

Council updated on plight Union rep tells it the way it is

The following brief was presented this week at a regular meeting of Midland council by Peter King a spokesman for the following unions: The United Electrical Union, Local 568 (Representing Office, Clerks and Technical Employees) and The Canadian Union and Operating Engineers (Representing the Stationary Engineers at R.C.A.).

We appear before you this evening to request your support to a growing crisis here in Midland and surrounding area. We represent employees at R.C.A. and surrounding areas through their respective union, these being the United Electrical Union (U.E.) representing the salaried and technical and the Canadian Union of Operating Engineers and General Workers (C.U.O.E.G.W.) representing the stationary engineers.

We will refer to drastic lay offs at our place of employment of 600 employees, a cut in employment of some 50 percent in less than one year. A quick estimate tells us that lost wages even on the low side equals some \$180,000 per week or \$9,360,000 per year in this area. As most are aware, we have an unemployed rate of some 3,350

out of a work force of some 15,000 or 22½ percent, far above the national average set in December 1981 at 8.6 percent.

We must speculate that soaring interest rates have had and continue to have a real affect on the employment picture. The main cause that has caused our plight of Canadian Tube Manufacture is the direct lack of the government's control over imports of these products. Imports as of 1982 have over 65 percent of the Canadian market.

We are also aware that at least one country has the ability as far back as 1976 of producing over 10.5 million sets per year. In 1955 there were five manufacturers here in Canada of television tubes, in 1970 there were two and in 1982 there is one - R.C.A. here in Midland.

We intend to meet the federal and provincial governments in order to gain their support to save the Canadian Tube Manufacturing Industry. One must recall and evaluate the skills that have been accumulated over the past sixteen years that this plant has produced here. If it goes, so are the skills lost with it.

We agree with the editorial written in "The Midland Free Press" on February 3, 1982, "Is there work in this area?" and "This is a time for building a real economy here, a time for people to start doing their job".

We also know that the innovations in television as explained by experts is just dawning in history. They refer to computerization into the homes, the supply systems that go with sets outlines the fact of the tremendous future in this industry. We will forward suggestions to both governments that protections be built into Canadian manufacture through heavy taxation on imports and the elimination on Canadian production, also quotas on sets produced outside this country. Also promote exports of our products.

Implementation of such a program would allow our industry the chance to plan alternate employment for us who lose employment in tube manufacture when both projection and technical changes are changed with the times ahead.

We recognize that trade is a two-way street but it is imperative when we face job

loss and an important part of Canadian industry faces extinction due to so called cheaper imports.

We quote the Honourable J.J. Greene, then the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on May 8, 1970, when he stated, "If we want to use cheap, dumped goods from all over the world, we won't have any kind of industry anywhere". This applies most urgently to the Canadian Tube Manufacturing Industry in the Canadian Electronics Industry.

Tube manufacturing is only the tip of the iceberg. Once it goes other sections of the industry follow. It is vital that Canada Keep an independent comprehensive electronic industry if it is to be a technologically advanced industrial nation.

We at R.C.A. are more than prepared to do our share to keep and argue for our industry.

We will also go into deeper detail on our plight and the industries plight at anytime you may wish to do so.

We thank you for the time allotted us and we urge your support to our endeavours.

Organizational service in Midland

"Full of Faith and hope and love,

Let us do our Father's bidding

Faithful Lord, with me abide

I shall follow where you guide."

These were the words proudly sung by the

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

congregation after 77 people were admitted to membership by the Rev. Paul A. Schult, pastor of Holy Cross.

Over 130 attended the Organizational service on March 7 to hear

Bishop William Huras of the Eastern Canada Synod, Lutheran Church of America perform the service to officially organize the Holy Cross congregation.

Assistant to the Bishop, the Reverend A. Lorch installed the

church council. There are nine men and women who have been elected to serve on the council: Mr. Barry Bergey, Mr. Fred Flohr, Mr. Anton Friedrich, Mrs. Lynne Hoppenreys, Mr. Rudy Lewkowski, Mrs. Helen

Steffler, Dr. Rod Stubel, Mrs. Manfred Wesser and Mrs. Maria Wittig.

For this special service music was provided by Mrs. Pat Lewkowski, organist and David Schult, pianist. Others taking part were Rodney

Steffler, acolyte, Lynne Hoppenreys, prayer leader and Anton Friedrich, Rudy Lewkowski, Rod Stubel and Manfred Wesser, ushers.

Special greetings were brought from Rev. Otto Winter first pastor to serve the Lutheran community in Midland, Rev. Fr. Steven Somerville, St. Margaret's Church,, representing the Huronia Ministerial Association, Mayor Moreland Lynn speaking for the Town of Midland and Rev. Dr. Robert Vinhammer, Dean of the Central District, Eastern Ontario Synod, Lutheran Church of America.

Besides the Holy Cross congregation there were many of the community and local clergy present as well as visitors from as far away as New Hamburg where Pastor Schult

served before coming to Midland.

A fellowship hour was held immediately following the service with refreshments being supplied by the women of the church.

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church is not wasting anytime becoming involved in the community. March 14 at 1 p.m. at the Athenian Hall the film The Strong Willed Child will be shown. It is the first in a 7 film series "Focus on the Family".

The community is invited to attend and to discover week by week ways of dealing with one of the most critical areas of our lives and an area that is increasingly crumbling - the family.

Until it has premises of its own, Holy Cross holds its services each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the Athenian Hall; Sunday School at 11:15 a.m.

Residential development pact this month

That residential undertaking proposed by a group of German developers (Szeliga / Underberg) for the hinterlands of northeast Midland has taken another turn for the good as a result of a meeting held this week in Midland by the project's development manager Jim Meridis of Midland and Peter Mielznski of Toronto, operator of Szeliga Investments Ltd.

According to Meridis, a long-time Midland businessman, "Peter will be in Midland next Tuesday to meet with Fred Hacker our legal counsel.

"So far Peter and I have been pleased by the co-operation we have received from the town and from the parks board.

"We have looked over the parks board's modified plan for T. M. McCullough Park and I'm certain that later this month, if all goes well, we'll be in a position to sign the necessary documents with the town to get our project going."

The developers want access to the bay through T.M. McCullough Park which is adjacent to property the firm owns.

It is the intent of the developers to construct executive type residential dwellings, an inn and a day marina.

'Positive tone' CARP could mean shot in the arm for Midland

Midland's town planner Brian MacKell said yesterday he's very hopeful regarding "the positive tone" of recent discussions he has had with officials from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing concerning Queen's Park's pilot project called CARP (Commercial Assistance Rehabilitation Program).

MacKell along with Mayor Moreland Lynn have been working with the ministry in getting the CARP program off the ground.

The scheme is intended to provide

towns of Midland's size with additional funding so as to keep the downtown area vital.

Midland has provided Queen's Park with a shopping list of projects it would like funded by the province.

Although it isn't certain how much the municipality will eventually receive, MacKell is hopeful significant funds will be made available so as to undertake most of the seven projects Midland has included in the pilot project.

Ordered to stand trial

A 20-year-old Port McNicoll motorist was ordered Monday in Midland Provincial Court to stand trial on May 3.

Jeffery Zummach faces three charges in connection with a single-car fatal accident

in Penetanguishene on the morning of Dec. 9 in which a young Midland man riding in his car died of injuries he received after the vehicle slammed into a tree on Robert Street West near Centennial Drive.

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