

Emphasis on Intelligent Leisure Less Work in Future — Speaker

"A person may find himself devoting the major portion of his life to intelligent leisure, and the minor part of his life to work", Dennis McDermott, assistant to George Burt, United Auto Workers, told Milton Rotarians in a meeting Tuesday of last week.

Mr. McDermott was dealing with Manpower Implications of Technological Change, in a provocative address to Rotarians and guests.

He stressed that society must come to terms with the scientific revolution and its machines and thereby "effectively grapple with the many complex economic, social, psychological and human problems resulting from its impact."

Workers Fearful

"Despite the barrage of extreme optimism which emanated from the mouths of management at its introduction, workers in general remain deeply fearful of the repercussions of automation", Mr. McDermott warned as he suggested management ignores the adjustment problems of the individual resulting from rapid technological change.

"The burning question facing most of us in the Labor Movement is whether or not jobs can be manufactured fast enough and plentifully enough to offset the existing erosion of jobs by automated processes," Mr. McDermott explained. He suggested present definitions of jobs would mean the answer to the problems was no. "However, if we are prepared ourselves to develop new revolutionary social and economic concepts, . . . then the answer may well be the diametric opposite".

Rising Production

Turning to labor costs, the speaker suggested "that real output per person employed has been rising faster than labor costs per unit of output . . . wage increases since 1958 have been very modest indeed."

In a measure of self criticism, Mr. McDermott noted "Unfortunately, labour in many respects is as imperfect as management . . . Bread and butter unionism prevails in many sections, with the resulting disregard for, and apathy towards deeper social and human values."

Reviewing activities of "large industrial unions" he suggested some of the accomplishments had been broadened seniority rights; transfer of displaced workers to another location; voluntary early retirement; S.U.B. plans to cushion layoffs; Sabbatical leave arrangements; retaining; cuts in overtime; altered the structure of unions; tracked down runaway plants and organized them and "co-operated with our political arm in campaigning for a planned economy, a full employment economy."

Not Total Answer

Mr. McDermott noted a fight for a shorter work week was underway but he emphasized even the guaranteed annual wage, with all the other benefits would not be the total answer.

Predicting we are entering a new phase of civilization, Mr. McDermott suggested paid leisure may be considered as necessary to life as is employment today. People may find themselves liberated forever from traditional toil. "Automated efficiency . . . will inevitably relegate most of us to the sidelines. We will not be laid off as we understand it today, we will not be waiting for recall according to seniority and meanwhile drawing unemployment insurance and S.U.B. benefits. We will not be waiting for the next upturn, or another Winter Works program. We will be permanently out of work — at least, of the kind to which we have become accustomed."

The first challenge in preparing for this transition, the speaker suggested, is education. "The potential abundance of automation should provide for the establishment of adult universities and other centres designed for academic and cultural study and learning".

Paid by Companies

Where will the money come from? From production, the speaker declared. He suggested the companies had benefited from the automation developed by scientists trained in publicly supported universities, and now the companies owe the public "an educational debt."

"What better method of repayment can be devised than for the Companies to educate those people displaced by the scientists?"

The speaker suggested before we get to the projected era of abundance, those in the labor movement should continue to strive to improve the mobility of the worker; seek the establishment of retaining facilities; press for more adequate pensions; seek a reduced work week and battle for the guaranteed annual wage. "Our ultimate short term objective should be to make it more expensive for the employer to lay a man off than to keep him working", he declared.

Automation Control

As a first logical step to labor-management co-operation, the speaker suggested establishment of a tribunal "which would effectively license and control the installation and expansion of automated equipment. Before a corporation would be permitted

to use such equipment, they would be required to contractually satisfy the tribunal that they are prepared to live up to their social and economic responsibilities both to their employees and to the community".

"It seems reasonable to me to propose that just as Unions are emerging from being organizations concerned only with narrow economics into a full scale movement dedicated to the betterment of human welfare in all its respects, so should big business do

likewise", Mr. McDermott suggested.

"We should continue to demand that people everywhere be provided with an opportunity to become useful participants in society . . . if it means kicking out the old sacred cows, such as profits for private gain and income tied to work as a measure, and replacing them with fresh new concepts which emphasized public responsibility, planning and human dignity, then so be it," the speaker concluded.

The speaker was introduced by Marty Caputo who noted that labor and management don't always fight as some people think. "We have differences, as people do in marriage", he suggested. Referring to the problem where a company manufactures for a single buyer, he stressed the untied fight for the protection of the consumer too.

After a busy question and answer period, the thanks of the club and a number of guests, was expressed by John Ostler.



HALTON CLERKS AND TREASURERS, at a regular meeting heard Thomas J. Plunkett, the commissioner who is conducting the Halton and Peel Local Government Review, outline the basis of his studies and some long range views on government generally. Mr. Plunkett is shown here on the right with Milton Clerk-Manager Robert B. Reynolds and Lionel Feldman, research assistant to Mr. Plunkett.

Nursery School Now in Milton

A co-operative nursery school that operated in Campbellville last year has been moved to a Milton church building and opened on Monday of this week with 17 pre-school children enrolled.

The School was the "Campbellville Co-Operative Nursery School" that began a year ago in a Campbellville church. The name has been changed to the "Milton" school and the half-day school began its five-days-a-week operation Monday in a room at St. Paul's United Church in town. Mrs. John Ridgeway, a qualified nursery teacher, is in charge with Mrs. Don Joss assisting. Two mothers also

C.M.H.C. Okays Sewage Change

Approval of a federal government loan of \$203,922 to the town of Milton, to assist in the construction of a sewage treatment

attend each day while other mothers assist in other ways.

Mrs. B. Essery of Campbellville, who helped organize the school last year, said enrolment was still open for about eight more children, but the deadline was October 16. She pointed out that although the school was held in the church building, it was non-denominational and was organized on a co-operative basis as a non-profit group.

project, was announced last week by the Honorable John R. Nicholson, Minister responsible to Parliament for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Made under the terms of the National Housing Act, the loan is for a period of 20 years with interest at 5 1/2 per cent per annum, and is based on an estimated cost of \$305,883.

Assisted by the N.H.A. loan, Milton will construct a 400,000 gallon per day extension to the existing sewage treatment plant. For work completed on or before March 31, 1967, CMHC may forgive repayment of 25 per cent of the principal amount of the NHA loan and 25 per cent of the interest that has accrued in respect to the loan as of the date of completion of the project.

Nassagaweya to Vote Saturday May Consider Two Year Term

Municipal electors in Nassagaweya Township will go to the polls on Saturday, December 11. At their regular meeting on Monday evening Nassagaweya councillors unanimously approved a motion to have the municipal nomination night on Monday, November 29 and the election on Saturday, December 11.

Because the Brookville Hall and Masonic Hall in Campbellville are being used as school classrooms, a shortage of polling stations would occur if the election was held on a Monday as usual. In order to avoid this, and also in the hopes it would make it easier for commuters from the city, councillors voted to have the election on a Saturday. The polls will also open at 9 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. instead of opening at 10 a.m. and closing at 7 p.m.

It is also possible voters will be asked to show their approval or disapproval of a two year term for councillors. Councillor A. Parsons brought up the subject and Reeve Coulter indicated, "it might stir up a little interest in the election."

At their next meeting councillors will decide whether or not the question will be placed on the

ballot, but even if it is added, councillors would not be elected for a two-year term this December. If the two-year term was placed on the ballot and accepted, voters would cast their first ballots for the two year term in December 1966.

\$303,000 Job Costs \$210,000

Authorizing an agreement between the town and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for a loan on the sewage plant addition project Monday, Milton councillors reviewed the costs of the \$303,000 project and learned the town's cost would end up around \$210,000.

C.M.H.C. is giving the town a loan for 20 years, at just five and three-eighths per cent interest, which has a \$51,000 forgiveness clause if paid on time. A winter works subsidy worth \$15,000 has already been approved, and the Department of Public Works is granting \$27,700 toward the project because of the increased enrollment at Ontario School for the Deaf.

REPRESENT HALTON
Milton's Deputy Reeve A. Ledwith and Halton M.O.H. Dr. A. Bull represented the county at a one day meeting of the Ontario Health Units Association held in Toronto September 28.
The convention at the King Edward Hotel heard discussions on nursing homes and a talk by an Ontario Water Resources representative.
—Many from Milton and district took in the Georgetown Fair Saturday.

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