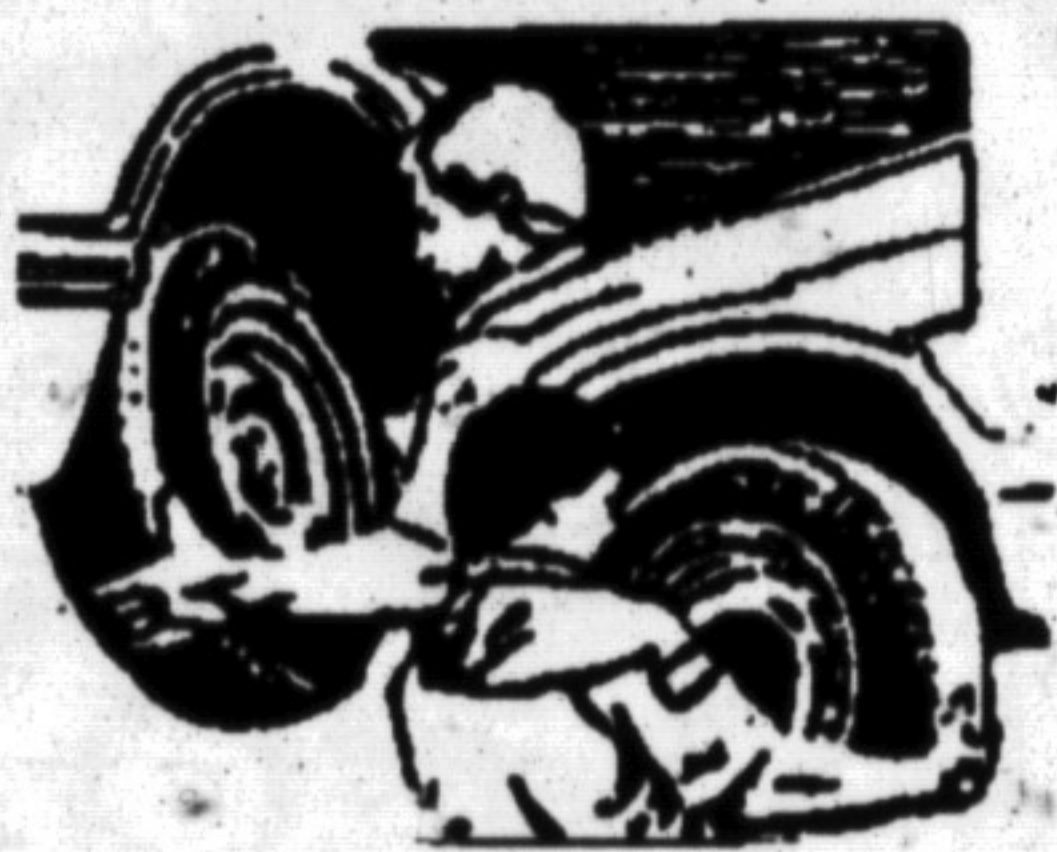


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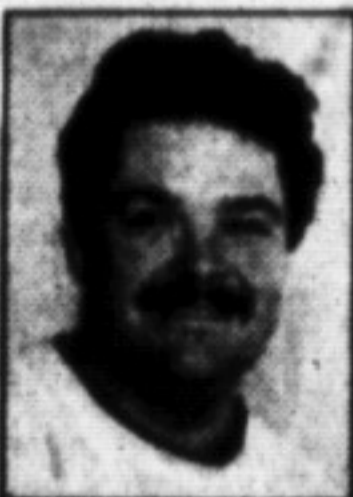
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**The 'essence' of Bill 26 stays the same, says MPP Chudleigh**



Ted Chudleigh

*"We've had 139 amendments at last count. The essence of the bill hasn't changed. We have made little adjustments in language to clarify various issues. The hearings allow us to go over the bill clause by clause and make it better."*

By **BRAD REAUME**  
*The Champion*

After three weeks of committee hearings and more than 139 amendments the controversial bill 26, the Savings and Restructuring Act, will be passed into law next Monday.

"We've had 139 amendments at last count," said Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh. "The essence of the bill hasn't changed. We have made little adjustments in language to clarify various issues. The hearings allow us to go over the bill clause by clause and make it better."

He said the current system is broken and needs fixing and called Bill 26 a "vital tool in that repair process."

Mr. Chudleigh said the government conducted 288 hours of hearings on the bill, spread over three weeks. Until a protest by Liberal backbencher Alvin Curling, they had scheduled 360 hours of hearings at three committees to go on simultaneously during one week.

"The essence of the protest was politics not the bill," Mr. Chudleigh said, commenting on reports several opposition members will not abide by an all-party agreement struck after Mr. Curling's protest. "If they don't abide by the arrangements to allow passage of the bill they will lose tremendous political points. Come election time we'll remind the public that we are the party that keeps its promises and they are not."

He said he expects "the 29th will be interesting" adding it is possible the opposition will force each amendment to be read aloud to stretch out passage of the legislation.

Mr. Chudleigh outlined some of the more substantive changes to the bill saying provisions will be made to provide more privacy of individual health records, while monitoring physician's billing practices and patterns. Hospitals will be given more notice of reorganizations, user fees have been clarified, with specific provisions stopping municipalities from instituting a poll tax or gasoline tax.

"The way some people read the bill there were things that could be done that we had no intention of allowing, such as the poll tax or gasoline tax," he said, adding that most of the changes were clarifications or explanations of nuances in language.

In response to concerns that user fees

• see BILL on page 13

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**United Way just misses hitting goal**

• from SOLID on page 1

from government workers plummeted, he said.

The campaign - launched Sept. 9 - featured special events such as a dinner-auction, which was the biggest money-maker raising \$13,500.

A September golf tournament was also successful, however, a casino, which was a new venture, wasn't as profitable as officials had hoped.

Mr. Clements said it's unlikely he will return as chair of the United Way's 1996 fundraising campaign, due to other commitments.

He added that he enjoyed the volunteer job, but if he did it again he would push for more employees to donate through payroll deductions.

He said he also believes more Miltonians who work out of town need to be made aware of the fact that they must request their donations be allocated to the United Way of Milton.

The United Way was "ecstatic with Brad's efforts" and the work of the many volunteers who helped out in the campaign, Mr. Watson said.

The funds will be distributed among more than 20 local non-profit agencies.



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