

A modest recovery predicted for our economy

To the Editor

Are we out of a recession or not? Technically we are definitely out of it and on our way to a new expansion cycle. But for the many people who are still on the dole or on welfare the immediate future does not look bright. It may well take many months, even years, before the lost jobs are recovered.

The reason is simple and often obfuscated by emotional reporting in the media. As "The Economist", the leading British economic magazine, has recently pointed out the use of words like "gloom", "bad", "disastrous"

have no meanings in economic terms. An economy grows, shrinks, stabilizes but there is no implicit "goodness" or "badness" in any of such movements. The collapse of the real estate market is a sad affair for the speculator, but a very good event for the purchaser. The closing down of a plant is bad news for the stockholders and the workers of that plant, but very good news indeed for the competitor down the street.

Which brings us back to our recovery. It will be modest (except if international events disrupt it or fuel it up) and because of technological innova-

tions it does not mean a regaining of lost jobs.

Consider this paradoxical example. Should a manufacturer manage to produce his products with a fully automated plant, with one single human supervisor, that manufacturer would do well indeed.

The employees replaced by that automated line would be however a very sad bunch. Also while we have all the signs of a recovery we also face a very competitive international

market, one likely to become even more competitive when the Russians will get their house in order. The Russians could inflict severe economic damage to our economy once they will manage to rid themselves of the straight jacket of centralized planning and they have a very sophisticated technical base and huge natural resources. Plus a virgin internal market. Their economic development could make the "Wirtschaftswunder" of West Germany look like a depres-

sion!

Our Government will need to stick now, when demands for wage increases are likely to grow, to its guns: reduced spending, relatively high interest rates, a high dollar. To change course now would be foolish and would nullify the gains achieved at such a high human cost during the recession.

Be prepared for still a long period of rather lean years.

Carlo Testa,
Georgetown.

OHIP question redux

Dear Sir:

Continuing the discussion of the new O.H.I.P. rules for Canadian travellers. In response to the column by Mr. Duignan and his statements "I want to reiterate that O.H.I.P. will continue to protect those of you who leave the country," and "but no one will be denied access to services." These words soothe the uninformed but your "protection" as offered by O.H.I.P. is so small compared to costs in the U.S.A. that it may as well not exist.

Mr. Duignan mentions what O.H.I.P. will pay but neglects to say how much they will not pay. Does he consider that O.H.I.P. paying from one-third to one-ninth of U.S. medical bills is protection? How about having an existing gall bladder problem and requiring emergency surgery in the U.S. and O.H.I.P. pays \$3,400 out of a total cost of \$17,500.

My god it's just the downpayment. Please do not keep rattling on about O.H.I.P. coverage, it is not relevant.

So we need insurance. The problem is that private insurers design policies to avoid the groups that puts them at risk and where they have to pay out! Everybody knows this and everybody has been stung when they went to collect. Travel policies are no exception and as I write insurers are already changing the rules. The most significant to date is a major insurer that will not insure over 42 days. This effectively makes a group of

pensioners who winter in Florida ineligible with this insurer. How quickly will the others follow?

They are also changing the rates. In a recent Toronto Star report they reported increases in premiums as follows: \$275 up to \$702 and \$705 increased to \$2,317.50.

The truth is the N.D.P. has dumped the burden of travellers hospitalization insurance in the private insurers lap (what a goldmine) and after the car insurance flip flop they must love the N.D.P. In doing this the N.D.P. has taken away the possibility for travel of many Canadians who are uninsurable. Prior to the change this group could and did travel without any concerns.

Per your column I await the answers to the many loopholes in the insurance plans you recommend and what the uninsurable should do? More to the point what is the N.D.P. going to do to correct this rotten situation.

At least get the insurers to have a common policy. They are all different! Insist that travel insurance covers all travellers and all risks. Coverage up to the 180 days Ontarians are allowed to stay outside Ontario is a must. Legislate against discrimination on the basis of age and sex (pregnant women get a raw deal in some of these policies). It is a mess of the N.D.P.'s making. Fix it!

Name and address withheld by request.

Wendy's a 'bun' above

To the Editor:

Once again, the Georgetown Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society has been the recipient of funds raised through the car wash held at Wendy's on Saturday, September 21.

Special thanks are extended to the fantastic employees of Wendy's who volunteered their time to help with the car wash. These people are Darlene Kuhn, Anne Fiekema, Trudy Poot, Heather MacEachern, Tanya DeJong, Steve Barrie, Jason Soper and Wendy's Mngner, Andy Voelker, who came up with the idea.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Dan Wagstaff, of Troopers,

who so generously donated his time and his Special Events Caravan where Dan made announcements, over his P.A. system, to encourage people to come in and have their cars washed.

Mayor Russ Miller was a very enthusiastic participant as he washed cars for many hours and only left because he had a previous commitment.

Thanks, again, to those dedicated people who make Halton Hills the wonderful place in which we live.

Marlene Kelman,
Communications Chairperson.

Talent Night survives

Dear Editor:

In a world where tax revolts are staged (or at least contemplated) and municipalities are forced to cut back on services due to public pressure, some programs fall by the wayside. This is what happened to Local Talent Night. After 8 years, the Recreation and Parks staff no longer had the resources to stage it. Sadly the fall of 1990 came and went with no local folk singing and dancing their way to glory.

We are not here to complain about all this but to tell you that Local Talent Night is alive and well. Two volunteers in our community have decided to run the show themselves on October 17th. You and your readers are invited to phone us and get in on the act! Call 877-0969 or 877-5545 for details to find out how you can show off but not cost the taxpayers a dime.

Lois Fraser and Brenda Sisnett
Georgetown.

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