By Bob Burtt

Regional Council Reporter Halton Regional Council has become notorious for its inability to cope with procedural wrangles but council's effort to appoint two members to the Halton Board of Police Commissioners has to rate among the greatest of the region's fiascos to date.

It took council six ballots and some highly irregular practice to have Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett and Burlington Mayor George Harrington reappointed as police commissioners.

The first ballot was destroyed and not counted after some members voted for only one name - instead of two, as instructed. The second ballot showed Barrett with 14 votes, Harrington 10 and Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill, Milton Councillor Jim Watson and Oakville Councillor Bill Mason with eight votes each.

Chairman Allan Masson ruled that Barrett would be named as one of the two commissioners because he commanded votes from more than 50 per cent of the 24 councillors.

While there are apparently several ways of breaking the tie, most procedures would have seen a special ballot forthe three candidates tied for low position. The lowest would drop out of the contest and the remaining four would be back in the race, with one dropping off after each ballot. Instead Barrett was named

as a commissioner and the voting continued with the four others. That could have had a potential effect on the outcome, as those voting for Barrett in the first round were then free to swing their second vote to someone else. Mason was bumped on the third ballot, Hill on the fourth, Watson and Harrington then

tied on the fifth ballot. Chairman Masson was then advised by solicitor Noel Bates that he was not entitled to cast a deciding vote between the two. In fact Bates said that Masson had no business even being in the chair. The procedural by-law says the regional chairman shall not preside over committee of the whole sessions.

In regular council however. the chairman does have the right and must vote to break a tie. Council adjourned its committee of the whole session and went into council.

At that point a sixth vote was called and this time someone switched support from Watson to Harrington, giving the Burlington Mayor 13-11 margin and freeing Masson from having choose between the two men. Both Oakville Councillor Mannell and Burlington Councillor Paul Preston suggested procedure that was being followed was incorrect but the show went on.

Following the meeting Watson agreed the matter had been poorly handled but said he would not challenge the proceedings.

Each councillor spoke for two minutes in an attempt to

woo votes. During his speech Mason suggested the commission had been a source of embarrassment for the region during the past year He suggested that if councillors felt there had been no embarrassment, they should support the two incumbents. Following the meeting he

a source of embarrassment

He pointed to the problems surrounding the lease for the Oakville detachment offices which became a running feud between the region and the commission. He wouldn't comment beyond that, other than to suggest he hoped relations between the two

how the commission had been

could be improved this year.

and Glenn Magnusson o

Halton Hills are provincial

appointees to the commission

According to

the commission.

George Kerr is currently con-

mayors become members of

The region's adminis

tration committee in the past

has suggested that in no way

should the commission

become a committee of

council. Members of that

committee expressed a desire

to keep the commission free

from political influence.

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opposed to elected of-

Bill Hourigan and Judge W.

New headquarters

Hiring architect called premature

Halton Regional Council rejected a motion that would will not select an architect for the region's new administration headquarters until the building and site committee present tentative plans about what is to be housed in the new building and the approxi-mate space required. Council

WOMEN AT WORK Members of the Red Cross Women's Work Committee in branches all across Canada make new clothing and quilts for people in need all over the world. Last year more than 1,800 cartons of infants and children's clothing, adults clothing and quilts were ber. shipped to 32 developing countries for free distribution and to League of Red Cross Societies warehouses for storage pending distribution in disaster. The warehouse boxes are frequently among

see an architect chosen for the project.

Councillor Terry Mannell explained that choosing a firm now would not subject the council to any expense but would allow some of the preliminary work to be done in advance. He suggested an architect should be chosen now and should be involved in the early decisions that have to be made.

Committee chairman Tom Hill told council his committee hoped to know which other government agencies would want to be housed in the building and which site to recommend early in Decem-

Several councillors argued the move to select an architect was premature. Some suggested the landscape of the site eventually chosen and the agencies to be housed should be known before an



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SANTA CLAUS is coming to town and just to get into the spirit of it all and be ready to parade, a group of youngsters have been meeting at the home of Cinda Richardson decorating the "present" boxes they'll be decked out in. Exuberantly shoulting for Santa are Joni McLean, Amy Richardson, Michelle Miron, Kristin Kerr, Matthew Hayward, Joni McLean and Kathy Verstraete. The local parade is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 30 and floats and entries are welcome. 100 DONATIONS

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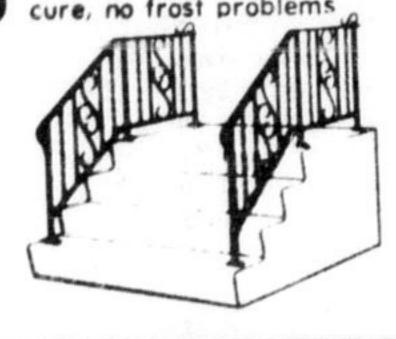
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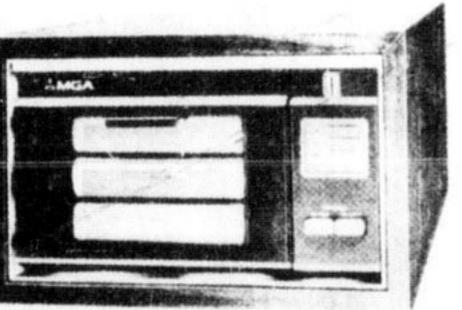
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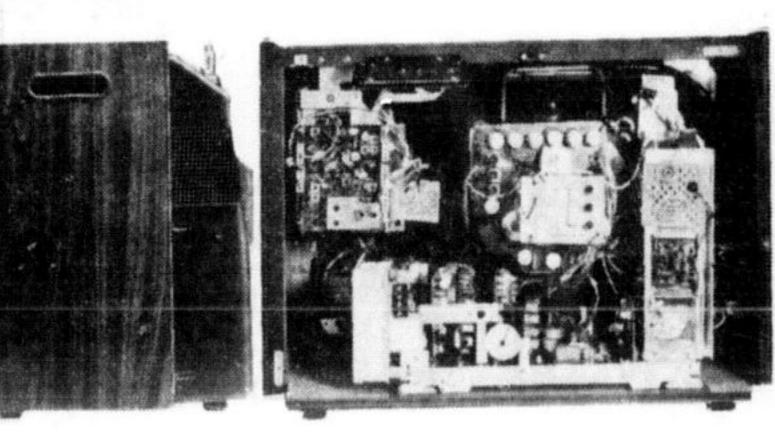


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