

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Removal of Jesus reference in prayer disappoints reader

The following letter was filed with this newspaper for publication.

Julian Reed, M.P.

House of Commons

Dear Mr. Reed:

I wanted to write and express my grave disappointment at reading that the Liberal government has decided to remove any reference to Jesus Christ from the opening prayers in Parliament.

As I understand, Liberal MP Don Boudria raised the issue claiming that a Christian reference in a prayer will offend the non-Christian community. I do wish to point out Mr. Reed that according to the most recent census data from Statistics Canada, over 85 per cent of Canadians identify themselves as Christians.

Considering this fact, why has your government removed reference to Jesus Christ? I fail to understand why the government feels that yet another of our tradi-

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to the Editor

tions has to be sacrificed. Where is the rationale in that decision? As my elected representative, I expect you to account to me and to the rest of your constituents for this decision.

In your reply, I would respectfully request that you forego the traditionally rehearsed argument that immigration and demographic changes in Canada warrant the abolition of Christian ideals. As an immigration lawyer myself, I can assure you that that I fully appreciate the enormous and lasting contribution which people from different racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds have made to our nation.

However, in the years that I have practised immigration law, I have never, repeat never, had even one individual express their offence to the traditions of our country

whether it be our Christian heritage, the monarchy or our parliamentary form of government. To the contrary, all have gladly welcomed the privilege of coming to live in Canada as Canadians and acknowledge their appreciation and respect for this land.

I cannot help but feel that governments are completely out of touch with what the people of this country, whether native-born Canadians or new Canadians, really feel. Immigrants have chosen to come to Canada because of what this country represents. I feel this paternalistic "government knows best" philosophy frequently demeans immigrants and their great value to society. Please stop trying to refashion to suit your ostensibly misinformed perception.

Lastly, I find it odd that Parliamentarians should vote to remove Jesus Christ from prayers but are more than happy to shut Parliament down and go on vacation in observance of the Christmas and Easter breaks.

Does that seem too odd to you too, Mr. Reed?

Yours very truly,
J. Bryon Thomas M.A., LL.B

Police economics

The Halton Regional Police Service is planning a new north Halton district headquarters building — in Milton.

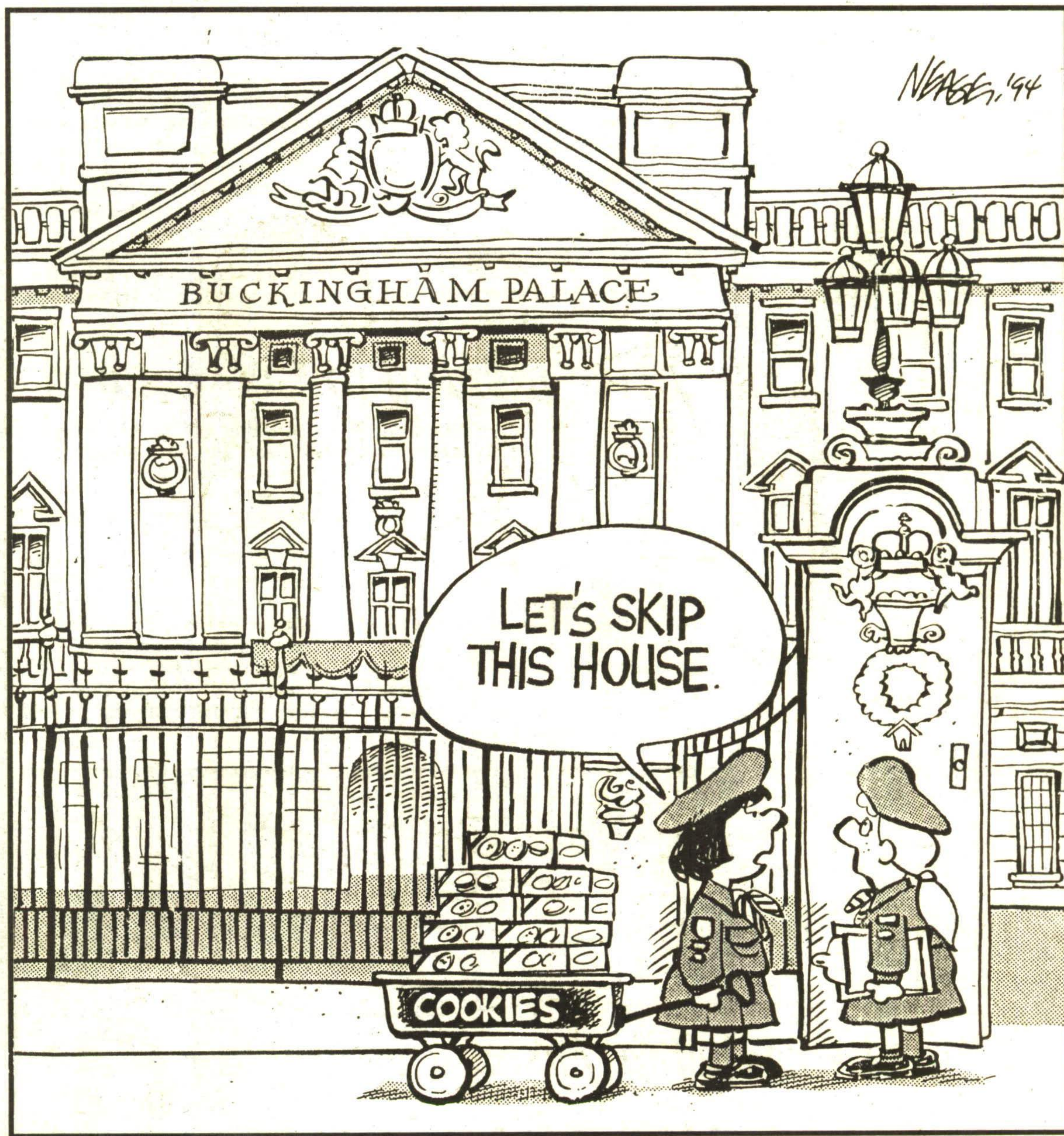
The current headquarters for north Halton is in Georgetown, but is expected to switch to Milton with a planned new \$3 million building.

Economics is being cited as the reason for the headquarters' move, and we'll support that. Milton's police building needs a major \$500,000 facelift now. Georgetown's building is adequate at least until the turn of the century — but only if the district headquarters personnel find new quarters. The economic solutions to both problems, the experts say, is a new Milton police building which will serve also as the new headquarters.

Yes, the economics of the plan sounds good, but we're uncomfortable with the Georgetown station losing its district headquarters designation. The station has served well as the north Halton police headquarters and it has given Georgetown a strong police presence.

Police Chief Peter Campbell assures us that this presence will remain relatively unchanged from what there is now.

That's reassuring, but time will only tell.



There's nothing worse than a hanging 'whodunit'

I swore I wouldn't write about them again.

But I'm sure it's a plot to upset me.

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about Mike and Goldie, the membership pledge champions of WNED-TV, better known as Channel 17 public broadcasting station in Buffalo.

In that column, I told how their incessant pleading for 'dollars' annoyed me as they interrupted Mystery!, one of my favorite Sunday night programs.

I figured they must have got wind of that column. Just last Sunday night I decided to watch Mystery! with Inspector Morse. It was a back-to-back double episode, broken up with pledge breaks, as Mike and Goldie solicited memberships.

I endured the breaks, as the memberships kept pouring in and they weren't too long.

But as the final pledge break ended and Mike and Goldie triumphantly met their goal of 250 new members, we returned to

Inspector Morse, as he was about to discover who the killer was.

Two minutes later, the television went blank.

Dead, nothing, except a flow of white noise.

I looked at my wife.

"They wouldn't!" I said, imagining Mike and Goldie doubled up with laughter in Buffalo as they thought of me watching a blank TV screen.

"I don't think so, Ted," she replied. "It's probably temporary."

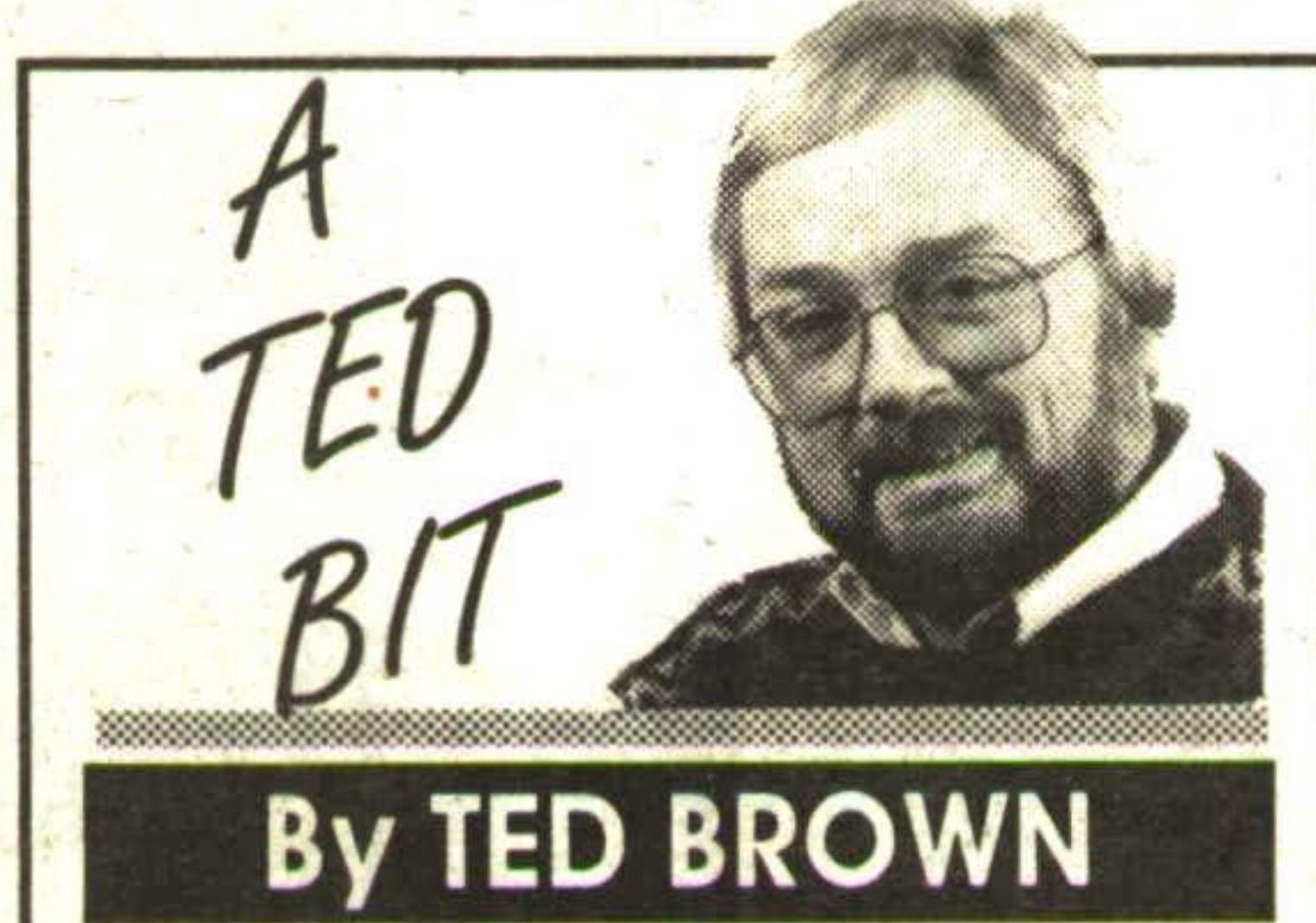
We waited for another five minutes, and checked the news on other Buffalo TV stations for late breaking news of WNED-TV blowing up.

Nothing.

There is nothing more upsetting than watching a 'whodunit' for more than two hours, trying to guess who the killer was, only to be left hanging, minutes from the end.

We never learned 'whodunit.'

It could happen to Austin City Limits and we would only be shy another hurtin' song, or This Old



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BY TED BROWN

House, and we would miss a few tips on staining the woodwork.

But to miss the end of Mystery!

I went to bed in a state of agitation, wondering who the killer was. Was it the mother? The neighbor, or maybe that spaced-out foster daughter?

There was no butler to blame, so it had to be one of them.

When I arrived at the office the next morning, one of my co-workers approached me.

"Did you watch Mystery! last night?" he asked.

"Yeah, until the stupid station cut out at 11:15," I snapped.

"Oh, I'm glad to hear it was the station," he replied, "I was afraid

our cable was the problem."

A few minutes later another co-worker asked me the same.

"Did you see the ending?" she asked. "Who was the killer? I never saw it because my TV quit just at the end."

That was the final straw. People were upset and had a right to know who killed Sir John, and his two nitwit sons.

I phoned WNED-TV in Buffalo. The first call was a wrong number, and the second call I let ring about a dozen times without an answer.

Undaunted, my third attempt proved successful.

After I explained I was calling from The Georgetown Independent, in Georgetown, Ontario, Canada, I was put through to Debra Beller, director of Promotions and Publicity.

I explained my dilemma, and she took the official line.

"We're very sorry at WNED," she said, "But the station went off the air last night due to unforeseen technical problems. We lost every-

thing; both TV stations, and our radio station as well. It was a most unfortunate situation, and we are sorry for the inconvenience."

"So who did it?" I asked.

"Did what?" asked Debra.

"The killings, what else?" I snapped. (I think I was a little short with the woman.)

"Oh, on Mystery!" she laughed, "We'll be re-broadcasting the program, in its entirety, without pledge breaks, today at 2:35 p.m. and again tonight at 11 p.m., for those who didn't see the ending."

"You mean you won't tell me, after I sat up until 11:15 to see 'whodunit'?" I pleaded.

"No sir, but you can watch it tonight," she continued, "And find out who the killer was."

I did watch the show, and learned who killed the old boy and his sons. And I'm pleased to put my mind at rest.

Because I was right; it was the neighbor, who was a sister to the dead lover of the mother who never really loved her husband, but was filthy rich....