Community

Turner has mixed reactions to PC Throne Speech

From the Ottawa Bureau of Thomson News Service

OTTAWA - The promise of greater independence for members of Parliament could be the "greatest lasting legacy" of Monday's Speech from the Throne, said Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner.

The speech, delivered by Governor-General Roman Hnatyshyn at the opening of a new session of Parliament, promised new procedures to deal with legislation and allow MPs to question government and present constituent grievances.

Public respect for Parliament has been eroded by "excessive party discipline and over-zealous partisanship ... empty posturing and feigned outrage," the MPs



Garth Turner

and senators assembled for the opening were told.

Turner agreed and said a relaxation of party discipline and more free votes in the House of Commons "would go a long way to restoring credibility to the place."

"There's too much party politics and partisanship right now," he said. "The genie is poking its head out the top of the bottle. Let's pull the rest of it out."

The speech assured MPs their roles would be enhanced, but Turner was disappointed that the references to the new liberties were so vague and lacking details.

"I would have liked to have seen more meat on the bones."

Turner welcomed the government's proposals to involve the public in the unity and constitution debate and the stated goal of eliminating interprovincial trade barriers by 1995. The speech said there are about 500 barriers to trade, services and investment in the country.

But there were several items Turner had toped to see in the speech that were ignored by its authors in the prime minister's office. His personal wish list has included constitutional amendments that would embrace the right of an individual to own property and require governments to maintain balanced budgets.

Several other major social issues were also ignored. There were no proposals for government-funded child day care services, but that pleased Turner.

"Hallelujah!" he said. "It's too

national day-care program.



Bargains galore

Part of the fun of going to an auction is battling the crowd to check out the bargains in preparation for bidding. The Halton Regional Police auction held last Friday at the old Home Hardware store location on 265 Guelph Street, proved to be no exception to this rule as people searched through numerous and varied items for the best bargains. (Herald photo)

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Distress Centre issues warning

Halton Hills residents should be warned a group which has been seen around the community selling chocolate covered almonds to raise money for the local distress centre does not have the support of the North-Halton Distress and Information Centre in Georgetown.

Centre Director Judith Rasanen said Monday the North York based North Western Youth Group was reportedly seen around Town last week selling chocolate covered almonds to raise money for the local distress centre. That is the message on the boxes being sold, said Ms. Rasanen. There is no mention of the North-Halton Distresss and Information Centre on the boxes. she said. Ms. Rasanen first found out about the boxes when her daughter gave her one for Mother's Day.

"We have had no plans to receive money nor have we received any money from the group," she said.

Ms. Rasanen wants to dispel peoples' perception that by buying these almonds their money is going to her agency. The centre will be sponsoring a walk-a-thon in June to raise money, and volunteers will be seeking pledges so, "I don't want (the North Western Youth Group) infringing on the fundraising efforts of the centre," she explain-

Ms. Rasanen said she has tried to contact the group but it has no telephone listing.

Halton Regional Police say there is little that can be done, according to Ms. Rasanen, because youth group's activities can't be

expensive."

There has been on-going speculation that the government would reintroduce proposals for a

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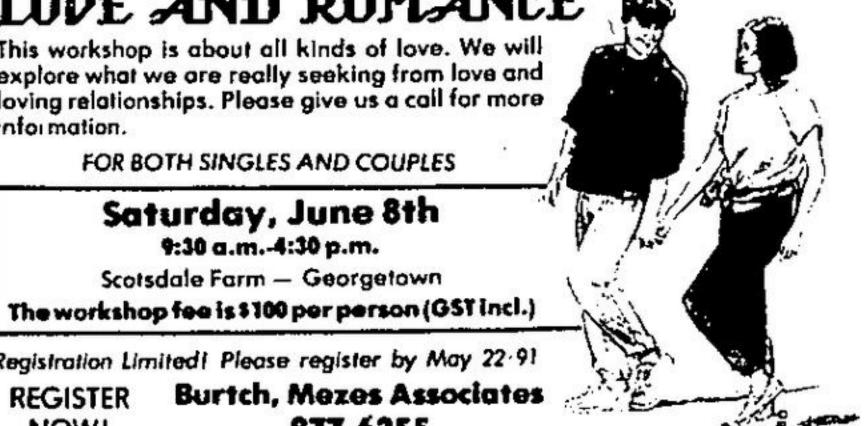
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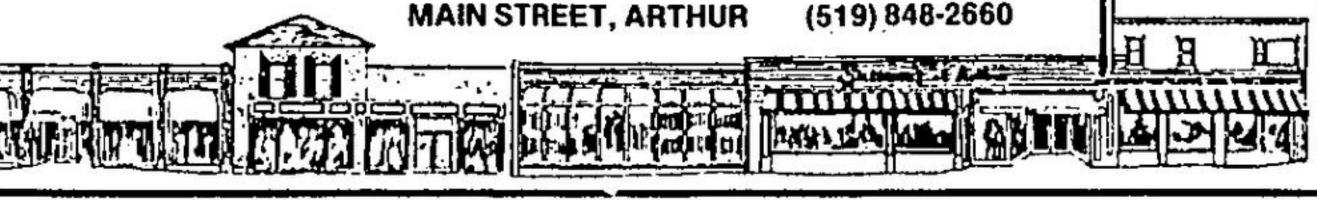
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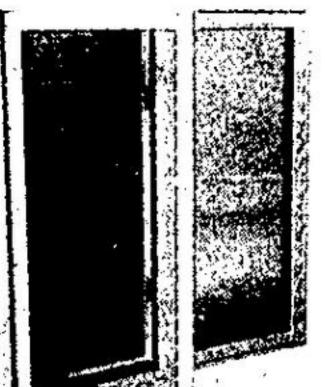
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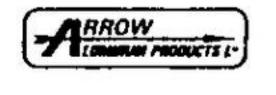


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