

## Our Readers Write

### This is leadership? Turner asked

(Editor's note: The following letter to MP Garth Turner was filed with this newspaper for publication.)  
Dear Mr. Turner,

So, Michael Wilson says, amongst other things, "what we're trying to do is break a cycle of wage and salary settlements that are two per cent, three per cent - sometimes more - higher than inflation... we simply can't afford that as government or as a country."

I am not in your constituency but a neighboring one, and I read your columns in local newspapers. From them, I believe that you have the ear of our Minister of Finance, and you do indeed appear to understand and care about the many frustrations and resentments felt by the public.

Perhaps knowing the man as you do, you can explain to me how Mr. Wilson can reconcile the above quoted idea with the 11 per cent raise in pay and benefits to Federal MPs just a few short weeks before the budget was brought down. He must already have come to the conclusion that restraint was imperative, or did it come to him in a flash just before the budget?

Perhaps you can explain the thumping increases to Mr. Crow and his staff. I thought he was in the know. No? He didn't yet know that restraint was the order of the day.

This is leadership? Mr. Wilson and Mr. Crow

showing us the way out of our financial morass? "Follow us and all will be well?"

And perhaps you can clear my mind on one more point. I keep reading that the dollar must not be allowed to fall because should it do so, imports would become more costly causing more inflation. If imports were more costly, is it not possible that we Canadians might be encouraged to seek out local products, thus boosting Canadian industry? And if the dollar fell, wouldn't exports become more attractive to other countries, thus boosting Canadian industry? Don't most countries rely heavily on foreign exchange from exports? Mightn't a boost to our industries help a few Canadians back into the work force? Wouldn't that mean they would pay taxes rather than claim unemployment or welfare benefits? Unemployment insurance premiums have had to be increased and the vast increase in the number of people on welfare has had a frightening impact on property taxes. Doesn't that cause inflation?

I hope you can reassure me that I am quite wrong to be among the 80 per cent of people thoroughly dissatisfied with the way your government is taking us.

Yours truly,  
Gillian Baker

### Mayor invites businesses to Civic Centre May 14

Mayor Russ Miller is inviting any and all business people to the Halton Hills Civic Centre May 14 for an informal get-together.

As part of the Chamber of Commerce's Business After Five program, the mayor will be holding an open house, where councillors and department heads will be on hand to answer questions and concerns about the town, Miller said.

The meeting will take place at the Civic Centre, on Tuesday, May 14 between 5 and 8 p.m.

"We're giving businesses the opportunity to come in and talk to staff," Miller said. "If they have

questions about the process, maybe they want to expand their business — these will be answered.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity to hop on the Chamber's bandwagon for this program. I'm hoping to attract a good amount of businesses...It will also give council members a chance to talk to the people, informally. I'm very enthusiastic about the whole thing."

Refreshments and a tour of the Civic Centre will also be provided.

For more information, businesses are asked to contact the Chamber of Commerce at 877-7119.

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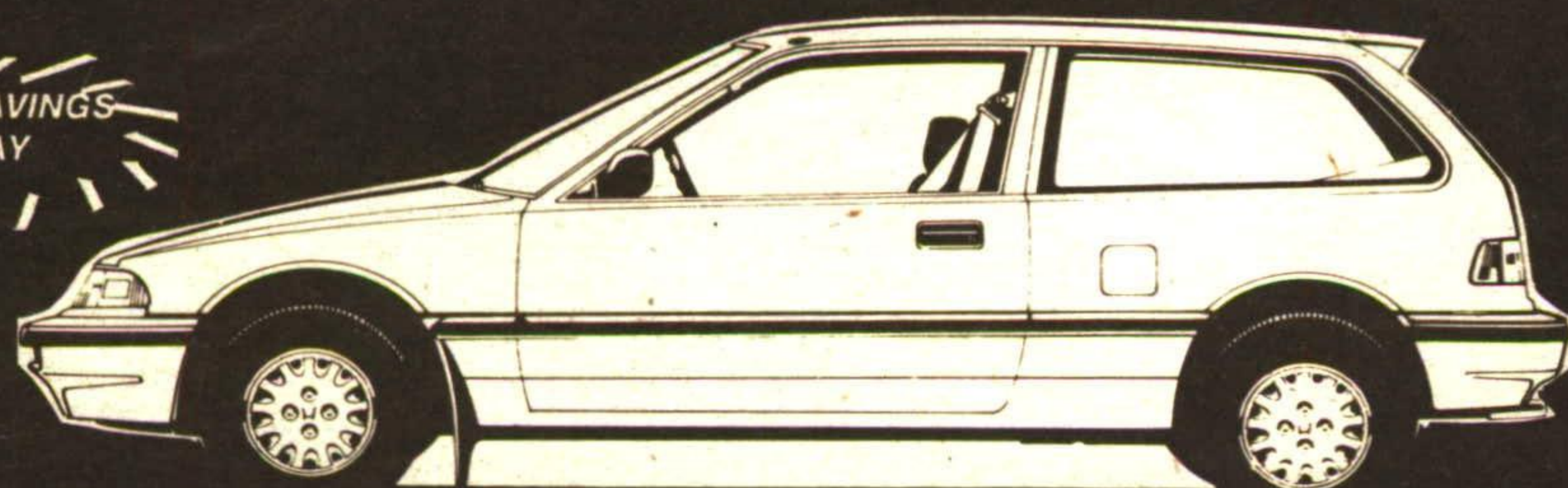
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