BUREAU

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More Help For Municipalities

Ontario Government budget time is approaching with no real prospect that the municipalities will receive any further aid in offsetting the rising cost of education.

Premier Leslie Frost recently told a delegation from the Association of Ontario Mayors and Reeves "the solution to the admitted difficult financial burdens of the municipalities lies in expanded grants". The delegation asked the provincial cabinet to assume all the costs of elementary and secondary school education. They stressed to the premier that the municipal taxpayer is suffering from "an intolerable burden". Mr. Frost spoke of meetings with the Federal Government and the "hard bargaining" being undertaken to get more direct-tax revenue from the Diefenbaker Government.

Although the province increased grants to education by \$26,000,000 in 1960 to \$231,000,000 the whole crux of the matter is that the province's interpretation of expanded grants and that of the recipients are two different things. The expanded provincial grants

are nothing more than part of the "natural growth" factor. The important thing is that there has been no upward revision in the formulas on which the grants are based. Thus in reality the municipalities are no better off today than they were in the past.

As time goes on the province will have to assume more and more of the cost of education. Education like social welfare directly benefits the whole province and nation. It is not a service like roads, sewers, watermains, police and fire protection that directly benefit the property owner. Education and social welfare are going to have to become a far greater responsibility of the two senior levels of government. The property owner for his part should only be required to support those services that directly benefit his property. The present system of financing education may have been satisfactory 25 years ago but it is certainly inadequate today. It is noteworthy that of every dollar of taxes collected by the Town of Richmond Hill during the past year 63.5 per cent went towards support of our school systems.

Vaughan Acts Wisely

In holding up development on four subdivisions Vaughan Township Council is acting with wisdom. Purpose of the delay is to give opportunity for study of the effect on township assessment and school costs. Deputy-reeve Jesse Bryson says that the commercial assessment which is so badly needed is lacking.

It cannot be denied that, in local municipalities, very few residences are assessed highly enough to provide the taxation which takes care of the cost of services. Deputy-reeve William Stoddart of Aurora recently made the claim that the average residence in his municipality was assessed at around \$3,400. To carry itself by way of taxes, he pointed out, that assessment should be nearer \$7,100. The Aurora figures could be repeated, comparatively, in quite a number of York County municipalities.

It is absolutely vital, in the interests of residential taxpayers, that industrial and commercial assessment be provided to take up the slack. It be-

comes even more vital when it is recognized that industrial areas collect the taxes from the industries within their borders. The "dormitory" municipalities - and Vaughan Township is one of them pay the bills for education of the children of workers in those industries. Moral - the municipality with many residential properties and few commercial and industrial properties suffers or at least its taxpayers do.

There is only one way to safeguard taxpayers and that is to insist that developers of subdivisions, which create above everything else the demand for schools, provide industrial and commercial assessment at the same time. No hardship is created. The subdividers stand to make the profits anyway. It seems only reasonable that they should not be allowed to walk out with those profits, leaving taxpayers holding the

We repeat - Vaughan Township is acting with wisdom and in the interests of taxpayers, present and future.

Zoning Protection Needed

It's implicit in our system of democracy that on occasion the rights of the few have to be sacrificed for the welfare of the many. The public good must at times necessarily supersede the wishes or desires of minorities. But - and this is equally implicit - because at times minorities have to give way in the interest of the welfare of majorities, a great responsibility rests upon all levels of government to protect the rights of those minorities. It must be ensured that whatever sacrifice they are called on to make must be enforced with justice and that it must be, beyond any question whatsoever, necessary. It must be based on realities - not whims.

It seems to this newspaper that this fact is, at times, in danger of being overlooked by planning boards and consultants. Work of a high order is being performed by many of them. Its results will be apparent in the years to come in the shape of better ordered communities.

But in the meantime those property-owners who have certain fundamental rights must not have them carelessly dissipated. Expressed simply, Richmond Hill and many communities like it have newer residents who bought homes believing that they were guaranteed peaceable possession, in keeping

with their liking, through zoning regulations which were in force when they made their purchases. Yet, at the whim of consultants and others whose idealism seems at times to run away from practicality, they find themselves at times forced to fight for what they believed was a guaranteed right.

If a man buys a house knowing that zoning regulations might permit a boiler factory to locate nearby then he has nobody but himself to blame if a boiler manufacturer does build there. But if he buys believing that zoning regulations forbid the locating of such an establishment, then he has a right to expect continuance of the conditions under which he bought. That may be a bit of an oversimplification of the case but it illustrates the point.

At times conditions may be such that some change is inexorably necessary. But, unless it is, property owners should not be subjected to constant fear of change and the necessity to stand continually on guard for their rights, both economic and physical.

Zoning regulations should be imposed only after exceedingly careful study of their present and long-term effects. Once established, they should only be changed after infinitely greater study. Property owners who buy in good faith are entitled to at least that much protection.

Boy Scout Week

Boy Scout Week, February 20 to 26, is Scouting's "Open House Week" when some 300,000 Canadian Boy Scouts and Leaders in more than 11,000 Wolf Cub Packs, Boy Scout Troops and Rover Scout Crews invite the people of their home communities to see what Scouting is and does. Canadian Scouts in Europe, sons of armed forces personnel, will also be celebrating Boy Scout Week.

Sunday, February 26th, is "B.-P. Sunday" when special church services, many of them joint Boy Scout and Girl Guide events, will be held across the country to honour the memory of the Founder of the Scout and Guide movements, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

Highlighting Boy Scout Week will be such events as father and son banquets, "B.-P." birthday parties, window displays, community events including good turns, service club talks, hobby

shows, overnight hikes, winter camping projects, civic proclamations and many

other activities. All members of the Scouting family including the boys themselves, group committees, ladies' auxiliaries, leaders' groups, and Scout Councils from sea to sea have been preparing for Boy Scout Week and it is expected that the 1961 observance will surpass all previous celebrations of this nature.

Many Scout groups will use Boy Scout Week as the occasion to begin earning funds for their contribution to the cost of the new Canadian Scout Headquarters building in Ottawa. The Scouts of Canada are being asked to raise two hundred thousand quarters by their own efforts, not by appeals to the public, toward the \$268,000 still needed towards the total cost of \$850,-000 for their new headquarters.



CANADA FOR ALL... RACES, COLORS, CREEDS

For Parents Only...



... by Nancy Cleaver

TELLING THE TRUTH IS GRADUAL PROCESS

the scandals of rigged quizzes ness of her leg bone structure on U.S. T.V. networks has been She was hospitalized and placed discussed in countless homes, in a double traction for ten days Many parents of school age chil- Last Friday she underwent major dren have used this opportunity surgery for the insertion of rods to stress the importance of in- in each femur. Owing to the loss tegrity. They know from exper- of blood during these operations ience that children of any age she had to have transfusions. We often find the temptation to tell a are happy to report that yesterfalsehood almost too much for day she was feeling more herself

he thinks by so doing he can within three weeks. escape punishment. This is the | She still hopes your interested lie of self-preservation. If a child readers will send her cards: is scared of the consequences of Miss Rhona Mickelson, his act or frightened of his par- T-7. Room 10. ents the command "Tell me the U.S.A.F. Hospital, truth!" doesn't make much im- Lackland A.F.B., pression on him!

Children are sometimes pun- We hope she may be able to ished severely for telling a false- come home around the middle of hood. "How dare you lie to me," February. to tell mother a lie! How can day and night. a horrified tone.

Parents are right in wanting San Antonio, Saturday. their children to be honest. But they must remember that learning to tell the truth is a slow process. This is something which

must be acquired gradually. Children at different ages tell lies for different reasons. They HOSPITAL PROGRAM SHOULD need understanding and help to meet difficult situations with sin- Dear Mr. Editor: cerity. Most of all, they crave I am sure many other readers parents who in their own lives shared with me a feeling of genu-"practise what they preach," and ine satisfaction and relief when as far as possible tell the truth we read the report of the York to each other, to their children County Hospital Commission in and to others. The desire to be your last issue. honest comes from within from | I, like many others, have been a love of truth and conviction that very concerned with the existing

lying is a mistake. are very hard for a young child ty. Frankly, I was pleasantly surto grasp. Little folk love the prised to learn from the report world of make-believe. They lis- that the problem can be solved ten eagerly to stories of fairies by a levy of a mill and a half on and elvestand magic. It is small my taxes. I think the report rewonder that with their imagina- flects careful study and sound tions they sometimes invent a tale planning and should be adopted which mother knows is full of and acted on by County Council fancy and not based on fact! The as quickly as possible. pre-school child's "tall tales" The Hospital situation must

very strong in children as well as or surgical attention a levy of a adults. This is the root of many mill and a half looks pretty small. children's lies about their homes, If my neighbour needs an operatheir families or their exploits, tion and is delayed because of These boastful lies, to get the the lack of hospital accommodacentre of the stage, usually hide tion and dies from cancer as a an inner sense of inadequacy.

dren want parents to think well of | County would welcome the opexpectations are a bit too high. half extra taxes to have adequate This is particularly true in the hospital accommodation. If Counstanding in the school classroom. ty Council thinks it can't raise forward by small lies about the must reduce some other expendi-

tools or not feeling well. who themselves love truth and a "must" in York County. tell it are likely to have boys and I want you to know people are girls who will take after them. much concerned and most anxious The moral strength to tell the that something be done as quicktruth and accept the consequences | ly as possible to get this hospital

(Sherwood Motors)

"Dear Mr. Editor"

RHONA MICKELSON Dear Mr. Editor:

In response to the letter you inserted in your fine paper our little six year old has had a number of cards which have cheered

As you know she is a paraplegic as a result of an unfortunate accident over three years ago. Since that time she has been in and out of the hospital many times for surgery and fractures.

When we wrote you she had been in a double spica cast since last April. It was taken off January 6th but in less than two weeks she had two new fractures, The wide-spread notoriety of one in each leg, due to the thinbut still had to lie on her back. When a child is caught in Barring complications, they hope wrong-doing, often he will lie if to have her up and in her braces

San Antonio, Texas

father says as he advances to- Her doctors and nurses are givwards the shrinking form of his ing her very wonderful care and small son. "You're a naughty girl I come and go all hours of the

you do such a wicked thing," She asked that we let her Mother asks her little daughter in friends know that Capt. Kangaroo phoned her while he was in

Yours sincerely, Winifred Mickelson nee Gillings 162 Kimberly Drive. San Antonio 27, Texas

HAVE TOP PRIORITY

situation and the alarming short-Abstract ideas like "the truth" age of hospital beds in the coun-

should not be classed as real lies. have top priority in considera-Mother or dad should listen tion of our elected councils. Imwith interest and by a comment mediate care in a hospital often let the child realize they know is a matter of life or death. If a the story is a "make-believe" one. member of my family is laying The desire to be important is on a stretcher needing medical result, the paving of a few miles

The lie to "save face" is re- of road looks pretty unimportant lated to the boastful lie. Chil- I think the people of York them and often mother's or dad's portunity of paying a mill and a Children put their best foot the taxes by that much then they teacher being unfair or the head tures and provide for the hospiboy in class cheating, or blame tal costs.

their failures on lack of proper | The Hospital program to provide adequate accommodation to Over the years, the parents care for the ailing and injured is

is fostered in the right home at- program under way.

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MAPLE - RICHMOND HILL

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Dottie Walter

Not long ago, I rang the bell on my old wall phone and heard for the last time, in this district, the familiar words, 'Number Please?' We, on the Maple exchange were being mechanized with a bit of the feeling that the Horse Guards must have had when they gave up their horses.

There was something chummy about a Country Phone. A sort of Friend in Need. If you didn't know a number the operator was happy to help you. You didn't even have to know the names or the initials, let alone the address. You just said: "You know that tall boy with the red hair, who fixes stoves?" And if she didn't one of the other girls did and between them they usually found that it was 'Old Mr. Jenks' boy, on the 7th' and your phone call was duly dispatched. If a line were busy too long, Central would 'listen in' and assure you that it really was Jennie still talking! and the children hadn't left the receiver off the hook.

Now we have Dial Phones . . . and some of the magic has cone. But the Bell Telephone did bequeath me my OLD country phone and it still hangs on the wall, a piece of Early Canadiana, remnant of the past. I now use it for a planter and as the ivy grows over it, the children of my children may marvel that such a contrivance ever existed.

Cheaner By The Dozen

We are on the fringe of a New Frontier of Phones . . . like two cars in every garage, there will be more phones in your future.

I had heard so much about 'Give her a Little Princess' that I thought it was a new kind of doll . . . and I found the Little Princess was a doll . . . a Living Doll of a telephone in as many hues as the spectrum of eyeshadow shades . . . glowing with come-hither lights and designed especially for daughter's 'Sweet Talk'. As far removed from my old wall box as a Clyde is from a Thoroughbred filly.

No longer does the listing in the phone book belong to the Master of the House. But Your Little Princess and Mr. Bell's Little Princess establish a Royal Line with a private listing under Dad's name, while mother talks into an elegant panel recessed in the wall.

In Hamilton, they have completed a test on the Interphone Communication for home use. Results show that phones are nosing out Diamonds as a Girl's Best Friend and are replacing the vanishing domestic helper around the house for a fraction of the cost.

But anick , . . the Metrecal! This new interphone system will let mother lean back on her chaise longue and from her downy pillows answer a knock at the front door or at night if Junior insists on his third drink of water, she can tell him gently and firmly 'NO' via her intercom.

Its possibilities are endless and some of them a hit alarming. While you are out in the kitchen 'fixing the lunch' you can listen in on what the girls back in the living room are saying about your new draperies.

On A Motor Trip, in some mysterious electronic way, your phone can go right along in the car. Although it is comforting to know that all is well at home. the ties that bind may get a little too binding and as you speed along the highway, in a carefree way, out of the dashboard phone may come a little voice: "Mu ther. Mimi has the measles!" Or "Mu . . . ther, the dog knocked over your lamp . . It fell on your figurines". Or "Mu . . . ther, why don't you come home?"

But there is still the sobering influence of the Toll Call to Toronto. Perhans if it were lifted, habit would be forever too ingrained to chat with gav abandon to anybody but Fatons. I think I would still find myself precising my Toronto conversations into three minutes and limiting my remarks to time-saving syllables like 'Ugh-ngh'.

There used to be Delayed Action on long distance calls, while the operator routed through far away exchanges with strange sounding names. It gave you a chance to alert the whole family with "It's Long Distance. It's Uncle John on the Phone!"

The New Push-button Dial-a-Distance has taken away some of the excitement . . . But Mr. Edie, President of the Rell Telephone has promised compensation for this loss. Soon we can have Personal Radius Calling. You will be able to contract for your own telephone snace anywhere in North America. You draw the boundaries within which you are most accustomed to making calls . . . and Presto! If you have made Miami within your chosen boundary, for a flat monthly rate, you can call your True Love there, and talk as loud and long and as often as you please . . . at no extra cost.

All alone by the Telephone used to have a sort of sadness about it. But soon you won't have to sit alone . . . night after night when he says he'll phone. You just dial a special two code number . . . and go merrily out! Your awaited call, if it comes, will catch up with you, wherever you are - at a restaurant - at the library anyplace vou choose. 'Madam . . your call is waiting".

All this is in the realm of electronics and in Illinois, today, this electronic system that will revolutionize our phoning habits, is on trial, and will be coming our way, even sooner than any of us may think. Back Talk

Anybody will talk back for you now. The Answering Services will do anything for you. You can even hire a sultry southern voice to waken you at 7 a.m. . . . or let you dream. They say wives are choosing the voices of their husband's answering service as carefully as they did their secretaries. Do you think it's going to rain? . . . Just dial WA.

5-4811 and a lovely lady will tell you whether to wear your rubbers . . . or brief you on the temperature, the humidity and when the moon sets; and by phone one of the Toronto churches will gladly give you a spiritual message for each day.

In Europe they have gone farther. In Sweden, a phone number will produce a bedtime story for your child while you finish the Stock Page. In Vienna, you can dial for Today's Joke and they won't ask 'Have you heard this one?'

There was talk of Fragrant Phoning, but the company couldn't agree on Tabu or Evening in Paris and willingly handed over the whole business to the antiseptic companies who methodically disinfect the mouthpieces every second week, for nice clean conversation.

The number of Echoes and Sputniks circling the globe will increase. In the future, telephone services will be bounced off these satellites and long distance phoning around the world will be as simultaneous as a

Already there are telephones with inch-sized TV screens! Which may make life very difficult for the poker club boys, who tell the little women they are working late.

But all in all, it's a wonderful world of phones. And as the stock groweth, so the phone book gets bigger and bigger, and the old Victorian ballad, "Hello Central, Give Me Heaven", may find itself on the Hit Parade

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