

# Move up date

A four month delay in hearing Dr. Jack Ford's appeal is unfair and unacceptable. The popular doctor at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital lost his privileges at the hospital effective April 7. But the reasons behind why the doctor's privileges were revoked haven't been released. Dr. Ford won't be able to defend himself or dispell the rumors and answer questions until an Ontario Hospital Appeal Hearing. Conversely, the hospital board doesn't want to divulge information with an appeal board hearing pending. In the meantime, a doctor has been effectively cut off from properly treating his patients. Also affected by the board's decision are the dozens of patients of Dr. Ford who are suddenly prevented from being treated by the doctor of their choice.

This is being felt most by pregnant women who have built up a trust with their doctor and now face the emotional trauma of finding a new physician. These innocent victims of Dr. Ford must wait for four months until an appeal can be heard. Is this fair to the doctor or his patients? Did Dr. Ford have a proper hearing by the board and should he have been invited to defend himself? Only a proper hearing of the Ontario Hospital Appeal Board can answer that question.

What deserves immediate attention is the length of time it takes to hold an appeal hearing. We understand the appeal board has a backlog and cases are judged on a first come, first served basis. But something should be done to speed up the appeal process. A doctor's ability to practice is being threatened and his patients are in an emotional tailspin. Don't his patients have a right to know why he can't practise medicine in the hospital? No good reason is served by prolonging this issue and delaying the hearing to the end of the summer. The matter will only fester in the minds of those who find themselves embroiled in this controversy.

The only solution is to move the hearing date forward. Critics of the board's decision should realize that lawyers have advised both sides to avoid comment for fear of jeopardizing their case at the appeal hearing. For this reason, it would be unrealistic to ask the hospital to publicly release information about the doctor now. An appeal board hearing will be open to the public and all of the evidence will be weighed in a democratic matter.

Could the board have avoided the apparent feelings of mistrust and suspicion which some people are experiencing as a result of the incident? This issue highlights the board's decision to operate by closing its doors to the public. Many hospitals throughout Ontario have open board meetings. Though the Dr. Ford decision would still have been made in-camera, open meetings give people the impression the board invites input and criticism from the public it serves.

## Dunce cap feeling for NDP hecklers

The New Democratic Party MPs who heckled U.S. President Ronald Reagan while he addressed Parliament are, not surprisingly, getting dumped on from great heights. And it really wasn't a very hospitable thing to do. Given the rare opportunity to address our parliamentarians, common courtesy dictates that he or she be allowed to speak without impolite interjections.



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Even NDP Leader Ed Broadbent felt strongly enough about this to phone three offending members - Les Benjamin, John Farry and Svend Robinson - and give them a small piece of his mind. Mr. Broadbent couldn't do this earlier because he had to rush out of the Commons immediately after the Reagan speech to attend a meeting of Socialist International in Rome.

Whether he would have made a reprimanding phone call just a few years ago, when the NDP was given a flouting its feisty leftist leanings, is academic. The point is that the present-day NDP, suddenly second in the opinion polls, is extremely sensitive about alienating its new-found support in the political centre.

"The boss was mad at me and said so," remarked Mr. Benjamin. "Maybe I should have kept my big mouth shut."

Just about everyone who has spoken or written on the subject seems to agree. One Quebec newspaper headlined an editorial with "Dunce caps for the NDP".

ALMOST PREDICTABLE. Okay, we all agree that the NDP hecklers would have been better advised to keep quiet as the U.S. president worked through his 30-minute speech to MPs and senators. But in the universal denunciation of the chatty socialists, there is a tendency to overlook what brought on these outbursts.

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Mr. Benjamin, while sorry he opened his mouth, still maintains that the president also "misbehaved" on Canadian soil. And an unapologetic Mr. Robinson says it was unacceptable for the president to "lecture" Canadian MPs on politics either opposed by Parliament or one of the parties within it.

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STYLING BY FOR YORK STYLING TELEGRAM  
HULME 2-A  
M.S.A.



## Citizens' forum

### Faith in board members

Dear Sir,  
Further to recent criticisms of the Georgetown Hospital Board, I offer the following points to be considered:  
1. The Georgetown Hospital Board is a volunteer group comprised of 11 capable men and women responsible for a budget of 5 million dollars (larger than most Georgetown businesses).

2. These directors have proven their capabilities over the years, some members serving many years. These are responsible people who are not radicals searching to embarrass their staff. They have better and more productive matters to discuss.  
3. Typical of any business, problems usually occur over a length of time before drastic action is taken. Certainly a person would not be judged by a few complaints or court cases.  
4. The medical profession is a protective clique who do not generally criticize or comment on fellow professionals without good reason.  
5. It is not unusual to forbid discussion of an employee's termination until the courts prepare their decision. Until that time it is unfair for the public to request information that may be confidential or prejudicial.  
6. Since there is only one full time gynecologist it is imperative that the Board and the people of Georgetown have confidence in that person.  
7. Doctors are not infallible and most patients have a strong emotional attachment to their doctor. If you request three quotes for a car repair then perhaps when one's health is concerned we should all question why we would accept one doctor's opinion.  
8. Certainly the system needs to be evaluated to be sure that citizens' concerns are dealt with honestly and clearly. Meanwhile, let's have some faith in the volunteers who run the board. They have no axe to grind.  
Brenda Sissett

a man's career and livelihood was at stake without him being able to hear the case and defend himself. This is not what Canadian democracy and justice is about. Dr. Ford had already cleared his name once in front of a hospital board meeting. He was found to be completely professional by a group of his peers.  
I sincerely hope that you, for the sake of Dr. Ford's reputation and career and for the sake of Dr. Ford's patients, reconsider this matter in a special board meeting when Dr. Ford is present. To wait for an appeal in August will cause undue harm to this hard-working, honest man and to his patients.  
Yours sincerely,  
Christine E. Kogon

### Injustice to good doctor

Dear Sir,  
A definition of injustice is: "a violation or denial of justice", which appears to be the case at present regarding Dr. J.A. Ford, obstetrician and gynecologist. His rights have been violated, hospital privileges blatantly tossed aside and refusal by the Board of Directors to allow him to "get on with his practice of administering to his patients."  
He has been ridiculed, castigated, defiled, and denigrated by some members of the medical profession in an attempt to oust and take over a lucrative practice. Is there a possibility that racial discrimination has reared its ugly head?  
I too have rights as a patient and hopefully as a "soon-to-be grandmother". My daughter is classified as "high risk" and cannot be "fluffed off" on any medical practitioner for optimum results. We want assurance that our hopes will finally be realized and this can only be accomplished through the ever watchful eye and administrations of Dr. Ford.  
Berika Moran

### MD can't deliver her third child

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was filed with The Herald for publication.

Dear Mr. Rochon,  
I am writing this letter to express my feelings about the recent removal of Dr. Ford's hospital privileges. Dr. Ford has been my gynecologist-obstetrician for the last eight years. During that period, I have always found him to be sympathetic, conscientious and competent. Dr. Ford has acted immediately when I have had any problems and he has always been available for consultation - day, night or weekend. I presently have two healthy children, which Dr. Ford delivered by Caesarian section. I recovered quickly and without complications from the surgery.  
I am deeply concerned that Dr. Ford will not be available to deliver my third child which I am expecting in six weeks. I would prefer to have the doctor which I have learned to trust and respect over the past eight years, deliver my baby. At the moment, I am without a doctor who is qualified to carry out this procedure.  
I am also concerned with the method of the removal of Dr. Ford's hospital privileges. The hospital board meeting on April 7, 1987 was called with very little notice. Hospital Board members were phoned only a few days in advance. Dr. Ford, himself, was not present because he was performing an emergency Caesarian section at the time of the meeting. The decision on

### Reader supports fellow doctor

Dear Sir,  
It was very upsetting to learn of the suspension of Dr. Jack Ford's hospital privileges last week.

Since opening my practice in Georgetown in October 1985, I have referred many of my patients to Dr. Ford and at no time did I ever have reason to question his medical capabilities. My patients without exception, are happy with the professional, conscientious and compassionate care they've received and they look forward to returning to Dr. Ford for future pregnancies or gynecologic problems.  
Unfortunately, their doctor of choice is no longer available to them in Georgetown. Although Dr. Ford's medical license has not been affected and he is able to continue with his office practice, an obstetrician/gynecologist's career is severely limited without hospital privileges.  
I hope that the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Board of Directors is open-minded enough to review his case once more in view of the obvious public support for this man.  
If we were all privy to the facts in his case, perhaps we would understand the reasons for initiating this action and whether removal of his hospital privileges by the Board of Directors was truly justified.  
I have not lost confidence in Dr. Ford's ability to care for my patients and until I see sufficient

### Respect for physician

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was filed with The Herald for publication.  
Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital,  
11 Princess Anne Drive,  
Georgetown, Ontario  
Attention: Administrator  
Dear Sir,  
My wife is currently pregnant with our fourth child. She is due at the beginning of August, 1987. While I must honestly say that if she were not pregnant, I most likely would not be writing this letter, events of the past week have made my family and I very upset.  
Dr. J.A. Ford has been our obstetrician since 1981, during my wife's first pregnancy. We have a great deal of respect for him, both as a physician and a person.  
For physiological reasons, my wife has had our children by caesarian section, and our fourth child will be by the same method. We learned on April 13, 1987 that an appeal of Dr. Ford's suspension will not be possible until August, 1987.  
This news is a source of great distress to us, particularly when it is coupled with the information that the hospital staff have not been told of the circumstances or reasons, and have been instructed not to talk about the situation.  
I can understand the reason for confidentiality in the decision making process, and can appreciate the difficulty in which you must find the reputation of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital as a result of the fragmentary information and rumor surrounding the removal of hospital privileges from Dr. Ford.  
I'd like you to understand something as well. My wife and children come before any outside considerations, be they work, church, or anything else. I consider myself to be a reasonable person, but I cannot understand why the only hospital in Georgetown would have a Tuesday night meeting to revoke privileges as of Wednesday morning. This action has left a number of patients, at what should be one of the best times in their lives, in a state of anxiety without a life-threatening reason for this haste.  
We are sure that there are other capable doctors who would be available to handle my wife's delivery, but the fact of the matter is that the birth of a child is not merely a trip to the delivery or operating rooms. It's a process that the family and doctor experience for nine months. To suddenly be informed that at the birth, we will be under the care of a physician who has not had any interaction with my wife and I over the period of pregnancy is certainly not an optimal condition.  
My wife and I are not intending to change doctors at this stage of the game, and would far rather see an early conclusion of this matter. As private citizens, we have very little power or influence over any of the institutions such as your hospital, that have a direct bearing on our lives, and those of our children. We would however, appreciate receiving a response from you in the near future, so that we may make intelligent and informed decisions about our as yet unborn child.  
Sincerely,  
Paul McDougall,  
Moultrey Crescent,  
Georgetown

### 10 years ago

Wintario is coming to Halton Hills. A live television presentation of the bi-monthly lottery draw will be held at the Georgetown Memorial Arena May 26.  
The United Auto Workers union aid Monday 165 employees of the Georgetown Smith and Stone Ltd. plant will be laid off for a one week period effective immediately.  
Nancy Dunlop, president of the Halton New Liberal Association for Youth, arranged for Liberal members to meet their representatives in Milton Friday. Members are Julian Reed, MPP Halton-Burlington, Dr. Frank Philbrook, MP for Halton and Ross Milne, MP for Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe.

### 5 years ago

The British Monarch may have reigned supreme Saturday in Ottawa but the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders captured the hearts and imagination of local hockey fans Sunday night by winning the Canadian Intermediate "A" championship over Quesnel (B.C.).  
Steve Lyon stood out as a defenceman for the Raiders in the series with Quesnel.  
Forward Joe Ens captured the series MVP award as the scorer of some key goals in the series.

### MP's Report

John McDermid

If you weren't planning to file an income tax return this year because you had no taxable income to declare - think again. You may be missing out on a valuable tax credit, worth as much as \$50 for you and even more if you're married or have children.  
This credit, introduced in the February 1986 budget, is designed to provide a Federal Sales Tax refund to individuals and families with low net income.  
In order to receive the Credit, you must file a tax return for 1986, even if you don't have taxable income to declare. Schedule eleven must also be completed and submitted along with your tax return.  
In order to determine if you are eligible to receive the Federal Sales Tax Credit, complete a tax return up to line 234-Net Income. If you are married, your spouse's net income should also be calculated. Then turn to schedule eleven in the tax return and complete it, following the instructions in the tax guide. Once you've completed this schedule, go back to the tax return, complete it, and sign it.  
Generally speaking, individuals are eligible for the full \$50 credit if their net income in 1986 was \$15,000 or less.  
The credit gradually diminishes as a person's net income increases above \$15,000. When an individual claims the Federal Sales Tax Credit for a spouse and qualified relations, the amount of the credit increases, since a \$50 credit may be claimed for a spouse, and additional credits of \$25 per qualified relation are also available.  
As you complete your tax return, remember that a qualified relation is a child under 18 years of age as of December 31, 1986, for whom you or your spouse are the only individuals claiming a personal exemption. Only one claim for the Federal Sales Tax Credit may be made by a married couple, so you must decide which spouse will claim this credit.  
If you're unsure of how to claim, call or visit your District Taxation Office where the staff will be pleased to assist you. In Georgetown, you may call Hamilton District Taxation Office at 1-800-920/05 between 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to make an inquiry. District Taxation Office hours throughout the year are 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## In your opinion

### Your coaching philosophy?

Question: "What is your coaching philosophy?"

**RICK HUME:** "As long as everyone is out there giving to their capability. If they keep it going you should win games. You can't always coach from the heart, but whatever brings out the best in the guys."

**SHEILA DIXON:** "From the rep (hockey) point of view, you go for the gusto. I am a non-believer in equal ice time for this level of hockey (rep, all-star). It should only be developmental from Major Atom and down."

**CARSON MINICH:** "It depends on the type of hockey. If it's rep then the aim is to play to win, but not at any cost. You try to get the best out of the kids with what they've got to offer."

**CHARLIE HANMAN:** "At the rep level my philosophy is, a boy with talent and an aggressiveness will be one of the dominant people."

**HARVEY GREEN:** "If the kid can play up higher, then he should play. Kids should find their own level of hockey."