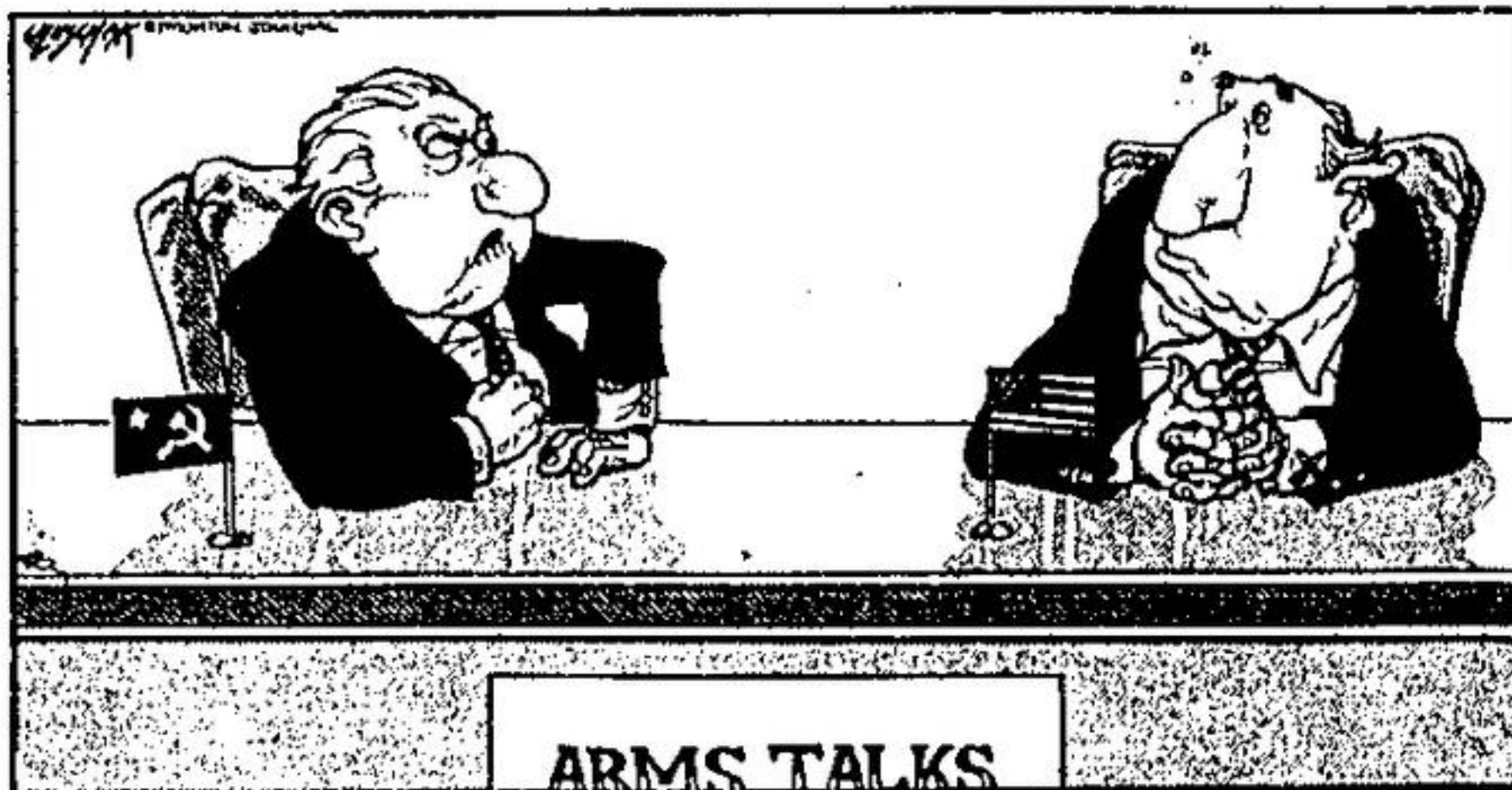
And even those statements by Mr. Wilson and Health Minister Jake Epp, that some pensioners supported the budget, were challenged as never before. Ever since those rather general remarks were made, the ministers have been hounded unmercifully to name any pensioners supporting the changes.

A year or two ago they would have undoubtedly been greeted with guffaws, but not serious demands for names.

The change is undeniable.

MORE EXAMPLES

Just recently, Deputy Prime Minister Erik Nielsen remarked that Prime Minister Mulroney had a better Commons attendance record than the other party leaders. And this is the type of comment that MPs used to be able to say about any leader, with little fear of concrete contradiction. But within hours of the Nielsen remark, a Canadian Press reporter had studied every Hansard from last October to give a fairly clear indication, in print, that Mr. Mulroney's attendance record was considerably worse than both John Turner's and Ed Broadbent's.



"Never mind Star Wars, cruise, MX, Pershing ... what about the deployment on European soil of an even greater destructive force — the English soccer fan?"

Last chance to comment on Secondary Plan proposals

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Now that the town's held a public meeting on the Georgetown South and West Secondary Plans, what's next?

Monday was the last day to hand in your written comments on the Plans to the town's planning department.

The Plans look at future expansion in Georgetown extending the urban boundaries to make homes for another 14,850 people.

Now, the town planners are sitting down and preparing a report on the oral and written submissions they've received.

Their report may recommend changes to the Secondary Plans. If those changes are fairly substantial, councillors may decide to hold another public meeting to see how those

changes will be received by the public. However, if the planning department suggests only minor changes be made to the Plans, it's unlikely there'll be another public meeting.

After all, they've already had input from the Credit Valley and Halton Region Conservation Authorities, the regional municipalities, Bell Canada, Halton Hills Hydro, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in writing these Secondary Plans.

Town planner Bob Crews anticipates the Plans will be adopted by council sometime in July. There are two council meetings in July - July 8 and 22. There are no general committee meetings because of the summer

schedule. If you want to air your concerns over the Plans again, that's your last chance before council adopts the Plans and sends them off to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for provincial approval.

Once council has adopted the Plans, then your only avenue of contention is to write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and ask that the matter be referred to the Ontario Municipal Board.

However, there's no guarantee the Minister will hold a municipal board hearing, especially if he decides a request is frivolous and done for the purpose of delay.

The town's planning director expects the Secondary Plans will be approved by the province within a year.

Residents may find process for expansion plan elusive



Editor's notebook
By DAVE ROWNEY

Residents in the southern portion of Georgetown may feel they haven't been given a fair shake.

Now that our Secondary Plan has been presented to town council, it could be as soon as July that the major document on Georgetown's growth is adopted.

While the town has been working to move forward our urban boundaries, in doing so, they may have left some residents behind.

The planning and study process, in an effort to provide future housing and industry to a non-growth town, has been handled in a competent manner.

But this time the adoption system hasn't lent itself to citizen participation. And that's a shame for a document that packs a terrific futuristic wallop. For example, the town staff sends out newspaper ads to publicize citizen

participation in the planning process.

However, it's not likely very many people read carefully these drab announcements written in bureaucratic language. Monday, councillors brought up a suggestion to make changes in these announcements, so they would be more noticeable and readable.

Also, in the future The Herald will be reviewing our methods of getting this valuable information out to residents. Perhaps we could have done more.

The residents will find the summer months another obstacle in fighting for changes in the Secondary Plan, if they choose to do so.

First of all, July and August are holiday months and a number of people who want to attend public meetings might not find it possible to do so.

However, the clincher is that in July there will be no general committee meetings.

Except during the summer months, council meets every Monday with every second Monday being a general committee meeting.

During general committee, items are brought forward only for comment. Councillors are allowed a week to re-think their position and hear from residents and then they vote on the

issue before them.

There will be only two July council meetings (July 8 and 22).

That means residents who have only recently learned about how the Secondary Plan affects them won't have the same amount of time to air their views as, if the meetings were being held in the fall, spring or winter.

The point is, the Secondary Plan has been talked about at great length at council. While councillors and staff understand the process, it's becoming readily apparent the message about meetings and stages of citizen input aren't getting out to the residents.

There's also a tendency for residents to only perk their ears when they realize (sometimes at the 11th hour) a planning policy will affect their property or their family.

If there is a moral to the story it's for council to find a better way to communicate to residents on planning measures. For homeowners and taxpayers, check those newspaper ads, read those council stories and if you choose to voice your opposition, plan early and get involved.

Letters to the Editor

Reader supports maternity policy at town hospital

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of the policies at Georgetown Hospital Maternity Wing. I have had two babies at Georgetown and feel that the policies were to my benefit.

Regarding 24 hour rooming in, I feel that this could cause unnecessary strain between the mothers sharing a room. I know that I was unable to sleep when the other baby was in the room.

If the baby is fussy during the night it seems like a good idea to let the nurses handle it until feeding time and let the mother get the rest she needs. As for asking your roommate for permission to have the baby all night, I think this puts the roommate in a difficult position.

Some people have trouble saying no, while others will feel guilty about having said no. Therefore, I do not believe the onus should be on the roommate.

As for sibling visits, I think that allowing young children into the maternity wing could also cause problems.

Of course there is no problem when children are quiet, well behaved

and healthy but there is no guarantee that these are the children who will visit the hospital. I don't think the nursing staff should have to police this situation.

Perhaps one solution would be to allow siblings to visit the nursery once to see the new baby. Once they have seen the new member of the family I don't think that it is unreasonable for them to

wait a few days before seeing the baby again at home.

In conclusion, the Hospital's prime responsibility is the health of all of the mothers and their new babies and therefore I think their policies have been well designed to meet that goal.

Sincerely,
Jane Fogal,
RR1, Georgetown

Manor needs volunteers

Would you like to spend some of your spare time doing volunteer work? Halton Centennial Manor has a volunteer position designed especially for you. Halton Centennial Manor is a 340 bed, home for the aged, located on Highway 25 in Milton.

Whether you prefer to work directly or indirectly with the residents of our home, we have the position for you. Positions available include: clerical, friendly visiting, volunteers, recreation assistants, adjutant aides, craft room volunteers, sewing volunteers and many more to choose from.

If you are interested in our volunteer program or if you would like more information, please do not hesitate to call our volunteer co-ordinator, Lorena Smith at 878-4141.

Is Lewis UN leadership material?

Queen's Park Bureau
of The Herald

Former Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis continues to get a rah-rah build-up in the media to the point where otherwise intelligent people are touting him as a future Secretary-General of the United Nations.

It certainly shows you how failure, friends and a little luck can help a person rise to the top.

What is Lewis' record, after all? A scion of the establishment Lewises with the usual privileged background for an NDP leader, he came to boss the Ontario New Democrats by deftly knifing his then leader Donald MacDonald in the backroom political wars.

He was Ontario NDP leader through the three elections of 1971, 1975 and 1977, in the second of which he led his party to official opposition status for the first time since 1948.

But there was more than a little chance in his success.

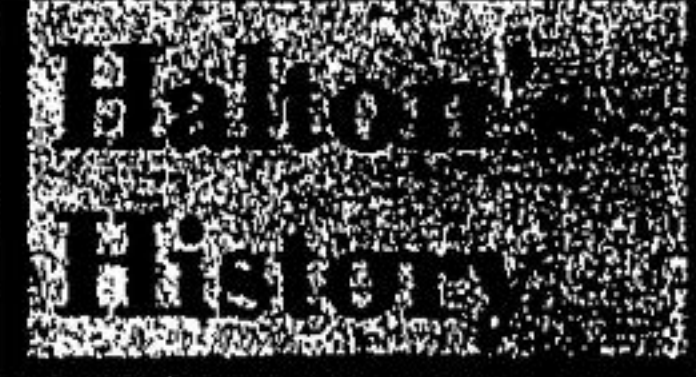
WRONG MAN

For all the accolades heaped on him by an uncritical press, the fact is that Lewis only marginally increased the appeal of the New Democrats over MacDonald's days, and in percentage of the popular vote never managed to drag them out of third.

It was MacDonald who took the NDP (then the CCF) from their usual 16 per cent of the vote to 28 per cent in 1967. Lewis' record in the following three elections was, respectively, 27, 29, 28.

It was the split of Ontario's three-party system that made his seat total look so good.

Perhaps his only lasting legacy on the Ontario scene is rent control, which was thrust upon the body politic by a clever campaign that emphasized the percentage increase in rents some tenants faced but ignored both how long it had been since they'd had a rise and the escalation in landlord costs in a time of soaring inflation.



THIRTY YEARS AGO—The McClure family had a reunion in Edgewater Park, Eden Mills. There were 310 present including 90 year-old John McClure, the oldest man, and 87-year-old Hannah McClure, the oldest woman. It was a double service as the twin daughters of Mr. Arthur Norton and the late Mrs. Norton were married at St. Alban's Church. Lillian and Bessie Smith married Russell George Edward Fatt and Edward Terrance Timbers respectively.

The oldest resident of Erin, Mrs. Susan Griffin, celebrated her 100th birthday at a surprise party. Great-grandchildren Mrs. Jim Ritchie and Charles Allen of Erin attended.

Members of the ladies auxiliary, and the 1st Georgetown Scout and Cub group raised \$145 for the swimming pool fund.

Members of the Countess of Strathmore IODE Chapter, met at Mrs. Percy Saxe's house to discuss canvassing for the Institute for the Blind.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO—Two workmen were rushed to hospital when the Maple Street sewer they were working on caved in. Alfio Marcusso suffered from shock and a chest injury. Frank Mazzola fractured his arm.

After a majorette show at the Centennial auditorium Miss Anne Marie Villa was named Miss Georgetown Majorette for 1970. Heather Reed was named Little Miss Twirler.

Donald Murray Budge, 30, who drowned at the quarry on Water Falls Playground, was buried today. He leaves wife Verla, and children Brenda, 12, Donnie, 10, and Britan 5.

Miss Laura Trebie's pup Mr. Sandman won the best puppy award at the Ontario County Kennel Club in Oshawa. The Georgetown pup also took best of breed, best Canadian breed and best of winners.

TEN YEARS AGO—After 47 years of not seeing each other brother and sister, Raymond McGilvary of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and Irene Thring of Rockwell, were reunited. They last saw one another when Raymond was two weeks old.

Three Georgetown residents captured awards at the Sand Hill Enduro Motocross in Lennoxville, Quebec. Russ Hinkle finished first in the Open Senior event. Eric Schubert of Acton finished second in the Open Senior event. And John Mileham won the Open Expert class.

Safety patrolers Joe Pemmental and Maureen Gale were awarded bicycles for their work as members of the Halton Hills Safety Patrol.

Russell Hunt, president of the Halton Association of the Mentally Retarded, announced the association is short an estimated \$30,000 for the planned home for the mentally retarded.

Georgetown residents are complaining because there are no washrooms at the Fairgrounds. This shortage is embarrassing, particularly when visiting baseball teams have to change at a local restaurant.

FIVE YEARS AGO—Mark Bray was named the 1980 Halton Hills Athlete of the Year and Herb Robinson received the award for Sports Builder of the Year. Awards were presented at St. George's Anglican Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Artemas Jattan of Hawks Place recently committed themselves to fund Mubarak All Shaikh of Bombay through Foster Parents Plan of Canada.

Tenders opened for the library-cultural centre of Georgetown last week, but all are over budget by about \$30,000, said Mayor Peter Pomeroy. "We may have put more into the tender than we had originally intended," Mayor Pomeroy said.

The Gordon Alcott Ladies Inter-county A tennis team won all four of their matches against rivals, the York Old Mill club. Kay King, Linda Rice, Pat Harris, Doreen Thomson, Audrey Houston, Isla Allison, Ann Kennedy and Marilyn Serjeantson shared in the victory.

POETS' CORNER Tornado strikes

Without warning, when or where Styly came the funnel its damage there. Buildings flew like swirling trash. It cut deep, along its narrow path. Dishes, furniture all were strewn, why?

Mighty blast that came out of the sky. Vehicles they were bashed around. Many odd places they were found. Only luck if Man survive. Thankful that to be alive. Mighty storm, to make Man fall. Makes Man feel so very small. Will they cling as brothers now. Need some friends with thoughtful brow.

It may strike some place we care. Do the best, and try to prepare.

—By ALBERT BROOKS

ALWAYS BEEN HERE
I've always known you through the long lonely nites. Frustrating nites till this moment now when the time is just right. Thanks for being here now. You may not realize it but you have always been here just waiting to appear.

—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,
Beeton, Ontario