

The Liberal

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September Referendum

Many people in Richmond Hill have expressed concern over Town Council's decision to hold a referendum in September to obtain the verdict of the ratepayers on the Ward System of electing council members and trustees and the local bus service. The opinion has been freely expressed that the people might well have been saved the trouble and expense of a September vote by having the referendum at the same time as municipal elections in early December.

Those favoring the September vote have argued that if the Ward System is to be used for the coming election the ratification of the ratepayers is needed in September. People taking the opposite view point out that even if the Ward System is approved by the people it would not have been too serious to postpone its application until the election in December 1961.

The Town has entered into an agreement for the operation of a local bus service, and one clause of the agreement is that the municipality pays any deficit on operation. Such an agreement to meet the requirements of law must be ratified by a vote of the electors. However this agreement for the operation of the local bus, has been in operation for more than two years, and if council members could survive without legal difficulties for that time, a couple of months more should not be too serious.

We agree it would have been much more desirable to hold the referendum at the same time as the Municipal Election. The expense of the special vote has been estimated at more than \$2,000.,

and in the present state of the municipal treasury certainly is worth saving.

We are fearful that the turn-out of voters in a September vote will be disappointingly small, and that any expression of opinion will be the decision of only a small percentage of the ratepayers. It would be too bad to put the people to the trouble and expense of a referendum if only ten per cent of the people turn out to vote. The only practical benefit from a September vote instead of one in December is the possible privilege of having the Ward System in 1961 instead of in 1962.

We don't think the majority of taxpayers in Richmond Hill are so concerned about the Ward System that they want the extra trouble of a September referendum and the expense on their tax bill.

Even at this late date we think the majority of ratepayers would be quite content, and in fact would welcome a change of council policy in regard to the referendum.

There is a very apparent misunderstanding or difference of opinion between council and school board regarding the Ward System and its application to trustees. A postponement of the referendum will give time for the two bodies to get together, resolve their differences and clear the air for a decision relating to both council members and trustees. More important still the town treasury will be saved the expense of a special referendum, and council will not be running the risk of an embarrassingly small vote.

Keep Teenagers Out Of Debt

After hearing of a recent radio commercial, which announced arrangements have been finalized by a leading jewellery firm in Toronto to extend credit to juveniles — who are on an allowance — we feel parents who have not as yet felt the impact of this J-bomb should be warned of this misnamed public service.

We've all heard jokes about children who go to the local store and "charge" ice cream cones, bottles of pop or chocolate bars — but when it comes to the point of anteing up for such unpredictable accounts, even these could be formidable and give a parent a jolt, we presume.

How much more of a jolt would we as parents receive, if we found that the allowance given to our teenage daughters or sons, for school supplies, lunches, clothing or incidentals — was being channelled instead into items of jewellery, typewriters or luxury items?

We don't like the gloomy implications such a new and revolutionary ar-

rangement conjures up in our mind's eye.

Time enough to establish credit when the student becomes a member of the full-time working or professional force and has a definite salary of his or her own.

What a drab future for teenagers this new credit angle suggests. Those taking advantage of it would not only have to worry about exams, dates and the latest rock'n'roll record — they would have the added burden of responsibility only those who carry an elastic credit account know.

And think of the risk the jewellery company is taking in extending this credit to juveniles on an allowance — they cannot legally collect from the juvenile, or the parent, (they say) if payments go into default.

As far as we are concerned the national debt is large enough now — without having our teenage boys and girls adding to it.

Salad Days

What next? An American (U.S.) multi-millionaire, Dr. Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, has devised a machine for listening in to the passions of vegetables and fruit.

Tch. Tch. Again we ask, what next? Well, next is, the Hubbard electrometer, when connected to any fruit or vegetable records the normally inaudible sounds emitted as the subjected is sliced, peeled, diced or crushed.

Naturally, this being salad season time of year — such a news release conjures up vivid pictorial sentences for editorial repartee . . .

For instance, can't you just imagine a New Brunswick or Holland Marsh potato snuggling down in the bin with a yam from the south and saying, "You're sweet" — and the yam yammering right back, "It's real white of you-all to admit it!"

And when we crunch into a radish, is it saying, "You human, I'll make it

hot for you". And what about the noble green onion — Now, every time I take a succulent bite out of one (and all because of Dr. Hubbard's invention), I'm going to listen to the poor little thing weep as I whisper with fragrant breath, "I cry for you".

The doctor says he plans to double, even treble, the potential food value of the world's plants — with his electrometer.

But believe me — if I were a vegetable I'd fight right back and crush him with an exclamation something like this, "You've skinned me, sliced, peeled and diced and mashed me — now cut out the rough stuff."

But at that, I don't suppose it would do much good — because the good doctor says he has already recorded screams for mercy from tomatoes being peeled and howls from lettuces being sliced.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO?

Dear Mr. Editor: What's the world coming to? Council raises our taxes and now decrees that we can't take in boarders to meet the payments. This is the last straw.

Civis

NO BOARDERS?

Dear Mr. Editor: I am a widow and have kept a boarder for many years to help meet expenses. Without a boarder with my limited income I just can't make ends meet and I will have to give up. I have no wish to be a lawbreaker but I have been worried since reading last week's paper, I don't know what they do in Russia but this seems a strange law for a free country. What am I to do?

Anxious One
Note: We suggest you keep on keeping a boarder. The local by-law may be confusing and need clarification but we would be very surprised if any local authority ever interferes. (Ed.)

WANTS AN END TO CONFUSION

Dear Mr. Editor: For many years it has been apparent we have by-laws which are not enforced. Now according to last week's "Liberal" we have by-laws that we don't even understand.

If the members of council, the enforcement officer and solicitor can't understand what's contained in the town's by-laws, how do they expect the people to know what it's all about?

Some regulations are necessary and desirable in an organized community, but how far can municipal bureaucracy go? I think it's beyond its limit if it decrees that a householder no longer can have a boiler room.

I hope the local authorities at an early date will make a statement of policy clearing up this unfortunate confusion.

Taxpayer

WANT ACTION ON BEVERLEY ACRES DRAIN PROJECT

Dear Mr. Editor: The following is a copy of resolution forwarded to various bodies for action.

"As a Christian Group, we feel we must concern ourselves not only for the spiritual welfare of the people of our Parish and elsewhere, but also their physical and moral well being.

There is one matter that concerns us all, and we are writing, asking for whatever support you can give to remedying this.

For some time now the question of the Beverley Acres drainage problem has been before us, and despite assurance of action, there are still few signs of a solution.

The lack of proper drainage is causing a health problem as sewage backs up into the basements of homes.

It is causing people to leave our area, and keeping others from moving in.

The resultant empty houses are bad for the area, and will lead to general deterioration.

The deep ditch on Crosby Avenue endangers the lives of our children, especially after a storm.

The whole matter is a blot on our community. No amount of red tape or lack of concern on the part of authorities responsible must be allowed to delay this important work.

It was the feeling of our Advisory Council that immediate action must be taken to remedy this, and we would urge you to do everything possible to further this work."

J. Newton-Smith,
Rector,
The Church of St. Gabriel

MAY NOT BE BEST COUNCIL, BUT NOT THE WORST

Dear Mr. Editor: After reading some of the more recent letters sent to you criticizing Council for the increased tax rate, I am left wondering:

(a) As Council controls only 25% of the tax dollar, why these brave sharpshooters don't direct a little of their fire at the people who spend nearly 60% of it — namely our local School Board.

(b) How anyone worth his salt will stand for Council only to be exposed to ill-informed criticism based on half truths and slanted facts presented by heavily biased windbags.

(c) How the people criticizing Council loudest for the high tax rate can, in the same letter, urge them to increase it still further by promoting costly ventures such as municipality paid parking lots in their own localities when other business taxpayers have paid for and provided their own, and

(d) What tremendous new projects the present Council has initiated to account for the tax increase. As far as I am aware they have held the line better than any Council in recent years and our higher taxes are to pay for work undertaken by previous Councils.

The awards of public service are few and appreciation of honest and conscientious effort is not one of them. This may not be the best Council any municipality ever had, but it is certainly far from the worst and shows some symptoms of a reassuring resistance to the demands of vocal minority pressure groups.

The next one could be worse. It could include a windbag.

Yours truly,
Joyce M. Mason,
332 McConvey Drive,
Richmond Hill

COMMENDS COUNCILLOR WHILLANS FOR STAND ON TOWN HALL ALTERATIONS

Dear Mr. Editor: It is interesting to note, from last week's Liberal, that at last one member of Richmond Hill's Town Council has come out strongly in favour of taxpayers' money being spent locally, when possible.

Councillor Howard Whillans, who was one of the three members of Council who opposed spending of \$22,000 on renovation of the municipal building on which many thousands were spent a few years ago, has objected to the principle of giving the job of renovation to one contractor without calling for tenders. Taxpayers — whose dollars will pay for the work — will recall that Town Council divided three and three on going ahead with the renovation, with the Mayor giving the green light to the proposition with his casting vote. They will also recall that the job was awarded on a cost plus ten per cent for overhead, plus ten per cent for profits, basis, without tenders being called for. Other members of Council seem to have forgotten three important points or if they remembered them do not appear to have backed up the Whillans protest.

The first is a question: Was this work absolutely necessary under present conditions, especially in a year when taxpayers have been faced with a staggering tax increase? This question is given further point when it is recalled that part of the reason for the renovation is to provide alternate space for an Industrial Commission office — a project which is already costing Richmond Hill taxpayers \$16,000 a year — or over half a mill on their taxes. The question becomes even more pointed when it is recalled that the Council can apparently find neither time or money for the provision of des-

perately needed facilities such as downtown parking space.

The second point is that, in ordinary justice to all those engaged in building or construction activities in Richmond Hill, they should all have had an opportunity to submit a tender.

The third point is that taxpayers, whose dollars will pay for this work, have no assurance that the job is being done at the lowest possible price. Council should have remembered that it was dealing with public — not private — funds and for that reason should have been cautious in its actions.

Flattering — and perhaps a trifle amusing — was the comparison made by Mayor Tomlin with the City of Toronto while Councillor Whillans' protest was being voiced before Council. "They are ruthless and buy where they can buy the cheapest," your newspaper reports the Mayor as saying. So, apparently, Richmond Hill should follow suit in spite of any other considerations, especially the one which might have to do with the giving of work to local citizens. Incidentally, Toronto-worship is not an unknown factor in the municipal building. Mayor Tomlin might be interested to learn that purchases in Toronto are made from that building which can be made right in Richmond Hill at the same price or less. This is not guess-work. It is provable fact.

Members of the Yonge Street Business and Professional Association do not believe that because a business is located in a municipality it is, as a matter of right, entitled to any job or ales which comes up, regardless of price. Taxpayers as a body are entitled to the benefit of "good shopping," just the same as an individual. But they do believe that, all other things being equal, local taxpayers and local suppliers and local labour should get the preference.

It may be asked why this association is taking such a keen interest in matters such as this. The reason is simple — just as simple as it is for the taxpayer in Beverley Acres or Pleasantville or any other section of the town. It has been pointed out on previous occasions that the downtown business people contribute a very large sum to civic finances, many of them paying taxes three times and all of them, even renters, paying taxes twice.

They foresee the situation getting worse before it gets better. They can forecast the effect — a possibly disastrous one — in the town's industrial development and economy. They see vitally necessary work being overlooked to make way for "trills." They do not need a crystal ball to give them a picture of deteriorating assets — a deterioration which will inevitably have an effect on all — repeat all — taxpayers unless facts are faced and common-sense enters into civic government.

F. J. Pickling,
President
Yonge Street Business
And Professional Assn.

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TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL CIVIC HOLIDAY PROCLAMATION

It is hereby proclaimed that
MONDAY, AUGUST 1st, 1960
will be observed as
CIVIC HOLIDAY FOR THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL
Citizens are requested to govern themselves accordingly.

RUSSELL LYNETT
Town Clerk

KEN TOMLIN
Mayor

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- Speaking Personally -

JAPANESE YOUNG PEOPLE

(By Jane Fort Manning)

Since the students rioted in Japan with the end result President Eisenhower cancelled his state visit and Prime Minister Kishi resigned, many of us have been wondering what makes these students tick so violently. Spring is traditionally the time the sap begins to run on most campuses. Many a raid on a girls' dorm and many a cow has been hoisted to the top of a stately steeple, in the spring la! la! in this hemisphere.

It's a tense time in Japan also, and even more so, for it is examination-graduation time. March is the end of the school year, with the new school starting in April. If a pupil expects to go to high school or university, entrance exams must be written and these are highly competitive. Often the rate of applicants to entrants is 20-1.

According to Rodger Talbot who is living in Tokyo, there were only 150 out of an original 1,750 students who were accepted for a particular course at Tokyo University. A friend, who was successful, had been studying hard at home for two years to pass the entrance examinations. Teacher Side of Problem

"A friend, who is a Professor of Political Science at Waseda University, told me the teacher side of the story," said Mr. Talbot. "He says that at Waseda University each of 11 departments admits 600 students a year. This year there were about 75,000 applicants. In this department there were 11,500 writing entrance exams; three papers, making a total of 34,500 papers to mark, in the first set; and 1,200 writing the second set of which 600 shall be admitted."

Serious Students

Apparently students in countries such as Japan are a serious group and a student movement one to be reckoned with. "Not infrequently does it cause concern to the government and to

the authorities who seek to keep order," comments Mr. Talbot.

Recently in Korea a student movement was able to cause the downfall of a strong, police-supported government. In Turkey they caused government changes, too.

The Japanese young people appear to be a most artistic group. Witness the decorative snake-like formations of their militant marching as they demonstrated against the United States-Japan treaty. They are also gay and gregarious, and a caravan tour in a group to trumpet a cause is common.

In some areas, especially among deprived folk, communism appears to be strong and popular in theory.

As Others See Us

It is a disappointment to Mr. Talbot to find little genuine admiration for Canada. The Japanese seem to sense an aloofness to all non-white, non-anglo-saxon peoples whether in regard to immigration, trade, foreign students, etc. "While Canada is famous for her wide borders, she is not too well known for her broad minds and large hearts," the writer complains.

Well, I don't know much about trade between the two countries but I certainly am acquainted with a lot of "made in Japan" products in most of our stores.

But material considerations aside, I wonder if we can't learn something of what self-dedication and application means from the Japanese students. They certainly seem to study harder than most Canadian young people I know.

Of course all of us want our young people to become well-rounded personalities with plenty of time for relaxation and enjoyment, but sometimes I wonder if we're getting across to them that studying, call it self-discipline and self-dedication.