

Whiting favors changes in White Paper

Halton M. P. Rud Whiting made it clear to almost half a hundred constituents gathered at Erin Saturday afternoon to discuss finance minister Edgar Benson's controversial White Paper that he favored several amendments to suggested tax reforms before he could fully support it.

He defended the government's intentions with the White Paper, pointing out that the Trudeau government could easily have implemented the proposals without consulting the people, but preferred to do it the democratic way. He predicted that good legislation would emerge from the welter of controversy and suggested amendments which have been proposed.

Mr. Whiting admitted he had received more mail over the White Paper on Tax Reform than on any issue since he has been elected to represent Halton in the Commons. However, he urged his constituents to continue writing him with their questions and he would attempt to get the answers and reply.

Bulk of the two and a half hour meeting at the Erin Masonic Hall was a question and answer period, with Rud Whiting fielding the questions, assisted by the chairman.

There were several questions, among them George Jackson of Milton, who militantly opposed the White Paper.

Mr. Jackson, a stockbroker with Bongard Leslie and Co. of Hamilton, asked why anyone should be penalized for their ability to save money. He disagreed strongly with one suggestion in the White Paper that stated those with stocks and bonds had a greater ability to pay than those without.

He posed a hypothetical situation where two men each earned \$10,000 a year. One man spent his entire \$10,000. The other spent only \$8,000 of the \$10,000 and presumably saved \$2,000 for investment. Why should the man be penalized for not having spent his entire salary? Mr. Jackson asked.

Where is the greater ability to pay? he queried, since both men started out equally.

Mr. Whiting replied that the White Paper was trying to re-structure society to help the lower income groups and was a means not an end toward achieving that goal. He felt a consensus was forming in Canada which commended the government on its approach to equalizing the social structure. In fact, some people charged the government was not going far enough with their measures.

Others say we are going too far," he stated, "but very few people complain they don't want to help the poor people."

He admitted there were some who took advantage of welfare to get out of work but felt the majority of people in Canada wanted to work for a living.

A wage earner with a wife and two children making \$3,500 a year pays \$118 a year income tax but under the White Paper he would not pay anything, Whiting said.

Welfare is fine, said John Reid, an Erin township farmer, but he couldn't see a man making \$400 a month on welfare while another man works for \$500 a month and has to pay income tax on it. He challenged the government's thinking on welfare.

The Halton M. P. said there was another White Paper coming on the whole welfare scheme. He

allayed Mr. Reid's fears that passing his farm on to his son would affect the capital gains part of the White Paper.

"The only time there would be a capital gains tax on the farm is when it is sold," he told Mr. Reid.

It doesn't matter what you paid for the farm or what it is worth; that has no bearing on the White Paper, he declared. The government will announce a valuation day and values will be set then. When he transfers the farm to his son he won't pay capital gains on it.

One man charged it didn't matter whether the government was Liberal or Conservative, the country was creeping towards socialism. Others charged there were too many loopholes in the White Paper so people could invest money in oil paintings or antiques to aid tax evasion.

Mr. Whiting said that one area of the White Paper which bothered him and which he hoped to see changed was the

\$500 for personal exemptions. He thought it should be upgraded to several thousands of dollars.

He was also perturbed about the effect the White Paper would have on small businesses. He said Mr. Benson had ordered his department to take another look at this area. "Small businesses have difficulties corporations don't have," Whiting declared. "Billie" Smith of the Erin Liberal Association thanked Mr. Whiting for coming, remarking that Erin was blessed with a good riding and a good member interested in his constituents and their problems.

Chairman for the meeting was the president of the Halton Liberal Association who also answered some of the many questions.

The Halton M. P. said he was interested in setting up meetings on the White Paper throughout the county and welcomed invitations to speak or answer questions on it.

Boundary changes in Esquesing area

Halton County Board of Education supported recommendations for changes in the boundaries for elementary schools in North Halton at their regular meeting in Oakville Thursday.

Changes were felt necessary to make Georgetown boundaries better defined for junior and senior public schools and to relieve overcrowding in Kennedy School and establish boundaries for Joseph Gibbons.

Students now attending school in Speyside, Limehouse, Wigglesworth, Chapel, Park and Pineview will go to Stewarttown for grades seven and eight.

Students now in Norval and Glen Williams schools will go to Centennial for grade seven and eight and those in Harrison and Kennedy will go to Centennial for grades six, seven and eight. Kindergarten pupils from Norval will be bussed to Pineview for their kindergarten

year. For grade one they will return to Norval. In the past they have gone to Glen Williams.

Children in kindergarten, grade one, two or three presently attending Harrison or Kennedy and next year's kindergarten children who live in the area south of Sargent Road and west of Mountainview are to be bussed to Joseph Gibbons. These children would remain at Gibbons until grade five when they go to Centennial.

The boundaries for Joseph Gibbons will be the area north of the present Park School boundaries, west of Main Street to the town boundaries.

Trustee Bill Lawson pointed out Stewarttown School could not be used as a senior public school unless municipal services were available.

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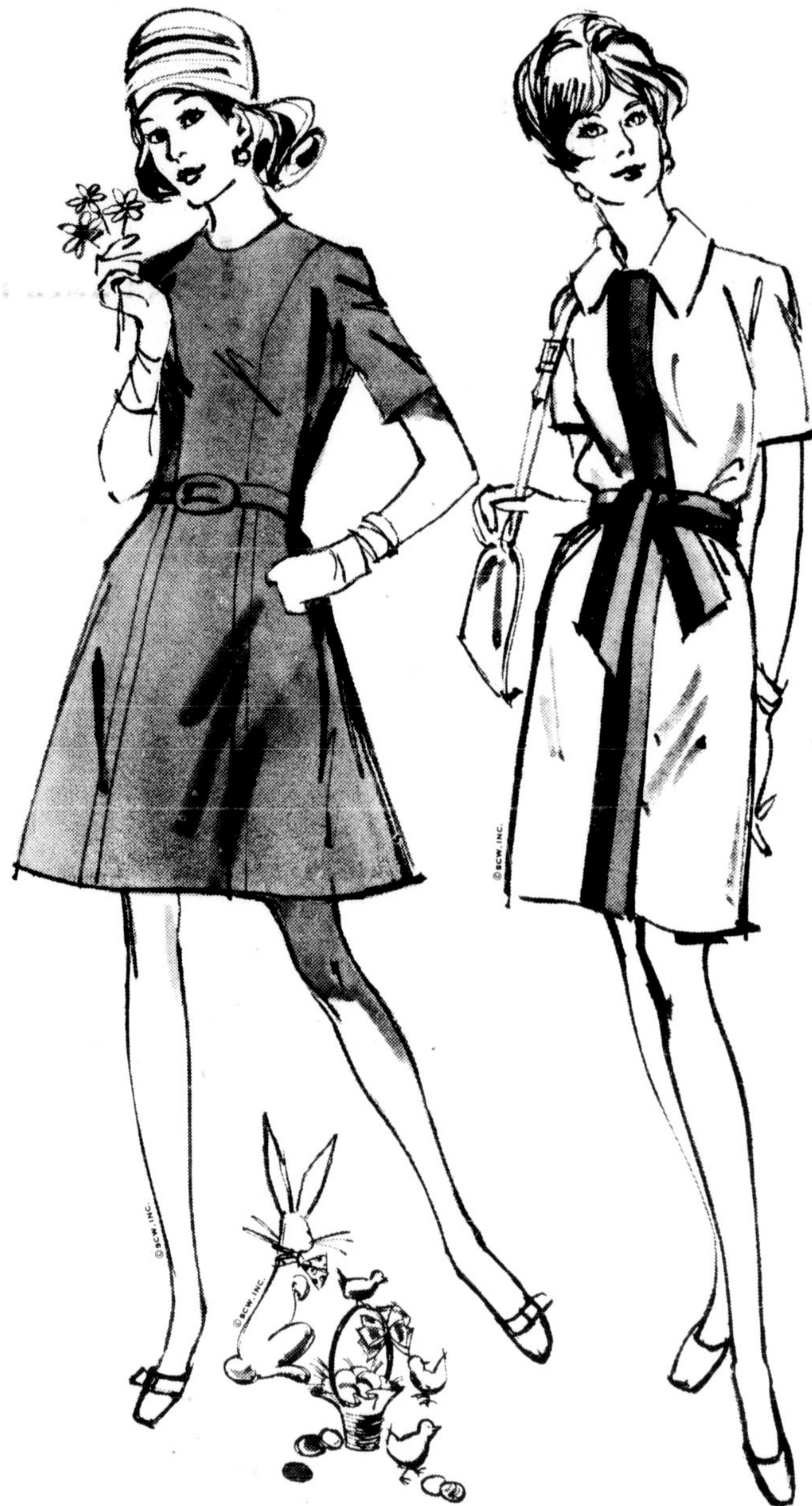


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We have two complaints from a lady motorist who uses Tremane Rd. quite frequently to get to Kelso Conservation Area.

First concerns the laneway from Milton Quarries which trucks use to enter Base Line Rd. Instead of entering the road at right angles, this laneway brings the lumbering stone trucks out onto the road at an angle, right at the corner of Base Line and Tremane Rd. It may be pretty convenient for the truckers but it's a nuisance to a motorist approaching that corner from the north just as a truck roars out onto the Base Line, without stopping.

Secondly, northbound cars on Tremane Rd. have a rough time making a left turn into Kelso when they reach the main corner at Milton Heights. The northbound cars have to be right in the middle of the Heights intersection before they can make a left turn, because the corner is right at the top of the hill. It's a spot where you have to be pretty careful.

Courtesy Corner: Please Mr. Motorist, take it easy on the poor pedestrians this Spring. Puddles and potholes full of water are everywhere. Slow down or drive around them, the pedestrian you splash may be your own.



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PLEADING FOR IT TO STOP, this "stop" sign appears to bear a timely message of springtime in Milton. This vacant lot on Woodward St. was just one sample of the spring thaw flooding in Milton in the past week. —(Staff Photo)

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