

Queen's Park Report

Noel Duignan MPP
Halton North

By now I'm sure you've seen the various ads or flyers attacking the labor law reforms contained in Bill 40.

Over the last few weeks two separate advertising campaigns have been launched. The Canadian Daily Newspaper Association and the Ontario Community Newspaper Association developed a series of six print ads that attack various aspects of the Bill. The second campaign was launched by the Coalition to Keep Ontario Working - merely a new name for a smaller version of the former All-Business Coalition - and made up of 19 organizations such as the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Retail Council of Canada. The Coalition produced TV, radio, and print ads. The group also distributed flyers to three million Ontario households. Their slogan is "Kill the Bill, before it kills your job."

These are hard-hitting, manipulative ads that contain incorrect and misleading information about the effects of labor law reform on jobs and the economy. They also prey on the fears and insecurities that people have about jobs and services in this province. The campaign uses statistics from a 1992 Ernst and Young survey that is not based on Bill 40, but on a discussion paper released by the government last November. The survey was published four months before legislation was even introduced in the Legislature and measured employers' perceptions of the options in the paper. Twenty significant changes were made between the time of the discussion paper and the introduction of Bill 40. And another 55 new amendments were recently introduced to reflect presentations by business, labor, and community groups during five weeks of hearings.

the flyers in the campaign contain a number of myths. One is that Bill 40 forces workers to join unions, even when they don't want to. Nonsense. The certification provisions of Bill 40 are no different from the way the Labor Relations Act has operated for 40 years. Unions have been permitted to be certified under the card system since 1950. Under the Conservative government, the OLRA was created to permit certification where more than 55 per cent of the bargaining unit had signed cards. If there is less than 55 per cent but more than 40 per cent, the OLRA requires a secret ballot.

Another myth suggests that Bill 40 disrupts shopping malls by allowing picketers to disrupt shoppers and businesses in a mall when there is a strike at only one store. In fact, however, Bill 40 will reduce disruptions as it moves picketing activity away from the entrances of a mall. Organizing and picketing can take place only at entrances and exits of the struck store and the Ontario Labor Relations Board will be empowered

to quickly respond to such concerns.

The flyers also tell you that Bill 40 prevents the family of any small business owner from helping out if there's a strike. Let me sort out fact from fiction. The impact of Bill 40 will be minimal because most small businesses are unorganized. Under the replacement provisions, no new employees will be allowed to work after the notice to bargain has been given. However, if family members are already employed in the enterprise, the replacement provisions will have no impact.

These doom and gloom flyers and ads only scare away potential businesses. Ontario is an attractive place in which to invest. It has a highly skilled and flexible workforce. It has access to markets and natural resources. Labor law reform will not change any of this. And government initiatives such as jobs Ontario, the Ontario Training and Investment Fund, and nearly a billion dollars a year in training expenditures will help foster recovery and keep Ontario working.

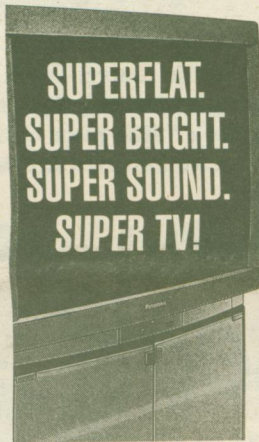
United Way winner



Pineview Public School raised over \$100 for the United Way this month by raffling tickets for a print and having a student penny drive. Above, artist and special education resource teacher Rosemary Simpson presented her donated painting to winner Lori Patten last Monday. Photo by Wendy Long

**WE CAN MATCH THE BIG GUYS' PRICES . . .
CAN THEY MATCH OUR SERVICE? NO CHANCE!!
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Panasonic VHS VCR Model PV-2201-K



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\$329

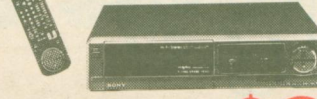
ZENITH VRS417



Zenith VHS VCR with Built-In VCR PLUS+, Auto Head Cleaning, Learning Remote Control

\$469

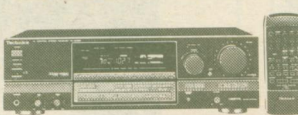
SONY Hi-Fi VHS VCR Model SLV-696HF



4-Head Hi-Fi, Flying Erase Head, CVR PLUS+, Audio/Video Insert, Dual-Mode Shuttle

\$649

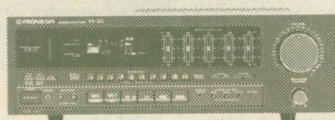
Technics SA-GX330



AV Stereo Receiver 100 w/ch - Dolby Pro Logic Surround - 36 Key AV Remote

\$399

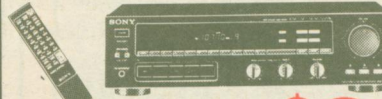
PIONEER SX-201



Quartz Synthesizer Receiver 50W per channel

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SONY STR-AV370 40-Watt Stereo Receiver with Remote



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