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The Canadian Champion

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Pages of
the past

One Year Ago

From the December 2, 1981 issue
Five people including an ambulance attendant, were rushed to Milton District Hospital Monday afternoon after being overcome by cleaning fumes at Surbond Lubricant Co. Ltd. at 89 Nipissing Rd., Milton.

A draft report on expansion plans for Milton District Hospital is essentially a carbon copy of recommendations by hospital staff who have fought more than three years for increased facilities. The 100-page review report was compiled by Agnew Packham Associates, a consulting firm retained by the hospital in August.

Emergency, laboratory and x-ray facilities will be expanded and the report strongly recommends a six-bed intensive care unit be developed.

A \$265,000 purchase of the former hospital at 17 Martin St. and the original Bill's Auto Body shop building by the town was authorized Monday night during an in-camera meeting of committee of the whole. This purchase means the Town now owns the entire property block surrounding Town Hall—which has been offered for sale since January 1981. The property is being sold to finance a proposed move of the council chambers and municipal offices to the old court house and jail complex on Brown St.

20 Years Ago

From the December 6, 1962 issue
Five members of this year's Milton Council were returned to office and newcomer Austan Ledwith filled the sixth vacant spot Monday, when Milton voters went to the polls to choose six 1963 councillors.

The first sod was turned Tuesday to begin the construction of a new 10,000,000 a year block plant at the Milton Brick property west of Milton.

Town and township officials joined Milton Brick president C.J. (Syl) Apps on Tuesday to turn the sod for the construction of Canada's most modern, fully automated cement block plant using the autoclave system.

A full time municipal engineer to begin his duties on Feb. 1 will be sought by Milton Council.

Charges that some members of the Oakville and District Labour Council were supporting the Communist Party led Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union, two of Milton's largest unions to announce their withdrawal of delegates and financial backing from the Oakville co-ordinating group.

Local 1067 UAW at Ontario Steel Products and Local 4970 at P.L. Robertson fired off strongly worded letters to the O.D.L.C., charging the council is "no longer working in the interests of organized labor in this district."

50 Years Ago

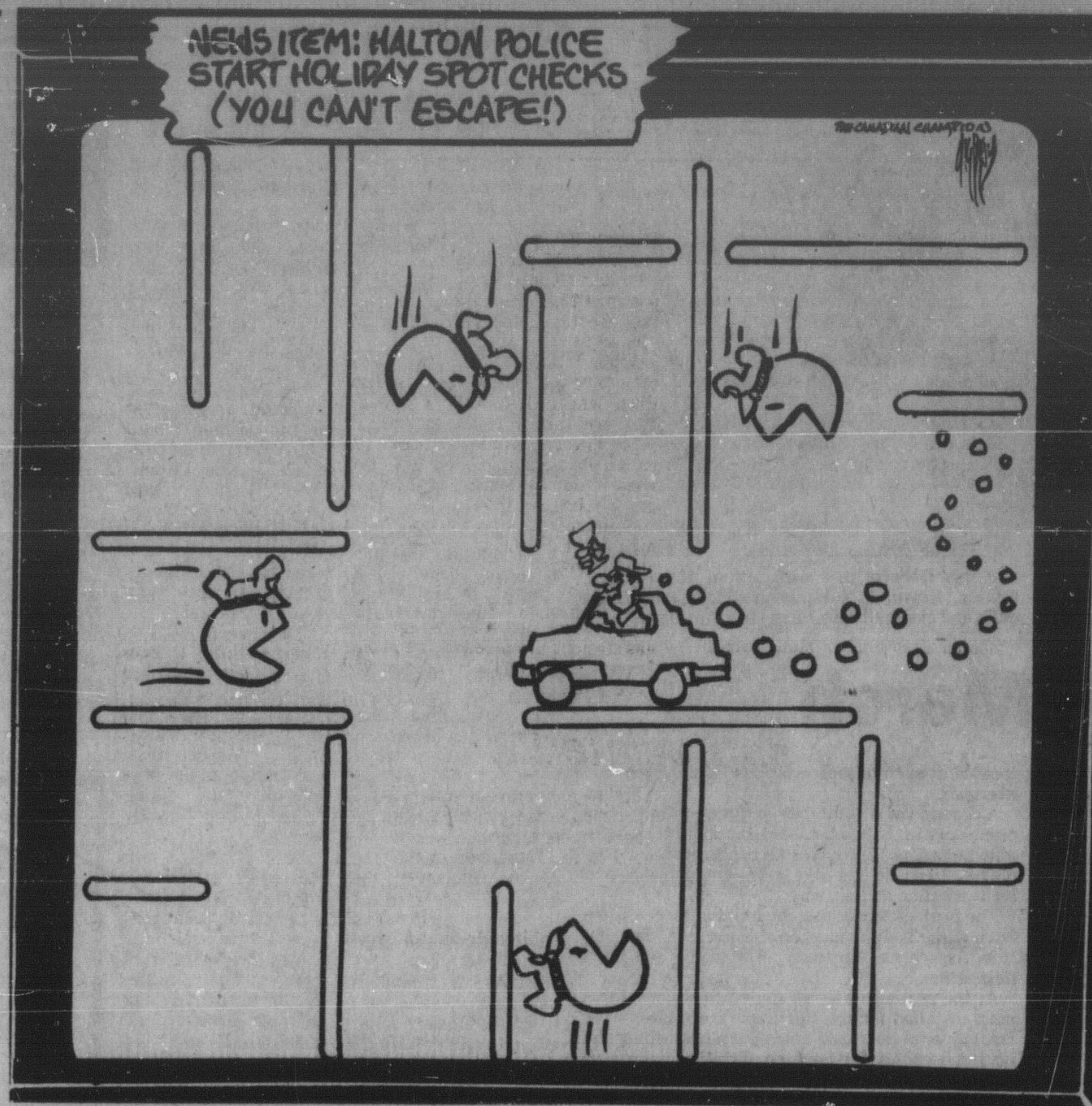
From the December 1, 1932 issue
Local stores are already making preparations for the Christmas season, and, as usual, their stocks will afford everyone an opportunity to select their Christmas gifts at right prices. Just compare the prices here with any of the city stores, and in hundreds of cases you will find the prices lower. We have made comparisons lately, and have proven to our entire satisfaction that the prices charged here are as low as anywhere. Of course, there are many bargain days elsewhere, but our merchants also have bargains to offer you. In these strenuous times it behooves the people of Milton and district to support the local stores. You can also shop in more comfort than in a crowded city store. Do your Christmas shopping in Milton, where you will be treated right. Believed to have been started by a defective wire, a fire which broke out in the grocery store of W.A. Walker, Burlington, at an early hour on Sunday morning last, did damage that may entail a loss estimated at \$4,000. In addition, merchandise in the adjoining dry goods store operated by F.W. Templin, was also damaged considerably by smoke. The damage to the goods in Mr. Templin's store will amount to \$3,000. Councillor John Irving, who has been confined to his bed through illness for several weeks, is, we're pleased to say, able to be out again.

From the December 5, 1907 issue
Men who are on the "Indian List" must not loiter around hotels. At the Grand Central Hotel, London, Ont., a policeman noticed an "Indian" hanging around, though the bartender had warned him several times to keep away. The man was arrested and fined \$10 by Police Magistrate Love.

Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Paxton left for Parkdale yesterday. Mr. Paxton has been appointed agent of the New Toronto branch of the Farmers Bank. They will live at Parkdale and Mr. Paxton will go daily to New Toronto, which is a few miles away. S.R. Smart has been appointed agent here, having been transferred from the Williamton agency, near Montreal.

Rev. P.T. Mignot has written to a Milton friend to announce that his resignation of the rectory of Castle Church, Guernsey, Channel Islands will go into effect at Christmas, when he and Mrs. Mignot will move into a residence in the town.

Mr. Andrew reports a most successful season of farm stock sales this fall in this and the neighborhood counties with stock of all kinds selling very much higher than what was expected early in the fall, considering the high price of feed of all kinds.



Viewpoint

The drunk

WITH LINDA KIRBY



She puffed nervously on her cigarette as she watched her husband talk to the police officer.

His voice was thick, his words slurred as he once again reminded the policeman of his rights.

He had no intention of taking a roadside test to determine if he was drunk. After all, he was quite capable of driving—he had done all right so far, hadn't he?

Politely but firmly, the police officer again requested the man get out of the car and accompany him to the cruiser.

The woman was becoming extremely agitated—this is upsetting what was a perfectly nice evening. Couldn't he be given a break?

He leans on the policeman for support as they make their way to the cruiser parked less than 12 feet away. He motions at his wife to come to the cruiser with him.

She appears perfectly sober and although aware of her husband's inebriated condition, she is more annoyed with the police officer.

"Is this supposed to be any kind of welcome to Burlington?" she said angrily to the officer. They have apparently recently moved to the area.

That scene is very real. It occurred during a spot check carried out by Halton Regional Police over the weekend.

The man was obviously drunk—the police knew it, the wife knew it, but she felt he should have a break. They were after all, new in town.

The irony of it all was that a few minutes later, when the man was taken in the cruiser to the station, the wife followed in their small, standard transmission car.

She wheeled that car around in a way that left no doubt that it belonged to her.

Why wasn't she driving it in the first place? It would have avoided the entire mess.

"Male pride" replied an officer to my question.

"No matter how drunk some people get, they are still determined they will drive."

The whole idea behind Christmas spot checks is to cut down on accidents, save yourself from your own evils or the next driver and his passengers and hopefully avert a tragedy.

But try and explain that to the man (or woman) who gets pulled over and is requested to take a roadside A.L.E.R.T. test.

The spot checks are not only aimed at the drinking driver, but police are also conducting a basic inspection of the car's mechanical fitness and checking for those not wearing seat belts.

If there is a half dozen excuses as to why a drunk should be allowed to continue on his way, that number triples when it comes to the excuses provided by seat belt violators.

"I just took it off, officer. I thought you might like me to get out of the car."

"I live only two blocks away."

"I have a stomach ache. It hurts to put it on."

These are only a few, but some of the more common reasons. It doesn't matter that it is illegal not to wear them. (With some exceptions for specific medical reasons).

For some, it is just too much of a bother, as I was made aware of in one incident early Sunday morning.

It was about 1.15 a.m. An officer pulled over a stationwagon with mother and father in the front and two youngsters in the back. The mother was the only one wearing her belt. Dad didn't

have any particular reason for not having it on.

"How about your two children?" enquired the police officer.

Two boys about seven and four years old, were nodding off to sleep in the back.

"We use the car to move a lot of large articles... The belts don't really work," said the mother.

"Well if you are concerned about your safety and put your belt on, why not the kids?" replied the officer.

"Oh, they are fine back there," she said.

"Ma'am, I've seen kids hurtled through windshields before. They don't do so well," he said.

She continued to argue with him.

He returned to his cruiser to write up a ticket for the driver. He mentioned to me he finds it upsetting when parents neglect to take sufficient care in buckling up their children.

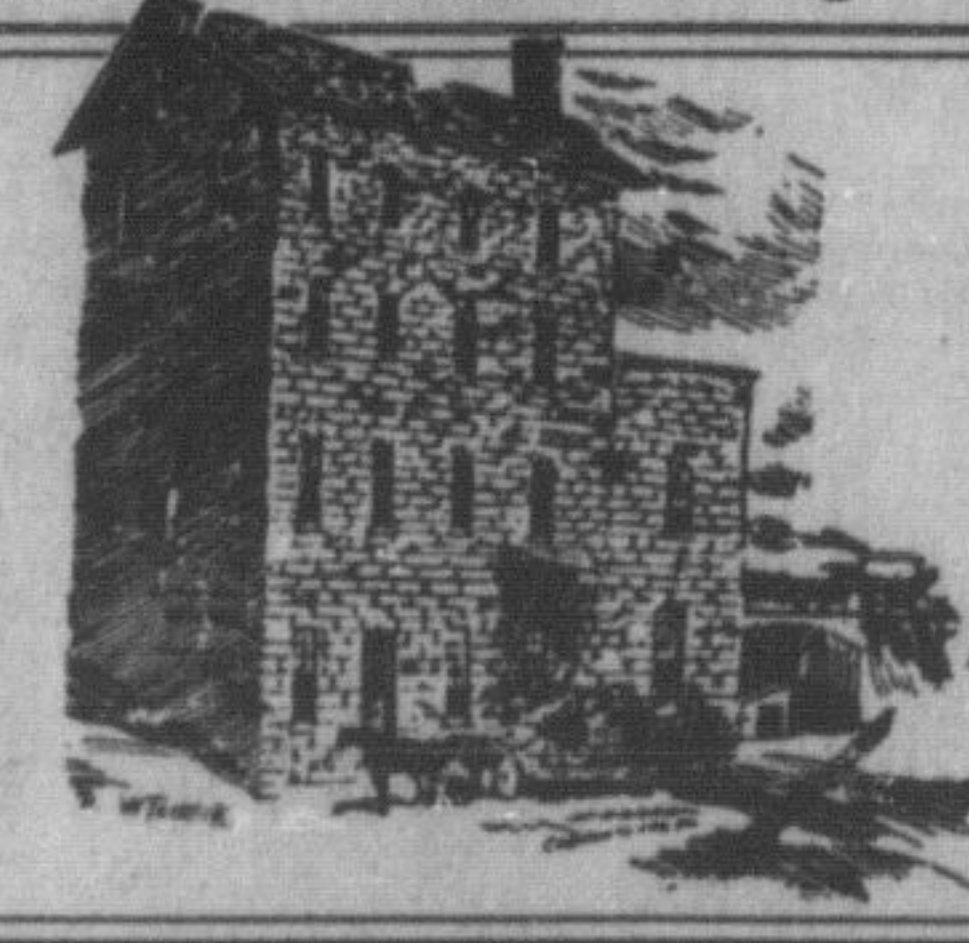
We return to the car. Nobody has bothered to dig out the belts.

Politely, the officer asks why he hasn't done anything about his children.

The father is angry now. This whole episode has already taken too much of his time. He jumps out of the car, opens the passenger door and barks at the two little boys to get out, yanking one youngster out by the arm.

He climbs into the back, moves the seat and finds the belts, pulling them through. He orders the kids back into the car and reluctantly straps them in.

Although most people are cooperative, and some even appreciative of the advice, it is cases such as these that make you wonder how anyone, or any law, is going to save them from their own stupidity.



Our historic homes

Fifth in a series of local homes to be designated by Milton Historical Society

**79 Martin St.
The
R.L. Hemstreet
House**

Built in April of 1892, this stylish red-brick three storey house was one of several built before the turn of the century north of Mill Street on Martin.

The land was originally owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Martin, a lumberman from New Westminster, B.C., was sold to Richard Lawrence Hemstreet who built his substantial house on the property, a mixture of Victorian elegance and Italianate design.

At one time a fine verandah spanned the front and side entrances to the house. A coach house, built for horse and buggy is now used for storage and garaging. Present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lambert who purchased the property in 1970.

Researched by Val Grimshaw And Jean Higgins, 1982.



Religion undercover?

Not too many years ago, there was a time when people turned to religion for comfort, for answers to the problems of life that they could not cope with alone.

The answers it provided were relatively simple and easy to understand. The death of a child would perhaps be explained away with the statement "God needed another little angel."

All things were possible and even the greatest sorrow could be borne with only the right amount of faith in God.

It shouldn't be surprising that the answers that seemed acceptable during the 1950s were not as comfortable in the 60s and were less so in the 70s.

That disillusionment with traditional forms of faith and comfort helped the development of cults such as the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon and the People's Temple whose members followed their leader blindly into death.

Even people who managed to avoid the grasp of such cults, found themselves being tempted by an array of self development groups, each promising to enhance your enjoyment of life through the benefits of their particular philosophy.

Occasionally, searchers after truth found the comfort and peace they were seeking in the teachings of a different philosophy. For every success, however, there were also tales of despair and loss because the new teachings couldn't "fit into" the values the searcher brought with him.

Such was the case of Terry Wilkins, a former Canadian leader of Transcendental Meditation movement.

After devoting seven years to teaching and helping to direct the affairs of the giant organization, he suddenly decided that he had been teaching a philosophy that was disguising its true nature in order to be more easily marketed.

Today, Terry Wilkins speaks about the dangers of mind control, about the troubles that lie in store for humanity if we too easily surrender to another person our abilities to think, to reason and to decide for ourselves.

The horror of the Jonestown massacre, he said, is only a small example of the extent to which some mind control groups control their members. It is clearly a danger to which social attention must be turned soon.

TM, Mr. Wilkins is quick to add, is different from other cults because it does not indoctrinate its members through repetition or enforced separation from the real world. Any "brainwashing" that happens to TM members is the result of their own delving deeper and deeper into the philosophy of the movement.

He also holds that if TM leaders would openly admit their movement is a form of the Hindu religion, he would have no quarrel with what they are doing or with their teachings.

According to Mr. Wilkins, an element of deceit, perhaps unconscious on the part of well meaning instructors, in the way in which the philosophy is marketed throughout Canada and the western world.

We have long since grown past the stage where a single philosophy was correct for every citizen. We are a nation of diversity now.

Any religious group can find a place of comfort and refuge in Canada—but there is no place for deception and disguised truth.

Whether or not TM is a religion, or a self development technique with shadowy roots in religious practices of the past is for you to decide.

Does it enhance the ability to appreciate life, or does it draw its members deeper and deeper into a web from which they will never be entirely free?

In the final analysis, the arguments that Mr. Wilkins levels against the organization, in many cases using words directly from the writings of the movement's spiritual leader, leave a feeling of suspicion.

The person seeking to expand his consciousness beyond the limitations of the five senses must exercise extreme caution in choosing the path he follows to that level of expanded awareness.

Labor cost

In any type of business activity, the largest portion of the cost faced by an employer is for salaries and wages. Labor, in that sense, is the foundation on which Canada's entire economic structure rests.

Speaking in Oakville recently, a vice-president of the Ford Motor Company skirted around one of the major issues crippling the recovery of the North American auto industry—the cost of labor.

Across the country now, 10,000 workers for a near bankrupt company are on strike because they are tired of "struggling along" on a wage of slightly more than \$9 an hour.

After making some small concessions to their employer, under the imminent threat of losing their jobs for good, the workers, represented by the United Auto Workers, waited until the company recorded two good quarters before demanding to be brought back up to par with their

American counterparts. It is totally absurd for workers in this economic climate to be demanding wage increase in double digit amounts.

The North American auto industry is on its knees because of the competition provided by lower priced Japanese imports.

The cost of labor is one of the few costs of production over which an employer has any appreciable amount of control—and this is a fact that seems to have escaped the intelligence of many union leaders.

By constantly bidding up the price of their service, the only people who suffer are the people they claim to represent.

If Canada in general, or the auto industry specifically is to recover something of the economic position it enjoyed in the past, changes in these attitudes must be recorded, and they must occur soon.