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### Need Better Attendance

Since the last provincial election in September 1963 Premier John Robarts has been under pressure from his own Tory backbenchers to grant the members of the Legislature a substantial pay increase.

At a caucus meeting of 50 members of his own party it was suggested a \$3,000 pay increase be granted. At present the members receive \$7,000 a year of which \$2,000 is tax free. This latest raise would bring their salary to \$10,000. The Legislature voted itself a raise in members' pay following the 1951, 1955 and 1959 general elections. Rumors have suggested that Premier Robarts will acquiesce to the members' demands and grant them a salary increase during the current session of the Legislature.

We hear the same reasons being put forth justifying a pay increase for our provincial members as we heard for their federal counterparts when Prime Minister Pearson raised their salaries from \$10,000 to \$18,000 following the 1963 federal election. It was said a pay increase would result in better representation and

greater attention by our members to the demands of their office.

Attendance at both Ottawa and Queen's Park has been far from satisfactory. Absenteeism is a regular occurrence. Yet these are the very same members in both cases who were elected to transact our public business and in turn to be paid for their efforts out of our tax monies.

Absenteeism is as prevalent during the current session of the Legislature as it has been during past sessions. On February 5 out of a total of 108 members in the Legislature only 42 were in their seats. One week later attendance was somewhat better with 62 present. A breakdown by party of those present included 43 Conservatives, 13 Liberals and six New Democrats.

Before Premier Robarts even considers the demands for more money he should insist that the members of all parties improve their attendance. There is no bigger or more important business than running the affairs of this province, and barring illness or unforeseen circumstances every member should be in his seat during each day of the session.



"CAREFUL NOW, BOY..."

**NEWS ITEM**  
 Last May Richmond Hill and Vaughan Councils agreed to share the cost of extending the street lights on the Maple Side-Hill and Vaughan can shortly road from the town limits to the York Central Hospital. To date the lights have not been in-

stalled. Town Councillor Lois Hancey again raised the issue at a recent meeting of council. It is to be hoped Richmond Hill and Vaughan can shortly agree on the details so that the work can be completed this year.

### Second Thoughts

BY GEORGE MAYES

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead

The juvenile world was rocked last week by news of the marriage of the Beatles' two-beat banger, Ringo Starr. His bride is an 18-year-old hairdresser . . . which, we suppose—with British haircuts—is the modern version of "what every young girl should know".

When we see the lengths to which the United States is willing to go to protect democracy in South Viet Nam we can't resist the second thought that a good Communist organizer is needed in Selma, Alabama.

The justice department is reported to be considering the proposal that the 7500 inmates of Canada's federal prisons be given a shorter work week, 20% of outside pay-scale, and a limited participation in labour unions. . . . Meanwhile, Toronto's ITU strikers seem to have gone beyond considering a not-too-limited participation in criminality.

And the printers, who are on strike against automation in their work, are not against using auto-mation in their picketing—tying up down-town traffic with 100-car motorcades during rush hours. A report on the latest instance says police were "keeping quiet" about why they were taking (slow) motion pictures of the tie-up. This, of course, should please the printers who, being against progress, would approve (Hah!) silent movies.

Speaking of slow motion—Last week-end's cabinet "shuffle", as announced by the Prime Minister, seemed, from here, to be more of a raffle.

Quebec separatist Marcel Chaput says he is almost destitute. Three years ago when he left his government job to form his separatist party he had a house, car, security, savings and a future. Now he has nothing. He has lost the party leadership and no one will hire him . . . Well, this news at least finally settles how his name should be pronounced: Chaput is Kaput!

#### The "No Comment" Dept.—

Big Daddy Gardiner, who — with his various directorates and business interests—needs money like Pearson needs problems, has been appointed to the \$8,000 per year sinecure of Metro's representative on the Toronto Hydro Commission. Friendly Fred's first motion was for a get-tough policy with Hydro's slow-pay customers.

Toronto's Young Liberals met last Saturday to copy the Conservatives with a thinker's conference. This is a trend that could lead to trouble. Leaving their thinking to a Think-Fest, as they call them, could result in a thinking fast between fests.

Conditions at Metro's Greenacres home for the aged at Newmarket were being questioned again last week. It seems that every so often some of the city-dwelling children of the old folks marooned up there get to feeling that their parents are being neglected.

Testimony in the Dorion Enquiry passed the million-word mark sometime last week. Apparently Quebec's Chief Justice is getting the truth, the whole truth . . . And NOTHING but the truth?

It's a good thing to see our MMPP's taking such an interest in conditions in Ontario's penal institutions. But we can't help but wonder why these MaleMPP's must do most of their investigating at the Mercer Reformatory for girls.

#### Question Of The Week—

Do the South Vietnamese really WANT to be saved from Communism?

### Flowers Bloom In Winter For Oak Ridges Man

While the winter may be much too long for some people, it hardly even exists, so far as an Oak Ridges man is concerned.

He is Rudy H. Arlt, landscape contractor, who finds that neither heat, sleet, rain nor snow is going to stay him from putting in lush gardens complete with flowers and fern whenever the call goes out.

And the calls do go out. In Mr. Arlt's case, from far-away Halifax, where a new apartment project enlisted the help of a landscape architects firm in Don Mills, with whom he is associated, to help lay out their gardens.

As the call came in the middle of December and couldn't be put off until spring, Mr. Arlt and a crew of three packed 800 plants and a suitable amount of sod aboard a "piggy back" trailer and journeyed to Halifax.

They also took along a few brooms, as the whole area in which they were working, had to be swept clean of the heavy snow that covered it.

When it was clear, they softened the ground with gas-burning heaters, and then dug up the frozen area and put down the new topsoil.

With that completed, it was simply a matter of planting the weeping elms, junipers and evergreens and arranging them in a fashion that made it look as if they had been there from the beginning.

Mr. Arlt doesn't expect them

all to survive, but at least the project will be well underway and to tend to his winter project when spring rolls around and plants around the pool. Only this time, he won't be Mr. Arlt, who is going back both taking the brooms.

## The Richmond Theatre

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### Let's Go Back To One Day Voting

In last year's municipal elections only 36.6% of the eligible voters in Markham Township showed up at the polls. This percentage was a decided improvement over the 1963 showing when only 30% of those eligible cast their ballots.

The same voting lethargy was apparent in Richmond Hill when only 37.75% of eligible voters visited the polling stations, even with two very serious questions to be decided—the two-year term of office for council and school board and fluoridation of the town water supply. However, in April 1962 62.45% cast their ballots in a liquor referendum.

Vaughan Township voters responded to an intensive get-out-the-vote campaign when 42.7% of eligible voters exercised their franchise. This showed great improvement from the 31.5% who voted in the previous election in 1962.

Alfred Cowling, MLA for High Park, is one of thousands of people who are very concerned with the apathy of electors in Ontario. At a meeting of his riding's Young Progressive Conservative Association he suggested that if all Ontario communities held their civic elections on the same day they might get a better turnout of voters. This would enable newspapers to make a concerted effort to persuade the public to exercise their dearly bought right to vote, he claimed.

Until about a quarter of a century ago all municipal elections were held on the same day, the first Monday in January, with nominations being held ten days previously on a Friday. The City of Toronto was the exception, holding its annual election on New Year's Day. In an effort to increase interest in municipal politics and halt a steady dwindling in the number of voters, legislation was passed which permitted each municipality to set its own nomination and election days during a six week period from the last week in November to the first week in January.

That this permissive legislation has failed in its purpose is quite evident in the percentages quoted at the beginning of this editorial (this situation is not peculiar to this area but will be found, with isolated exceptions, throughout the province).

Perhaps a return to the former practice, as advocated by Mr. Cowling, would have a beneficial effect. Particularly in this district if elections were held on the same day as the City of Toronto beneficial results could be expected. Because we are dormitory communities with a large percentage of our working force employed in the city, interest in its elections is much more apparent than interest in local municipal elections. Perhaps some of this interest would rub off if voting took place on the same day.

#### Flashback

### In Years Gone By

Items gleaned from files of "The Liberal", the home paper of this district since 1878.

We are all familiar with the quotation "Women's work is never done," but few know that it comes from a much longer poem. This was published in the July 21, 1887, issue of "The Liberal". Unfortunately the author's name was not included.

Men work from morn till set of sun.  
 They do.  
 But woman's work is never done.  
 Quite true.  
 For when one task she's finished,  
 Something's found.  
 Awaiting a beginning,  
 All year round.  
 Whether it be  
 To draw the tea,  
 Or bake the bread,  
 Or make the bed,  
 Or ply the broom,  
 Or dust the room,  
 Or floor to scrub,  
 Or knives to rub,  
 Or table to set,  
 Or meals to get,  
 Or shelves to scan,  
 Or fruit to can,  
 Or seeds to sow,  
 Or plants to grow,  
 Or linens to bleach,  
 Or lessons to teach,  
 Or butter to churn,  
 Or jackets to turn,  
 Or polish glass,  
 Or plate of brass,  
 Or clothes to mend,  
 Or children to tend,  
 Or notes to write—  
 These cares propel your barks o'er household seas  
 In sunny heavens where you rest at ease,  
 And, one word more, don't you forget it please,  
 The poem is followed by household hints which to a present day reader would guar-

antee that woman's work is never done; embroidered linen sheets to be brought up over the pillow in place of the sham were reported to be the latest thing; pretty washcloths made from damask or moccie cloth, the edge ravelled to form a fringe and a row of cat-stitching in red cotton at the top of the fringe; kerosene used to soften boots and shoes, and to make tea kettles and furniture as bright as new if thoroughly rubbed in and polished. Mixed with blue ointment in equal proportions it was claimed to be an unfailing bug remedy. (Ed. note: probably head lice.)

When Horace Greeley was asked to lecture on women's rights he took as his text: "A woman has a right to do what she wants to and what she can." Forecasting that it will not be many years before the rusty padlock of prejudice would be wrenched from the door of every honorable calling, the 1887 paper noted that already telegraphing, telephoning, silk-raising, and typewriting had opened new channels for female industry. It also noted that in the cities needlewomen can obtain five or six cents each for making a shirt, often weaving their own shrouds as they bend over their ill-remunerated tasks.

### Cold Commuters

Commuters Laundermats are for washing clothes. They're also for watching streetcars.

Thanks to the civic-minded laundermat owner, citizens of suburban Brookline, Mass., are no longer among the shivering commuters.

Early-morning subway riders discovered that a laundermat across from a local subway stop was open for cleaning at a sunrise hour. Even though it meant craning their necks around other buildings to watch for the trains, commuters pre-

ferred the warmth of the cozy laundermat to the usual "open-air" waiting area.

Instead of closing the shop to them, the laundermat owner rose to the occasion. He decided to aid the "neck cranes."

Now commuters wait in comfort keeping their eye on a mirror which has been carefully placed to frame streetcars coming down the track from the opposite direction.

A hand-lettered sign above reads: "Use this mirror to watch for your MTA cars." — Christian Science Monitor.