

The Liberal

An Independent Weekly: Established 1878

Subscription Rate \$3.50 per year; to United States \$4.50; 10c single copy
Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association
J. E. SMITH, Editor and Publisher
W. S. COOK, Managing Editor EDWARD MURPHY, News Editor
"Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

C.P.R.I. CRITICIZED BY READER - HERMAN J. DOST

NOTE: Sometime ago, a letter of criticism was sent to this column by Mr. Dost, a resident of Maple. He took exception to the publicizing of the Canadian Peace Research Institute. He was kind enough to say why!

Herman J. Dost is employed by the Department of Highways as an engineer's assistant. His hobbies are listening to good music, chess, sailing, playing the organ and reading. He follows the world situation very closely.

"To me," he said, "the danger of Communist domination is more realistic than the danger of nuclear war, and I believe that torture is worse than death. Therefore to propose Peace Research is like preparing to repair a house which is on fire."

Mr. Dost said that he had experienced the second World War in Holland where he learned that freedom is worth more than peace. He also said that he found Canada to be a great country and that her standard of living was very high compared to European countries. He had hoped to be safer in Canada in case of war. He knows now that nowhere is anyone safe from nuclear war should it ever come about.

"As long as I can be safe from domination by a foreign power," he declared, "I know that life can be worthwhile."

The points that Mr. Dost wishes to make are as follows:

I object to the CPRI because of its sponsors: (a) the overwhelming majority of its sponsors are even now connected with "peace groups" which I suspect to be Communist fronts, (b) the Institute tries to create the impression that it has the backing of the Canadian Government (a statement to that effect had to be refuted by Mr. Fleming.) (c) the Institute receives favorable publicity from the Communist Press, (d) the Institute has been quite severely criticized by leading educators, scientists, businessmen and newspaper editors, (e) the Institute takes views regarding the Soviet Union in very much the same way that the appeasers did before World War 2 with regard to Germany.

Mr. Dost said that when he heard about CPRI for the first time he was under the impression that the institute intended to investigate the causes of the east-west conflict, and that it would put forward proposals about relieving them. It soon appeared however that the avoidance of war was the primary aim of the institute even if this would mean the sacrifice of freedom. Dr. Alcock directs his criticism at the U.S. for John Glenn's orbital flight but is silent when the USSR breaks international agreements. This kind of one-sided "research" cannot possibly be in the interests of peace let alone freedom.

"To me, Peace is meaningless without freedom," Mr. Dost emphasized. "there is little doubt the people behind the iron curtain have Peace. Nevertheless it is for freedom that they risk their lives. Peace Research serves no useful purpose if it fails to recognize the Communist aim of world domination, or the enslavement of 1,000,000,000 people."

"CPRI does not need to be a failure at all," he said. "If Dr. Alcock would take time to acquaint himself with the real issues behind the Cold War tensions viz (a) the untrustworthiness of the Communists, (b) their insistence on reaching their goal of world domination, (c) the lack of unity of the free nations in halting the Communist advance, (d) the inconsistency of the United Nations regarding colonialism, (e) the apathy and complacency of the free people to preserve the freedom they have, and to stand up for the oppressed."

It is the opinion of Mr. Dost that this institute would attract prominent people from the right as well as from the left if it had a truly objective research not influenced by pre-conceived one world or disarmament conclusions and its conclusions would almost certainly prevent nuclear war possibilities.

"I can see no valid reason," said Mr. Dost, "why a firm and consistent foreign policy would increase the danger of war. On the contrary, we have learned that appeasement is a sure road to war."

Second Thoughts . . .

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

Another second thought on the national anthem topic is that the words: "Oh Canada, We Stand On Guard For Thee", are really more suitable for the Americans to sing.

Richmond Hill's Public Library Board may get the police to recover long-overdue books. Their phone calls to delinquent borrowers have failed to produce returns. . . . So they're going to get a dictaphone?

The Ecumenical Conference in Rome was concerned primarily with Biblical matters; but it also sent plenty of people back to the dictionary.

Pennsylvania's State Athletic Commission announces that it is ready to help world champion Sonny Liston in his rehabilitation. . . . Well — that, and a few million-dollar purses, should do it!

An exception to yesterday's news being not necessarily dead is the "NOW they tell us" warning from NORAD headquarters that North America's air defences need a high-speed interceptor plane — similar to the "Arrow".

"Joe!" Smallwood says he is fed up and bored with his job of Premier of Newfoundland and he has felt like blowing it a dozen times in the last year or two. . . . Except for the second thought that he might be remembered as "Joe Blow".

The president of a transport firm in Watertown charges that several fire brigades watched his buildings go up in flames while they argued over which one would fight the blaze. The obvious humor in the "Waterdown" name is topped by the firemen all belonging to pass-the-buck-et brigades.

A Toronto alderman suggests that the death toll on the city's crosswalks could be reduced by painting the pavement with such slogans for pedestrians as: "Look both ways" or "Watch for cars". . . . Or, better still: "Run, don't read!"

Remember the affair last May of the hair-dyeing Don Jail Guards? A recently released report of the official inquiry into the incident says their dismissal was justified. . . . Wonder if the enquiry was influenced by our remark that all the prisoners might want to have THEIR locks changed, too?

YOUR M.P. REPORTS



By John Addison

This is my first report to the constituents of York North since the opening of Parliament on September 27. For a Member of Parliament taking his seat for the first time, it is both an exciting and a sobering experience.

The color and interest of the formal opening, meeting of the new Members and the tension caused in waiting for non-confidence votes, have surely been exciting. But the unstable condition of our present political situation in Canada and the serious state of our economy at present are indeed sobering.

Canada's Problems

We, on the Opposition side, were disappointed by the Speech from the Throne, as I am sure many members of the Government were. My comments are not made in a partisan sense but rather because we had all looked forward to announcement of strong and specific measures to meet the problems Canada now faces. It may be that legislation yet to be brought down in Parliament will include such measures.

The fact the Government has a minority of Members makes it difficult for the House to settle down to routine business essential to the country. However, the Conservative Government and the Social Credit Party appear to have reached a working position in which the Government can count on the Social Credit vote. If this continues, the Government will be able to survive for some time.

Leaving The Ropes

Meantime, those of us who are learning the ropes as new Members are being relatively quiet as new Members usually are in the British Parliamentary tradition. On our side, Hon. Mr. Pearson, the Opposition leader, has been demonstrating his thorough knowledge of Canada's affairs, of House procedure, and is conducting a hard-working course. There are some unusually able Canadians in the House of Commons representing various parties. In the weeks ahead, Canada may be in for some of the most interesting parliamentary debate it has known for a long time.

Won't Stall Business

It is no part of the Opposition's intention to stall Government business or to impede the Government in carrying out its proper functions. It is, of course, the duty of any Opposition to represent the people who elected its members and to oppose matters which are considered not for the good of the country.

Therefore, we will support constructive measures aimed at the improvement in Canada's general situation.

I am putting several questions on the Order Paper and plan to raise other questions in the House that affect this constituency and the country generally. This is one of the constitutional means provided by our system of government to bring matters to the attention of the Government and the public for action and attention.

Question Period

As you know, there is a daily question hour in the House of Commons so if you have any matters of urgent or national importance which can be asked then, please send them along.

Biggest Constituency

You may be interested to know that my seatmate in the House is Mrs. Tibbie Hardy (L. Mackenzie River) whose constituency covers the Northwest Territories. Her riding is almost half as big geographically as all of the rest of Canada. She is the widow of Mervyn A. Hardy, who was the Liberal M.P. before his untimely death and one of the most respected men in Parliament.

If you wish to write about any matter, please do so. My office is 267 in the West Block, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont.

John Addison
Member of Parliament
for York North

Farm Ponds Tour Slated For Oct. 20

A special tour for landowners and families interested in developing farm lands has been scheduled for October 20 by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

The tour will visit Glen Hafy conservation area, Palgrave Forest, Wildlife Conservation Area, and local private ponds. Representatives of the Metro Authority, Ontario Water Resources Commission, and the Ontario Department of Agriculture, will discuss pond construction, fish management, weed control, water use and treatment regulations.

Starting time of the tour is 11 a.m. People wishing to take part are asked to meet at the Glen Hafy Conservation Area and bring a lunch.

Candidate Saunders Comments About Town Council Service

(By Robert Saunders)

I wish to use the medium of the local press to present my views and my opinions on the problems of municipal government and administration. A candidate for council has limited means of familiarizing the electorate with his abilities or qualifications. He may, as I intend to attend club and association meetings as a speaker, he may, if time permits, visit each household in his ward. I feel however that the most effective medium is the hometown newspaper and for this reason I am asking "The Liberal" to publish this article.

A recent editorial in the Newmarket "Era and Express" summarizes with the question, "Where Are The Young Candidates?" The text of the editorial clearly indicates that the writer recognizes the need for "new blood" or more specifically young aggressive leadership in our local councils. The need is evident but who will fill the need and why are young, capable men reluctant to stand for public office?

The answer is simple enough. They are frightened away. Young men who are interested or become interested in municipal government invariably discuss their interests with either incumbent

councillors or with ex-councillors and are generally told that they must be prepared to relinquish a tremendous amount of personal time if they are successful candidates.

From my experience in municipal administration I would say that an efficient and well organized council can conduct the affairs of its municipality through one council meeting and an absolute maximum of two committee meetings a week. Any council requiring its members to devote more time than this to the business of the municipality is not only legislating and over-seeing but as well trying to do the work or more directly interfering in the work of the appointed officials, namely the administration of the departments.

The role of the elected representatives in departmental administration should ideally be restricted to general direction and supervision. The council is concerned with all of a municipality's activities. The determination of the broad general policies to be followed by the administration agencies of the municipality is the major function of the elected representatives. This is an exercise of legislative power. The complementary function

is the overseeing of the administration, but not in such a degree as to become hopelessly involved in the administrative details. The council should never become immersed in a labyrinth of trifling affairs which only a competent administrator can dispose of efficiently. The council's primary duty is to decide policy, not to execute it. The latter is an administrative function. It would appear to me that this is one of the major weaknesses existing in our councils today and the reason why councillors are required to devote so much time to the affairs of the municipality.

A glaring example of this weakness exists both here in Richmond Hill and in the Town of Newmarket when the electorate has been led to believe that the office of MAYOR is a full-time job. It should not be unless the mayors of these municipalities have taken it upon themselves to assume responsibilities justly and properly associated with the appointed officials or in other words have gone beyond the complementary function of an elected official.

(Mr. Robert Saunders resides on Benson Ave. He is a candidate for Richmond Hill Town Council in the December voting.)

"Dear Mr. Editor"

HIGH SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS

Dear Mr. Editor,
A recent issue of "The Liberal" carried a news item in which Superintendent Sam Chapman of the York District High School Board says that conformity in the matter of high school texts would not be a desirable thing. Why?

In the matter of cost, which he mentions, the books of many publishers are all "possible", and so no estimate of the number that will be needed in any one year is likely to be accurate. Competitive publishing has made the initial cost of the text much higher than would be the case with an authorized text. To have any possible sale for last year's text depends on the decision of the teachers of that subject the following year. And add to these two cost factors the further situation which affects an increasing number of students to move in the middle of a school year means anything from a half to a whole new set of texts. Add to this the confusion of not only a new teacher but a new text for the student, and you can imagine how devastating the results can well be.

Let us assume that there are any number of adequate texts available. It will still need more than the late date of its innovation to justify the cost and the confusion which present practise has given us. I give it as my considered opinion that the Department of Education in

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Have You Read These?

(Book reviews from the Richmond Hill Public Library)

Politics: Canada. recent readings by Paul Fox. (McGraw) This collection of readings on the Canadian political scene today, approaches its subject from a human interest point of view which provides fascinating and informative reading. Selections were chosen from governmental publications, critics Pierre Berton and Sidney Katz, and from the politicians John Diefenbaker and Lester B. Pearson.

This is a well rounded anthology covering many aspects of our current political scene, as well as the executive and administrative parts of government.

Ripples from Iceland, by Amalia Lindal (Norton). The author has lived in Iceland since 1949, when she went there with her husband, a young Icelandic chemical engineer. She relates her early impressions and some of the difficulties she had in adjusting to unfamiliar conditions and strange customs. She also discusses various aspects of Icelandic history and life, giving a pleasantly informal and informative picture of her adopted country.

Hornblower and the Hoisbur, by Cecil Scott Forester (Joseph). Adding another chapter to the Hornblower saga the author relates his hero's adventures as a young naval officer aboard his first command, the sloop-of-war H.M.S. Hoisbur. Hornblower gathers information on French naval activities, leads a landing party attack on a French signal station, and participates in several battles at sea. A stirring tale by this well-known author of sea yarns.

The Time of Secrets, by Marcel Pagnol. (Doubleday). Those who enjoyed Pagnol's delightful recollections of his childhood in The Days Were Too Short will find equal pleasure in these memories of his eleventh and twelfth years. Pagnol is gifted with total recall, but he embellishes the simple incidents of his boyhood with a contagious humour. He writes with nostalgic candor of his family, more of his vacation-time trapping, and his sudden awareness of female charm.

Toronto should again adopt a fine list of supplementary texts which might be made available to the student through the library. Let us avail ourselves of the wealth of material and teacher experience in

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Federal Approach To Municipal Problems

Canada's method of financing both local improvements and education by means of property taxation and a loose system of government grants is developing into the only major "new" issue for the next Federal election campaign.

Four national party spokesmen — Finance Minister Nowlan, Liberal Leader Lester B. Pearson, Social Credit Leader Robert Thompson and NDP Leader T. C. Douglas — have outlined their positions on municipal development problems in a "state-of-the-nation debate" published in the current issue of Civic Administration Magazine.

The party leaders, discussing the merits of a seven-point government reform program advocated by the magazine, outline some interesting policy innovations. Some of these could lead to a reduction in the municipal tax burden carried by homeowners.

In a statement headlined "We've done more than the others . . ." the new finance minister reviews the Conservative record in negotiating new bases for tax-sharing and grants. He promises continuing co-operation to "promote the well-being of provincial and municipal administration."

The opposition parties say this is not enough. They call for an early federal-provincial-municipal conference to reassign total taxation income. This would involve establishment of a new system of national development priorities. If elected, the Liberals, Social Credit and the New Democrats would each create their own version of a municipal development bank to provide low-interest

capital for improvements. A new system of financing education would be devised in co-operation with the provinces and municipalities.

Mr. Pearson, reviewing shortcomings in Canada's three-level system of government, says a new national plan is needed for municipal development. He calls for massive federal involvement in a "great co-operative attack" on air and water pollution, traffic congestion, acres of urban slums. He promises long-term loans for the development of municipal transit systems, measures to end competition between governments in their borrowing operations.

Social Credit advocates a new ministry of Federal-Provincial Affairs and low-interest loans ("which could well be less than two percent") for financing municipal and inter-municipal services.

The New Democrats offer free education at all levels and direct federal aid for inter-city highways, municipal transportation, urban renewal and town planning. They would organize federal-provincial-municipal conferences on a continuing basis to solve problems of municipal credit.

Mr. Nowlan, promising "fair and just application" of federal resources to local problems, reviews the Progressive Conservative record:

● Unconditional grants to the provinces increased from 552.7 million in 1956-57 to an estimated \$980.5 million in 1962-63.

● Conditional grants and shared-cost programs increased from \$111 million in 1956-57 to an estimated \$749.2 million in 1962-63.