

# Halton Hills Outlook

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## Their Outlook

### Few rewards for condoning critic



#### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ask any Tory MP what he or she thinks about David Kilgour's outburst, and you will probably be told it was stupid, or foolish, or self-destructive, or unjustified. You won't find any of these MPs offering any form of support.

To do so publicly would in itself be stupid, foolish, self-destructive. Criticizing one's own party has few rewards; condoning the critic has even fewer.

Yet when you privately probe beneath the surface, you can find more than a handful of MPs who are rather pleased that Mr. Kilgour, the unhappy MP from Edmonton-Strathcona, said what he did. He may have put his political head on the block, but at least he went public with some grievances shared by other MPs. These colleagues stand to gain the benefits without paying any price.

Mr. Kilgour, a 46-year-old lawyer, started his colleagues last weekend by publicly criticizing the Mulroney government, in which he was parliamentary secretary to Transport Minister John Crosbie.

It's enough for the backbench MP to do this, but parliamentary secretaries who take an oath of office, are virtually junior ministers. They would normally be expected to resign this office before taking slap shots at the government.

But Mr. Kilgour, apparently, couldn't wait.

LETFLY He allowed himself to be quoted as saying he was "very unhappy about some of the things the government's done," and went on to say he was furious with alleged preferential treatment toward Ontario in the way of job creation. He also said he was sick of the government's patronage and scandals.

Mr. Kilgour is the brother-in-law of Liberal Leader John Turner, although he has never shown much political affection for the Grits since coming to Parliament in 1976. He

said he was undecided about his future, whether he would join another party, sit as an Independent or simply quit politics. He would wait until June before making any decision.

As soon as Prime Minister Mulroney was through entertaining U.S. President Ronald Reagan, he summoned Mr. Kilgour to his office and fired him as parliamentary secretary. By "mutual consent," it was agreed the MP would not attend meetings of the national and Alberta caucuses.

That pretty well makes him a political outcast on Parliament Hill. "Poor David," said one of his colleagues.

Several said they would walk out of caucus if Mr. Kilgour attended. Others said he should apologize for effectively issuing an ultimatum.

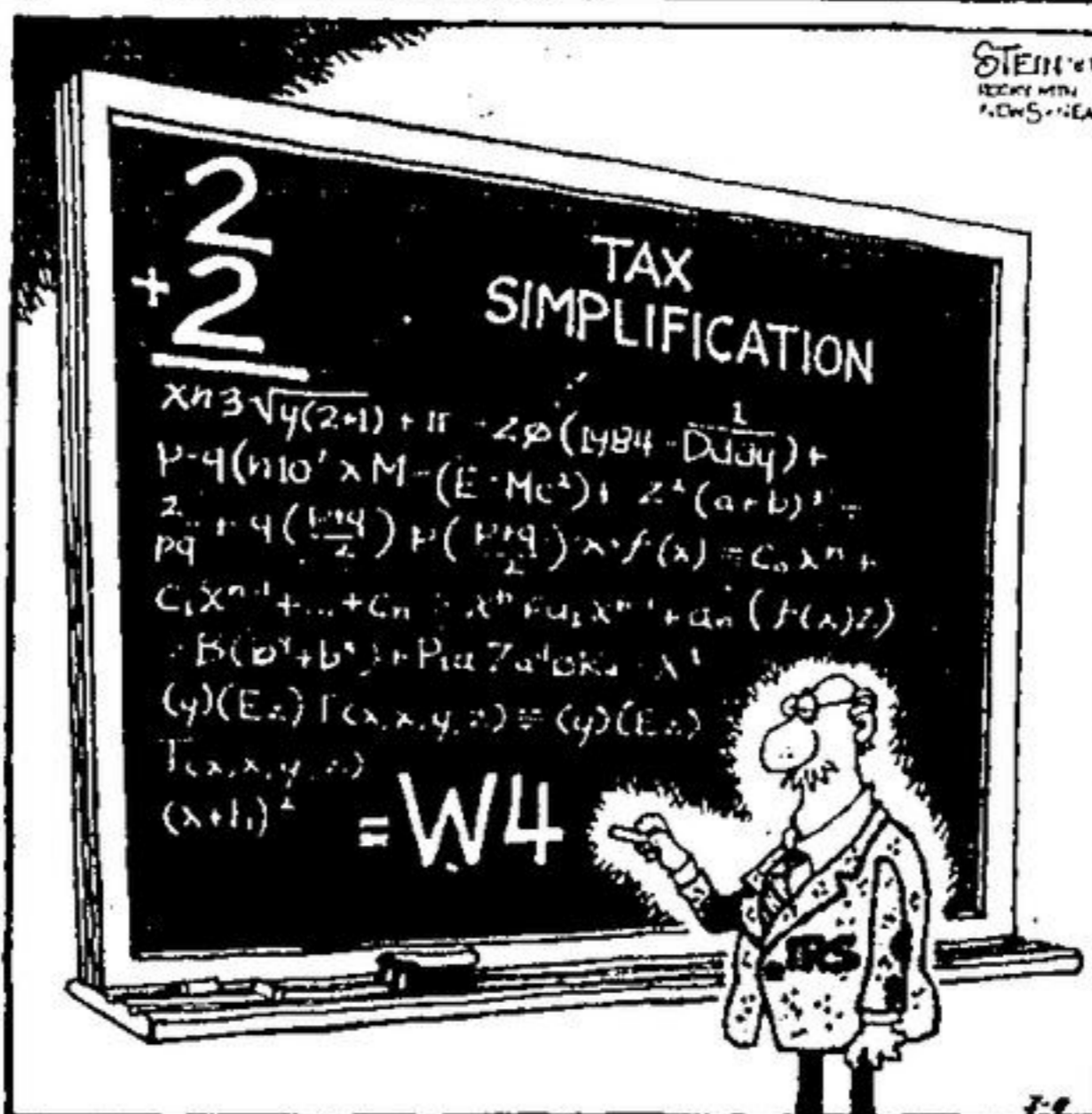
SOME AGREE But in the privacy of some MPs' offices, the reaction to Mr. Kilgour's outburst was not all anger and sadness. When he spoke out against frustrations in the West and Atlantic Canada about the regional imbalances in economic development, he was echoing the thoughts of many other MPs.

"Actually I am a bit angry because we just seem to be settling down and we didn't need this disruption," said another western MP. "But I would have to agree that David is reflecting a widely-held view. It's just that he didn't handle it right."

But Mr. Kilgour claims he tried other approaches, including sending "many" letters to the prime minister and personally outlining his concerns with Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski, a fellow Albertan. "I presume the prime minister has been reading the letters I've been sending him," he said.

Another MP, while saying no party can afford to have Members "shooting off like this," said Mr. Kilgour's comments will, hopefully, force the government to "quickly address the concerns of the regions."

"Quite often, if one respected MP takes a stand like this, others will eventually offer qualified support for this viewpoint, especially when we're so low in the opinion polls—and the prime minister will want to do everything to avoid this."



### Letters Law Day

Dear Sir,

On April 15, Law Day will be observed for the fifth consecutive year in Canada. The Canadian Bar Association (CBA), which sponsors this event, has chosen "Legal Awareness for All" as this year's Law Day theme. The Department of Justice of Canada supports this message which is important to all Canadians.

The Federal Department of Justice is actively helping people become aware of the law in various communities across the country. In order to do so, we have undertaken legal education and information activities to inform Canadians about the law and major law reform programs.

We have produced pamphlets and booklets on issues such as impaired driving, the new divorce law and sexual assault. These publications can be obtained by writing directly to the Department of Justice, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8.

My Department also supports the activities of non-governmental groups which have, on their own initiative, set up projects to provide legal information or assistance in their communities. Grants and contributions have been made available to groups and individuals working in a wide variety of areas including access to legal information, impaired driving, victims of crime and human rights. Some legal awareness projects in your community may qualify for funding; further information can be obtained by writing to the Federal Department of Justice.

The law exists for the protection of each and every Canadian. We are working hard at trying to facilitate access to the justice system for all Canadians. Law Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on what the law is doing for us - and what we can do to make it part of our family and community life in Canada.

Yours sincerely,  
Ray Hnatyshyn,  
Minister of Justice and  
Attorney General of Canada

### Baby court battle could happen here



#### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Toronto—The Baby M surrogate motherhood story: could it happen here?

Unfortunately, yes. Specifically, we could have a raging court battle over custody of the baby, just as happened in the U.S., and for the same reason.

There is no Ontario law directly concerned with surrogate motherhood, just as there is no New Jersey law.

This is true even though the groundwork for such a law was laid two years ago in a report by the Ontario Law Reform Commission entitled Human Artificial Reproduction and Related Matters.

Baby M is the little girl whose mother contracted for money—to bear a child for another couple. She then changed her mind about giving up the infant.

A U.S. court found for the contracting couple (the male is the child's natural father by artificial insemination) and against the mother.

In making his decision, the judge relied heavily on the idea that "a deal's a deal," although he also stressed the biological connection between the father and the child.

(Some additional unflattering references to the natural mother by the judge have served only to confuse the issue.)

Critics have taken a scattergun approach to the decision.

Some expressed a basic philosophic objection to the whole idea of rent-a-womb on the grounds that it is a form of slavery—the buying and selling of human flesh. It may also have a class, ban, the poor

renting and the rich the renters. And one either subjectively agrees or disagrees with those conclusions. Even so, making it a criminal offence, and assuming it could be enforced, somehow doesn't seem the right approach.

Other critics, who don't object to surrogate motherhood per se, believe that the natural mother should take precedence, that she be given a grace period after birth to decide whether she really wants to go through with the transaction. They note that's how it works with adoption.

It even has been suggested that joint custody could be an acceptable compromise solution.

The Law Reform Commission didn't agree in 1985.

In fact, chairman Jim Briethaupt still believes the worst of all situations would be to legalize second-guessing and changing of minds in surrogate motherhood.

The commission thought soul-searching and doubts should occur prior to the contract, not after.

To ensure that, it recommended any deal be in writing and require the approval of the Family Court, which would rule on the suitability of both the contracting parents and the surrogate mother.

Once the child is born, it would immediately become the responsibility of the contracting of social parents in every way—even if disabled. There would be no ducking of responsibility by the contracting parents.

By the same token, the surrogate mother wouldn't be able to suddenly lay claim to the infant, either.

A deal would be a deal.

Of course, nothing so complex as child custody is quite that simple. What would happen, for instance, if the surrogate mother decided to abort the fetus six weeks into the pregnancy.

### Berry's World



"OK, suppose we did stop the arms race. Then how would everybody make a LIVING?"

A Little Too Lonely  
Sadness  
Sentences  
My Soul  
To Solitude  
Only  
Meagre  
Moments  
Mercifully  
Serenity  
Ameliorate  
Eternal  
Immersion  
Marlowe C. Dickson  
R.R. Z. Beeton  
Years Tell  
Tears  
tent  
the tranquility  
that was  
once my face  
Smiles  
ripped away  
by grimace  
Glowing cheeks  
now tracked  
by  
aimless lines  
Sad  
is the mask  
of a broken heart.  
Marlowe C. Dickson  
R.R. Z. Beeton