

Toronto group protests taxes

Gathering on Georgetown's Main Street metres away from Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner's campaign office, a Toronto-based lobbyist group called Cut Taxes picketed against tax hikes Saturday morning.

The group was led by Ross Virgin, a Toronto lobbyist. He said the protest was held in honor of July 7, Tax Freedom Day in Ontario, the day the Fraser Institute has determined that taxpayers stop

working for governments and start working for themselves.

Mr. Virgin took a hard line with listeners. "Stop your bitching, and do something," he said. "I am sick and tired" of people complaining about taxes and not taking action, he added, giving the group federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson's phone number. "Write this down," he said, telling the protesters to call and complain.

"We are mobilizing as many

thousands of complaints as we can," said Mr. Virgin. He threatened to tie up Mr. Wilson's phone lines until he got a response from the minister. "Within two years we can reduce our tax level from 52 per cent (of our wages) to 25 or 30 per cent."

But Mr. Virgin stressed a "pro-government" slant in his lobbying. "I am very pro-government," he said, "I believe the people run the government, the government doesn't run the people."

He introduced Mr. Turner to the crowd and thanked the MP for taking time out of his busy schedule.

"I need your help. I need you to tell me what expenditures to cut," Mr. Turner said to the crowd.

"My role in Ottawa is to represent your feelings. I think the tax levels are as high in Ottawa as they can go. So I'm with you on this. I agree with you."

"I can take your message to Ottawa."

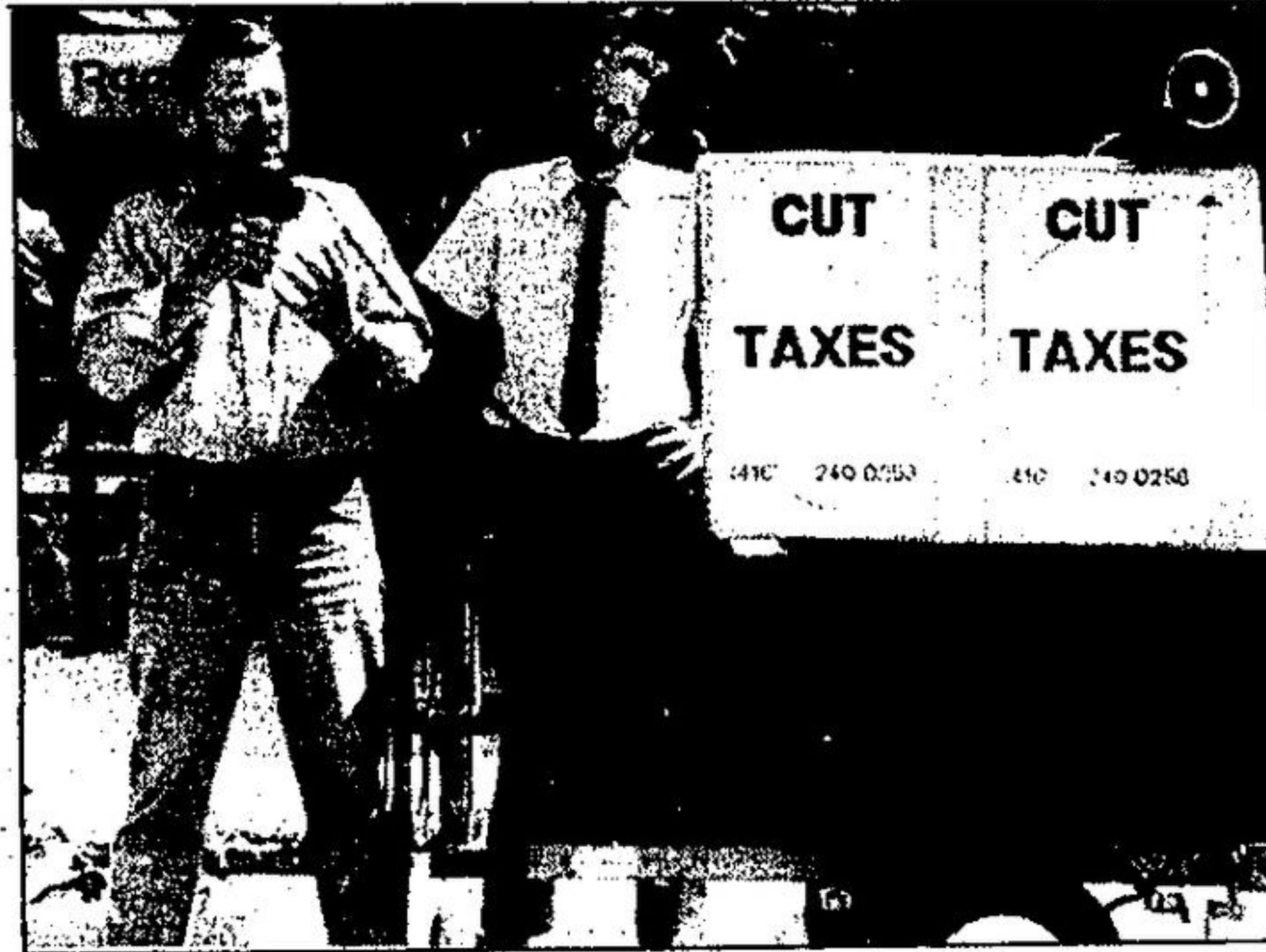
Mr. Turner said Canada's \$30 billion debt is "strictly the result of mismanagement of this economy (in Canada)."

Before he entered politics last fall, Mr. Turner sent out coupons to readers of the Toronto Sun where he was business columnist. He then sent protest letters to federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson.

"I got into politics because I felt I had done all I could do as a critic," said the MP.

Cut Taxes is a Toronto-based group formed three months ago. Membership stands at about the 2,000-mark, but Mr. Virgin expects it to grow to 30,000 or 40,000 members in the next four or five years.

The Cut Taxes spokesman has lobbied the government on various causes over the past 10 to 15 years.



The Toronto based lobbyist group, Cut Taxes, picketed outside Halton-Peel Conservative MP Garth Turner's constituency office here in Georgetown Saturday morning. During the event, which was held in honor of Tax Freedom Day in Ontario, Garth Turner (left) asked the crowd to tell him what government expenditures should be cut. The group leader was Toronto lobbyist, Ross Virgin. (Herald photo)

OMB refuses severance

The Ontario Municipal Board has refused a land severance appeal made by a Halton Hills couple on Regional Road 42.

Rene and Joan March appealed a Region of Halton Land Division Committee decision to reject their application to sever half of their 60-acre property. The appeal was rejected June 22.

The Region refused the Marches' application because their property is classified as rural, and rural land use cannot permit severances for non-farm purposes, says the Region.

The land is presently being leased for agricultural purposes.

The property would be forced into residential use if it is severed, says the OMB. The retained parcel would front on to Regional Road 42 near Shorthill Road. There would be a residential subdivision on the west, and a proposed new 20-lot subdivision on the east.

"It is clear the pressures of future development on the retained parcel would be great given its location between the existing subdivisions," says the OMB.

The Marches have created three

separate lots and one 17-lot subdivision from their farm, says an OMB report.

The OMB says it would be "premature" to grant the severance before the nearby hamlet of Ballinafad is studied.

Ballinafad has already passed that hamlet's maximum limit of dwellings. The Ballinafad rural cluster should have less than 60 dwellings, says the plan.

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In the hills

Car fire

A fire broke out in the engine area of a 1978 Chevrolet van causing approximately \$6,000 in damages in the area of the Fifth Line in Halton Hills, Sunday morning, according to the Halton Hills Fire Department. Halton Regional Police report an electrical problem in the vehicle's engine caused the fire. No one was reportedly injured.

Fire officials also washed down a gasoline spill on Churchill Road North Friday afternoon in Acton. The spill resulted when a vehicle's gas tank was punctured by a sharp object on the road.

Youth group

Maple Avenue Baptist Church are hosting a youth group from Lethbridge, Alberta, who are working at Evergreen Mission for Homeless Teenagers, on Yonge Street. The Lethbridge group will be in Georgetown, Friday, July 14.

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