

On international relations

'10 Days' respond to Green Paper

Letters to the Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following submission was sent to the Parliamentary Committee on Canada's International Relations. The undersigned are participants in the annual education project of 10 area churches called Ten Days For World Development.

Our committee represents 10 local churches of 4 different denominations, with congregations totalling well over 3,000 people. We have been attempting to increase local knowledge about "Third World" development for several years now, and are pleased to present the following recommendations in response to the government's "Competitiveness and Security" Document.

Competitiveness and Security - The title itself disturbs us! We see the

world as a global village, with security coming from cooperation among peoples, and helping each person to achieve security through provision of basic human needs. "Revolutionary conditions cause revolt". It is in everyone's interest to play the game in terms of "How can we both win?" - not "I win - you lose".

Free Trade - Without wishing to comment on Canada-US free trade, we do support preferential trade arrangements with the least developed nations, where it will help them to become self-sufficient and to have stronger economies, to everyone's benefit. To quote our own Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche, "It is in the interests of both the developed and developing countries to take practical

steps to create a more equal world." Let each nation produce and freely sell what it makes best - Canada and Third World countries alike - without protectionism creating an unfair balance.

IMF - We urge that the International Monetary Fund find fair and helpful ways to deal with Third world debt, and in corollary support the GATT talks for an improved world order. Canada's Sylvia Ostry has outlined the pressing need for new international cooperation in these areas.

Foreign Aid - We strongly support an increase in foreign aid, in a more rapid timetable than that on page 36 of the Green Paper. We note that the European Economic Community gives 1.4 per cent of GNP; can Canada not do better than "0.7 per cent by 1995"? Bilateral (government to government) aid should be untied immediately, so that recipient countries, not Canadian companies, receive the benefit of the contracts. It is not really aid at all if we create Third World dependence on Canadian goods and spare parts, while farmers and factories in the recipient countries sit idly by. - The human rights record of any country should be a condition of bilateral aid, as well as a condition of sale of military goods. We are concerned that current Canadian policy seems to permit sale of weapons to countries whose actions are "repugnant to Canadian values", such as Chile. We do, however, support aid to Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) in such countries. We must not further victimize the poor because of the actions of their governments.

CIDA - Special attention should be

paid to the provision by our government of small scale projects, with the benefits of aid distributed to the most people possible, and with aid going to governments striving for self-sufficiency and the betterment of their poorest citizens. True aid is an investment in the long range development of people. It is not an investment in Canadian companies or the export of surplus Canadian goods, without regard for the real needs of the recipients. In the end, real aid helps all of us.

Signed, Janet Duval, St. John's United Church; Neal Mosher, St. Andrew's United; Bill Wickett, Hillcrest United; Margaret McTyre, Holy Cross R.C. Church; Margaret and Walter Ridley, Norval United; Blondina Matheson, Trinity United, Acton; Henriette Thompson, St. George's Anglican; Cheryl Lightowers, St. John's United; Hank van Goch, Knox Presbyterian; Craig Copland, Georgetown Alliance Church; J.A. Overing, St. Alban's Anglican.

Removal of his QC doesn't sit well with lawyer Howitt

Dick Howitt, Georgetown lawyer and school trustee, admits he is a little upset after losing his Q.C. (Queen's Council) status recently. He does not understand the reasoning behind the provincial government's decision to put the title to rest.



Dick Howitt

"What does upset me is that apparently the Premier decided to have the Q.C. revoked without consulting the Canadian Bar Association and Law Society," Mr. Howitt said.

Mr. Howitt received his Q.C. status in 1977. He received it, as all lawyers do, through the Lieutenant Governor and an Order in Council. How long you have been practising law, your competence and community activity are some of the criteria used in making appointments, Mr. Howitt said.

A lawyer with Q.C. does not charge higher fees than other lawyers, Mr. Howitt explained. In court, a Q.C. lawyer wears a silk gown with a

different cut, rather than the common wool one. Other than the Q.C. behind their name and the different robe there are no perks, Mr. Howitt said.

"The Q.C. is a tradition that goes back to the beginning of law in Ontario. It is a tradition that came over with the British judicial system," Mr. Howitt said.

In defence of cats

Dear Sir,
No one is disputing the fact that some control is necessary for the restriction on the number of cats and dogs but let us not go so far as to motivate annihilation.

Not that many households have pets. In actuality we would be doing the female of the species a favor, after a certain number of litters, since every sexual encounter is an automatic pregnancy. It would be an empathic response.

The neutering of these animals could be made easier for those who find it financially so difficult and are not so affluent. That is, if this restriction is to be taken seriously. They say it is the farmer's plight not knowing when to fight or when to quit - it's a problem common to us all. There are more than two sides to most stories and I don't expect mine to be any exception.

In a lot of cases, we owe our comforts and our very existence to animals. They have consistently paid their way. If you find that cats or dogs are a nuisance, just maybe, they find you are a nuisance.

Dog and cat owners don't necessarily treat their pets like children but love them as they do their children. Why not? The return is without question, condition or ultimatum. Funny? No doubt something to inspire more laughter. And - Mayor Miller, to my knowledge, no one is asking you to support one cat, let alone three.

An awful lot of animals that have been domesticated have already been

abandoned because their owners were unable to support them or simply unable to cope with them. I have been the recipient of such.

They are dropped off any place far from where they were raised. Some of these animals are not aware that food comes on four legs, they think it comes from a box or a tin. Now even more cruelty is encouraged. They didn't ask to be born any more than we did.

I shudder when I think that even traps are made legal. Animals aren't such nuisances when it comes to using them for heinous, shocking experiments. The bulldog - laboring for breath all of its life is only one example.

Barn cats - infested and suffering with mites and fleas kept merely for the purpose of catching mice and rats. Is abuse to become law with less and less room for the humane treatment of the helpless?

Are we to become civilized barbarians? It certainly has not been unheard of! Couldn't we come to a more reasonable agreement?

Lois Richardson

Parking proposal

Residents living near Acton's Old Hide House are having problems with cars being parked across their driveway. Mayor Russ Miller said Monday night.

He said he'd had many complaints about the parking situation around the popular leather goods store. A well advertised business, the Hide House draws shoppers from across the region and Toronto area.

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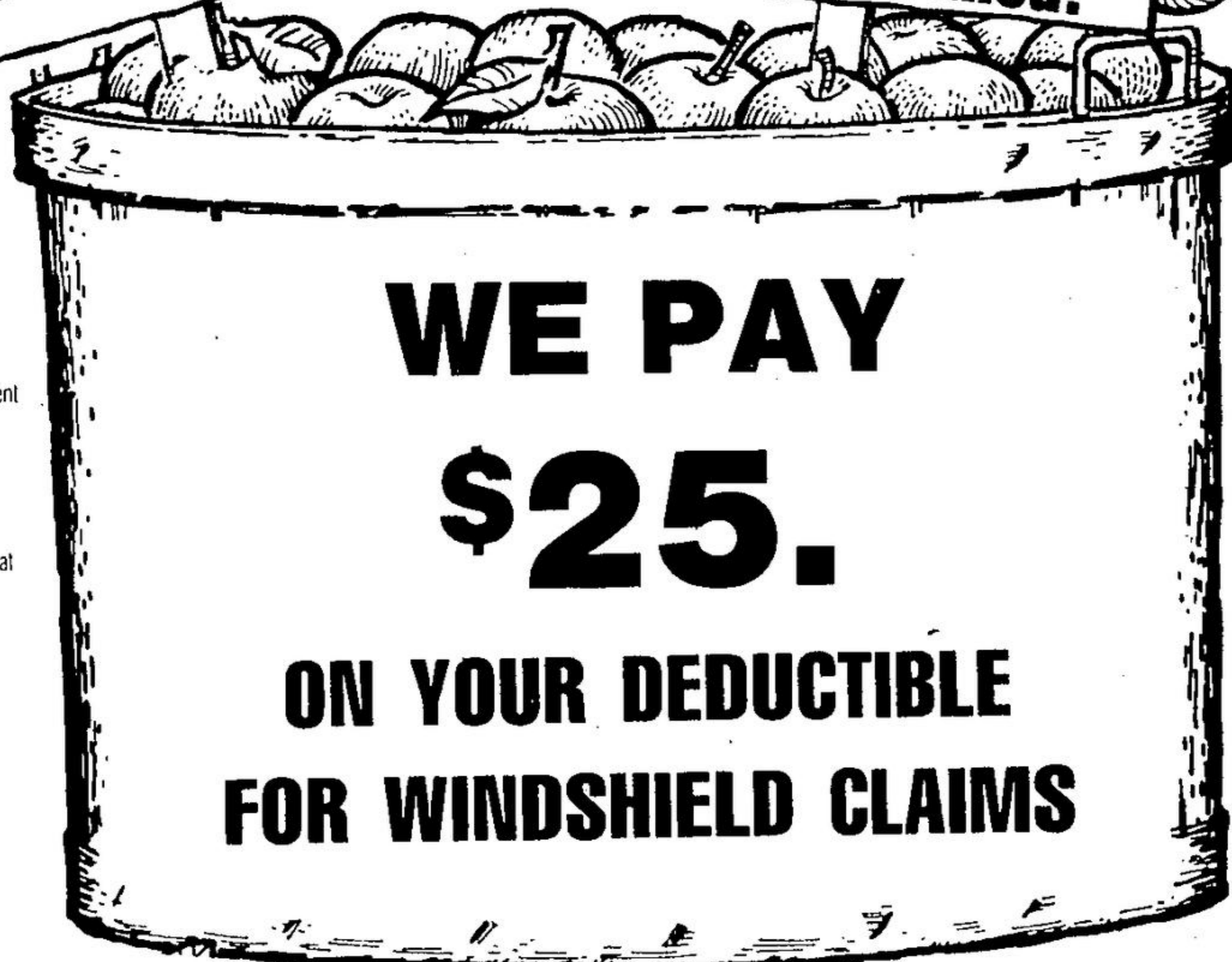
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