

Halton Hills Outlook

Outlook is published each Friday by The Halton Hills Herald, home newspaper of Halton Hills, a division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited, at 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 3Z6, Second Class Mail - Registered Number 0943.

877-2201

877-2202

877-8822

PUBLISHER
Garnet Cowsill

EDITOR
Dave Rowney

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Carl Sinke

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES
Pam Lewis
Sharon Marshall
Alanna Bowen

CLASSIFIED
Terry Colter
Elaine Kuzyshyn

SPORTS
Mike Turner

STAFF WRITERS
Ari Pederian
Sandy Campbell

PRODUCTION SUPERINTENDENT
Dave Hastings

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
Myles Gilson
Annie Olsen
Mary Lou Foreman

PRESS FOREMAN
Ed Burt
ASSISTANT
Len Eason

CIRCULATION
Marie Shadbolt

ACCOUNTING
Mark Ziller
Pauline Miller

Their Outlook

Page 4 - HALTON HILLS OUTLOOK, Friday, February 13, 1987

Row with Peterson hard to understand

At this particular moment, I am not sure why Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski would want to get into a public spat with Ontario Premier David Peterson. It's not as though political life is so boring for Mr. Mazankowski that he needs a new issue.

In fact, it's remarkable that he has time to even think about the Ontario premier. Being House Leader as well as deputy prime minister, the Alberta MP has had his hands full of late, whether it be fending off opposition attacks in the Oerlikon affair or apologizing to Premier Brian Peckford for bypassing Newfoundland in the fishing dispute with France.

And it's not as though Premier Peterson is an inviting target, compared with, say, the South African government. From all reports, his popularity is holding high - much higher than that of the Mulroney government in Ontario.

And the deputy prime minister surely couldn't have been trying to promote national unity when he decided to say a few things about the premier. Since the nub of the matter involves the proposed use of western coal in Ontario, it has the potential to be divisive.

LETTER LEAKED
Mr. Mazankowski wrote Mr. Peterson last week, accusing him of avoiding discussions on the coal issue. And within a remarkably short time, the letter was leaked to the media.

"It's not a letter that the premier's office would want to leak, so we can assume it was slipped out in Ottawa. Certainly, the premier assumes this and, furthermore, he thinks it was in retaliation for his stinging statements on the federal plan to designate Vancouver and Montreal, but not Toronto, as international banking centres.

Whoever leaked the letter, the deputy prime minister seemed eager enough to expand on it. He told the Commons he was surprised at Mr. Peterson's "nonchalant approach to such a very important issue." He had thought the premier would be "right up front and centre" since the use of cleaner-burning western coal, rather than the American variety, would reduce



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

acid rain and create new jobs in Canada.

A federal-provincial study released last year recommended that Ontario Hydro should use western coal to reduce acid-rain emissions. The report also said this could also result in 13,000 new jobs over the next 15 years.

PREMIER REPLIES
If that was the whole story, I could readily understand why the deputy prime minister would want the issue laundered in public.

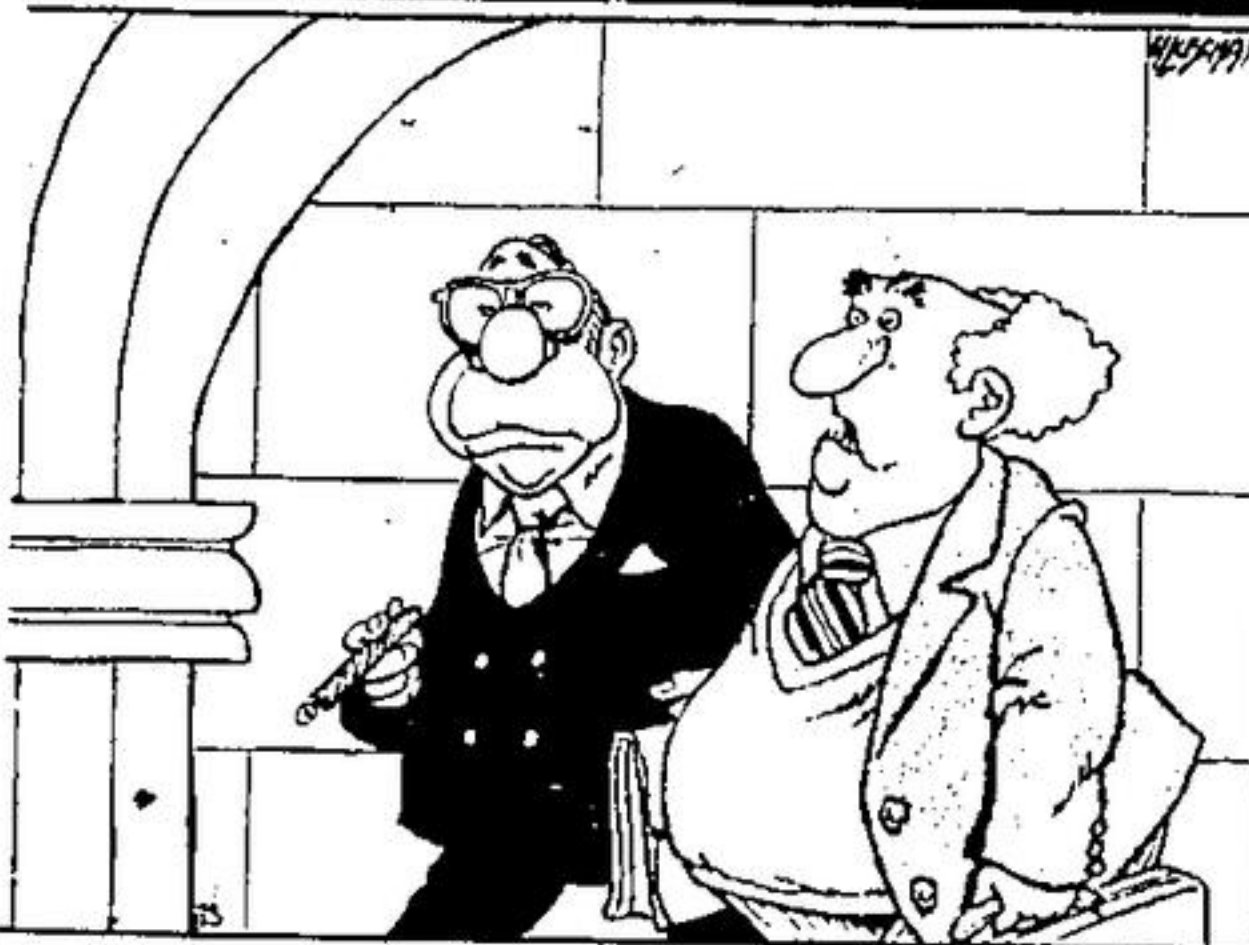
Whether Mr. Peterson is being nonchalant in getting together with Mr. Mazankowski is a matter that can be debated elsewhere. The premier says the suggestion is "ridiculous" and he cited only one occasion when the deputy prime minister said he would be in Toronto and would like to meet with Mr. Peterson. The premier said he would be out of town on that particular day.

"Frankly, I am surprised at Don Mazankowski because I didn't think he was so small-minded," Mr. Peterson said. The deputy prime minister was reducing political pettiness "to a new low."

The premier insists he is quite willing to discuss the use of western coal by Ontario Hydro, but there is no particular urgency because the provincial utility's contract to buy American coal doesn't expire until 1992. He also said western coal is 47 per cent more expensive than American coal, and millions of dollars would have to be spent on plant refits.

The changeover, we've been told, would raise Ontario electricity costs by 18 per cent to a new low.

Someday, hopefully, ways will be found for the economical operation of Ontario Hydro with western coal. But that's at least five years away and, in the meantime, Premier Peterson is not taking the slightest political risk in his province if he does appear nonchalant. There is a far greater danger in attacking him.



Letters to the editor

A conspiracy?

Editor's note: This note was filed with The Herald for publication. Dear Congressperson and Senator:

Please re-introduce Bills #S5476 and HR2823 as originally written for decoder standardization and third party distribution marketing with no compromises.

On April 4, 1986, I have written a letter to Mr. Bill Winegard, my member of parliament, and received a reply from MP Flora Macdonald dated July 30, 1986. My letter requested the banishment of the M/A Com VC II from Canada. I have also imparted to her a copy of a letter from M/A Com requesting that these devices be returned to them. It is dated April 21, 1986.

At that time, there are now over 5,000 here. Why are these devices still being imported?

I, like many dish owners, do not wish to pirate the signals of the programmers but I do not condone the cable companies forcing programmers into scrambling their material or over the air stations being told to pay for a cable channel or be thrown off the cable system, i.e. CBN, KTWU (PBS) in Kansas, etc.

I do not understand why the FCC, the U.S. Justice Dept., and the Dept. of Trade and Commerce are seemingly refusing to take any firm actions on the plight of the satellite dish owner. Heaven knows, enough information has been sent to them to sink an aircraft carrier!

In my opinion, the marketplace is not working and I have come to the conclusion that there is a well orchestrated conspiracy by some programmers and cable companies to gain total control over the airwaves and the satellite industry, completely.

Many programmers were asked by Mr. Tom Burke, to send their rate schedule for third party marketing, and they have blatantly refused to deal with us.

Michael Fuchs, c.o.o. H.B.O., after much prodding during the Senate hearing, was requested to send his rate schedule to the Senate. Did the Senate ever receive that information?

Many programmers do not want to foster competition in the marketplace and other programmers are being forced to accept the VC II as the standard decoder, even though it has many deficiencies, and these programmers will want to keep confusion in the marketplace by introducing a bill to not allow a standard decoder. Why the change in their attitude? Please vote against any bills which request this type of thing.

Please do everything in your power, regardless who supported you in your election campaign, financially, and help preserve the freedom of the airwaves and your First Amendment rights. A loss of this freedom leads to the control of the ideas of a nation - a dangerous situation, indeed. You cannot and must not allow this to come about. Thanking you for your time with me on this important and significant matter.

Respectfully yours,
Howard H. Burke



Liberals' strength rests with premier

Toronto - The polls continue to confirm that the Liberals' great strength in Ontario rests on three words:

Premier David Peterson.
That's the obvious conclusion to draw from the latest Environics Research Group quarterly poll on party standings in Ontario.

As reported in the Globe and Mail, the poll shows the provincial Liberals with 47 per cent popular support, the Conservatives 30 per cent and the New Democratic Party 21 per cent.

A November poll, it mirrors similar polls from late last spring and summer.

Translated into electoral terms, the results would give the Liberals a comfortable majority government.

Some of the details revealed by the poll, however, are especially revealing.

The Liberals received general approval for their handling of any six of what the Globe story called 13 key issues.

On two to them, pay equity and the environment, support has "dipped sharply" since the summer.

Moreover, support for the province's free trade position (or non-position, to be more accurate), has been "plummeting" for a year.

So what is their strength, then? The poll showed Peterson to be the first choice for premier of 45 per cent of respondents, compared with only 16 per cent for Conservative leader Larry Grossman and 15 per cent for N/D/P leader Bob Rae.

And that's the edge. Peterson enjoys voter confidence. He has appeared as a breath of fresh air and activity after the last stuffy, directionless years of former Tory premier Bill Davis.

Perhaps more important has been the contrast between the deftness displayed by a new Liberal government at Queen's Park and the sheer ineptness at news management and issue control shown by the Brian Mulroney PCs in Ottawa.

It isn't that Peterson has been perfect. Far from it. Some issues he has handled



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

relatively well, such as the ban on extra-billing and the resulting doctors' strike.

Others were less deftly finessed, like the Exploracom financing fiasco or the Rod Lewis "golden handshake."

In no case, however, has Peterson received public blame for the fouls, a success which has left much of the media and Peterson's Conservative and NDP opponents expressing amazement about his "teflon-like" ability to prevent anything sticking to him.

Perhaps it is because, in this age of media overkill, the public has a transitory interest in the average Queen's Park story.

What they care about is more a general perception of their leaders, of their style and how they appear to be performing.

They care about leadership itself, which is an intangible, much more than policy specifics.

And in their eyes Peterson is much more a winner than a loser.

The paradox the Liberals face is that their greatest strength is also their greatest weakness.

It is to state the obvious to say that having the high rating of the Liberals so dependent upon Peterson means that if he does crash they all come tumbling down.

That's why the opposition parties here enjoyed last week so much. It was the first time they felt they had Peterson personally on the ropes.

He faltered and fumbled on the trade trip to Washington, on the Kimberly-Clark backdown, on the Exploracom fiasco - overall, it was not a good week for Peterson.

But a single week does not a government break. It is going to take a string of them before the Tories and NDP can do anything but tremble at the thought of an election.

Wide, anyone?