

# For Canada to work, we must work together

To state the obvious, we are going through a period of labor-management strife in Canada the likes of which hasn't been seen for decades.

In terms of real labor militancy, you would almost have to go back to 1926 and the Winnipeg General Strike, to get a true reading of the racing pulse that is fuelling much of the anger and discontent we are witnessing within the ranks of workers across Canada.

Troops were sent in to pummel and bludgeon the so-called "rioters" in 1926.

While the troops on horseback got

the job done to the government's satisfaction—a worker's message, indelibly written in blood, was also delivered across Canada.

The message, shocking as it was to the powers that be in that particular period of so-called Canadian enlightenment, was that the ordinary worker would no longer allow the overseers to virtually hold the power of life and, yes, death in the collective palms of their hands.

The shock waves reverberated throughout the land. The unforeseen—indeed, unimagined—had happened.

Truculently, businesses and

"As I See It"

by  
Colin Gibson



governments realized the worker could no longer be treated as so much cattle dung. The worm hadn't

just turned; it had suddenly grown teeth.

Unfortunately, despite the bloodletting and the rhetoric that flowed from the Canadian shame in 1926, on the streets of Winnipeg, little has changed in terms of the confrontational nature of supposed worker-management understanding.

A recent survey reported that 60 per cent of workers were dissatisfied with their particular management personnel, while the same survey revealed that 90 per cent of management personnel, basically, had no idea of worker's concerns.

We're not just talking about a communications gap here, we're talking about an abyss that, in essence, could swallow-up Canada in terms of productivity and the ability to compete competitively in world markets.

Bullheadedness in a farmer's field is part of nature and the end result undoubtedly can be put to good use.

But bullheadedness in Canada, as it refers to the relationship between workers and management, will only lead to one hell of a mess that eventually we will all have to clean up.

As I see it, anyway.

## It is very difficult to define a town's character

As part of the Halton Hills Urban Area Study Review, the study's advisory committee has been trying to determine the Town's character for the purpose of attempting to ensure it is protected in the future.

For those who don't know about the Urban Area Study it is meant to provide Town Council with recommendations on where different densities of housing should be located in Georgetown and Acton. The study will also outline recommendations on where, in Town, various types of commercial and industrial development should proceed.

The study's advisory committee is comprised of representatives from local ratepayer groups ranging from Residents Active in Development Decisions, (RAIDD) to the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The members appear to agree

Halton Hills is comprised of two relatively small urban centres—Georgetown and Acton—both with significant rural backdrops, the character of which should be protected.

One way of protecting this character, some members say, is to ensure the architectural design of future development complements the existing architecture as well as buildings with architecturally historical features.

So far, so good, or is it? The first question that should be asked is, does Halton Hills have a predominantly rural character? Yes, if you compare it to Brampton, but no, when you realize what changes have occurred over the years.

My point is, a community's character is constantly changing through time. In this sense, a community's character can't



Ben's Banter

by  
Ben Dummett

necessarily be protected since it is always in flux.

The idea becomes clearer knowing the province is expecting Halton Hills and other communities in the Greater Toronto Area to act responsibly and open up their doors

to the GTA's continued population growth. And those doors are to be opened for people from all parts of the economic strata, not just the top end.

On the issue of architecture as a means to protect the Town's character, the problem rests with who decides what type of architecture will complement the existing architectural forms and what buildings should be protected because of their historical value.

Under the Ontario Planning Act, Town Council can influence the size and height of a proposed building as part of the approval process. However council has no say on the building materials that the builder chooses to use.

However, if too much emphasis concerning architectural design is applied in the name of preserving the Town's character, I can envision a situation where the lines

delineating issues of size and scale become blurred with issues of the types of building material that should be used when a proposed development project is under consideration.

On the subject of protecting historical buildings, should the Town or the building's owner decide whether or not it should be preserved? Currently, provincial legislation dictates the owner has final say.

This recognition of individual rights over those of the collective shows it's not necessarily possible to preserve a Town's historical buildings.

Just stating the Town's character should be protected may be a worthy idea. But it may not be possible to carry out when there are probably as many interpretations of the Town's character as there are people living in it.

## Economic aid a band-aid solution

The economic conditions in the Soviet Union and the other Eastern European Countries have raised the request for massive Western economic aid. Small Lithuania has put in a request for some \$10 billion to get her through. Beside the question if the West should/could accede to the demands for aid, the fundamental question of the usefulness of economic aid should be considered.

There is little doubt that the West should, in its own interest provide aid to the Eastern Countries, but what type of aid?

Recent history shows us that some type of aid badly misfire, so the question is not a rhetorical one. The West has been pumping money into Africa with practically no results.

On the other hand, the aid provided by the United States and Canada to Europe after the second World War, the aid provided to Japan, Taiwan or Korea resulted in the recovery of those nations and, indirectly to our own economic development.

The first consideration in deciding what kind of aid should be provided is the state of the recipient Nations. Most of the Eastern Countries have a well-educated population and, at least in some areas, sophisticated industries. Just consider the space industry in Russia or some of the mechanical industries in Czechoslovakia. We already see some of the states of the ex-DDR, like Saxony, showing signs of a strong surge in economic activity.

We are not dealing in this case with basket-case economies like those of some part of Africa, but of economies and populations which have the potential for considerable wealth. The big question is the political stability of these nations, and the example given by the conflicts in Yugoslavia unfortunately does not bode well for the future.

We can however assume the Eastern nations should be able to take advantage of economic aid, the question then is: which kind?



Another View

by  
Carlo Testa

Europe was helped by the American economies not so much by "humanitarian" aid (food, clothing, medicines), but by the United States providing industrial equipment and access to the wealthy North American market. (Humanitarian aid is useful to overcome a specific shortcoming. In the long term it disrupts the local economy and contributes to economic disaster; as abundantly proven in Africa where, say grain provided to the population, has undermined the local agriculture.)

In Japan, Korea or Taiwan we see how economic recovery was encouraged by the encourage-

ment of local production and the generous opening of our markets to the production of those countries. In several conversations with leaders of the developing nations I heard the same message "give us the means to produce and buy our products." The Eastern Countries will only be able to bring their economies on an even keel through their own efforts, what we can give them is generous credit and easy access to our markets.

The combination of the local demand, which is potentially huge, and the income obtained by selling to us part of their production, will produce the desired results.

Will the Eastern Nations be able to produce products saleable in Canada or the USA. For sure! They have the talents and the resources. Will our economies suffer from the influx of cheaper products? Some of our industries will certainly suffer, but these losses will be abundantly made good by the enormous potential of the new markets which become available to us.

The recipe for success is simple, an old slogan in the aid business: "Trade not Aid".



"Did you accuse me of being a nitpicker yesterday at 4:17 or 4:19 p.m.?"

## Poets' Corner

### OH BROTHER

Those were the days, long past,  
You liked to call me names.  
I really hated it, when ...  
at last,  
Felt I'd better play along  
with your games.

You would tell me I was skinny,  
Knock-kneed, pidgeon toed.  
And, that too, my legs  
were bowed.  
Had a face like a can of worms.  
Indeed in no uncertain terms.

You tried to be so nice -  
at times,  
Though, I would soon suspect  
such chimes!  
You'd prefer to act as if  
you could - hate.

While telling me, I looked like  
fishing bait.

But, you'd laugh, maybe count  
to nine,  
That way you'd think I'd be  
just fine.  
But, I wouldn't behave, even  
if I could.  
Just to see if you'd  
act-up again ...  
You would!

Lois Richardson,  
Georgetown.

### MOUNTAINS

Mountains, stretching,  
reaching,  
Grasping the skies  
Mountains, massive, molding  
Immense  
Motionless creations that  
never die.

Sue White, Acton.

### SCHOOL

School like a prison,  
Merciless and cruel,  
Forces it's prisoners to learn  
how to live in the real world.  
And when they are released,  
They have to face their  
worst nightmare.

Grant Patterson, Acton.

### A HEART CRIES OUT

With pain, this missive do I  
send

To one, alone, I call my friend.  
I dreamed of love, so long ago  
But found it not - and, still, I  
know -

He who matters wants not me,  
And friendship only cannot be.  
With heart so true, he makes  
his choice -

Denies it not - and, soft of voice,  
His gentle strength does guide  
me home

In sadness, leaving, I alone.  
Contain my sorrow, -mask my  
fears -  
And welcome back my life of  
tears.

B. Brooke,  
Acton.

### EVERYTHING

The light blue sky,  
The sun that blinds,  
When I see these things  
A vision of you crosses  
my mind.

The shining of the moon,  
The darkness of the night.  
But when I think of you,  
My visions are always bright.  
The scatter of the wind,  
The tunes the birds sing.  
You'll always be a part  
of everything

I hope for  
And cherish in my heart.  
Angie Priestman, Acton.

### ALONE

She walks in silence  
Stays alone  
And welcomes no advance-  
Devoid of feeling  
Heart of stone  
Afrard to take a chance  
Flying solo  
Building bridges  
Castles in the air -  
Dreams worth keeping  
Memories sleeping  
Love her - if you dare.

B. Brooke