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Strikes In Public Sector

In the report of the Rand Commission on Labor Disputes made public in the early part of September, Commissioner Ivan Rand strongly suggested that strikes in the public sector of the economy be prohibited. He felt there is no justification for strikes in the field of public employment and generally speaking arbitration has proved reasonably satisfactory and the fact that it is compulsory does not detract from the quality of its results.

To those who cavalierly reject any such limitation on individual or collective action Commissioner Rand wrote "What is lacking in their outlook is an adequate appreciation of the structure of their society; the powerful forces that operate in its functioning, and the problems arising from its tensions."

"A strike in the public service is directed against the public," the commissioner said. It is obviously open to the action of that public to withhold its benefits from or its protection of the violator. The dependence of the public upon these minorities must at all costs be minimized. Public employees must expect to have their repudiation of responsibility met by effective penalties, the report said.

It continues: The phenomenon in public service that is becoming clearer each day is the commitment of vital public functions to a rapidly increasing number of small minorities and the equally rapid expansion of community dependence on their faithful performance.

"When individuals or groups voluntarily undertake these responsibilities they enter a field of virtual monopoly; the community cannot secure itself against rejection of those responsibilities by maintaining a standby force which itself would be open to a similar freedom of action. Our society is built within a structure of interwoven trust, credit and obligation; good faith and reliability are essential to its mode of living; and when these obligations are repudiated confusion may be the harb-

inger of social disintegration." The commissioner stresses that claims of public employees, although of importance to the individual, have an impact on the public interest out of all proportion to that importance, "and their consequences to increasingly larger segments of the community soon become intolerable."

Commissioner Rand's comments are particularly timely for Canadians who just recently came through a national postal strike. Strikes in the public sector — hospitals, transportation, utilities, police, fire, teachers, sanitation and civil servants—means a well organized and disciplined minority can seriously disrupt life for the vast majority of our citizens. This is especially true in the highly complex industrial society we live in today. Commissioner Rand said the object of such a strike is to, "directly coerce concessions from the public through taxation by the deliberate throwing into disorder of an essential public function." Essential services are an auxiliary to government and even a short interruption wrecks its consequences on the entire community.

That individuals employed in the public sector should receive remuneration suitable to their function is not questioned. The question then is how to minimize conflict and create an equitable balance between those employed in essential services and the government. Commissioner Rand suggests the creation of an 11 member industrial tribunal with wide powers to regulate labor-management disputes.

Commissioner Rand believes the public is given little or no precise information on the facts of the issues in the public sector, "although the public may be the victim of a virtual strangling of its social and economic life."

He comments: "It is the public ultimately that foots the bills for these interrupted services... and it is entitled to be informed on what the disruption is all about."

Help Those In Hell

Hell on earth is a place called Biafra, formerly the eastern region of Nigeria.

The 14-month civil war in Nigeria has led to conditions so grim that starvation and disease is taking the lives of 50,000 persons a week in Biafra — almost the combined populations of Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham Townships.

This is the estimate of Dr. Edward Johnson, secretary of the overseas mission of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, who has recently returned from a spell in Biafra.

The figure, appalling as it is, tells only part of the gruesome story of death, destruction and suffering in the once proud country of Nigeria.

It does not include the people who are dying in other war ravaged areas of Nigeria, where famine and disease are almost as widespread as in embattled Biafra.

It does not include casualties in the fighting of a war that is one of the bloodiest in a particularly violent century.

It does not tell of the untold numbers of chronically undernourished or disease-ridden people who hang onto life by a thread and for whom there is no salvation.

It does not tell of the devastation of farm land and the destruction of towns and villages that has led to the establishment of 700 refugee camps for the homeless in Biafra.

Something of the enormity of the Biafran situation is reflected in the statement in a German news magazine that "There will be no more children under the age of 15 left, by the end of the year if the blockade (of Biafra) continues."

It was in recognition of the immensity of the relief problem in Nigeria and Biafra that an unprecedented joint campaign — the Nigeria/Biafra Relief Fund of Canada — was set up August 10.

Coming together for the first time to raise funds for relief of suffering were: the Canadian Catholic Organization for the Development and Peace, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Canadian Red Cross, the Canadian Save the Children Fund, UNICEF, and Oxfam of Canada.

Donations to the fund are being made through churches, the participating aid agencies, branches of Canadian banks, and directly to the fund at 95 Wellesley Street East, Toronto. The money collected is devoted mainly to relief work being

carried out in Nigeria by the International Red Cross, the World Council of Churches and Caritas, the Catholic relief organization. Smaller proportions go to other active relief agencies.

The fund got off to a slow start says Richard Gluns of Canadian Red Cross. By August 30 it had received \$49,000. By the first weekend in September it was hoped this would be swelled to \$100,000.

"There has been a certain amount of public apathy to the fund," says Mr. Gluns, "brought about by the problem of delivery of relief supplies." He explains that people hesitate to donate money for supplies they think may not be delivered at all.

(For political and military reasons the Nigerian and Biafran authorities have been placing stumbling blocks in the way of deliveries into that part of Biafra under Biafran control.)

The difficulties being encountered in delivering aid, should not however discourage people from giving freely to the Canadian relief fund.

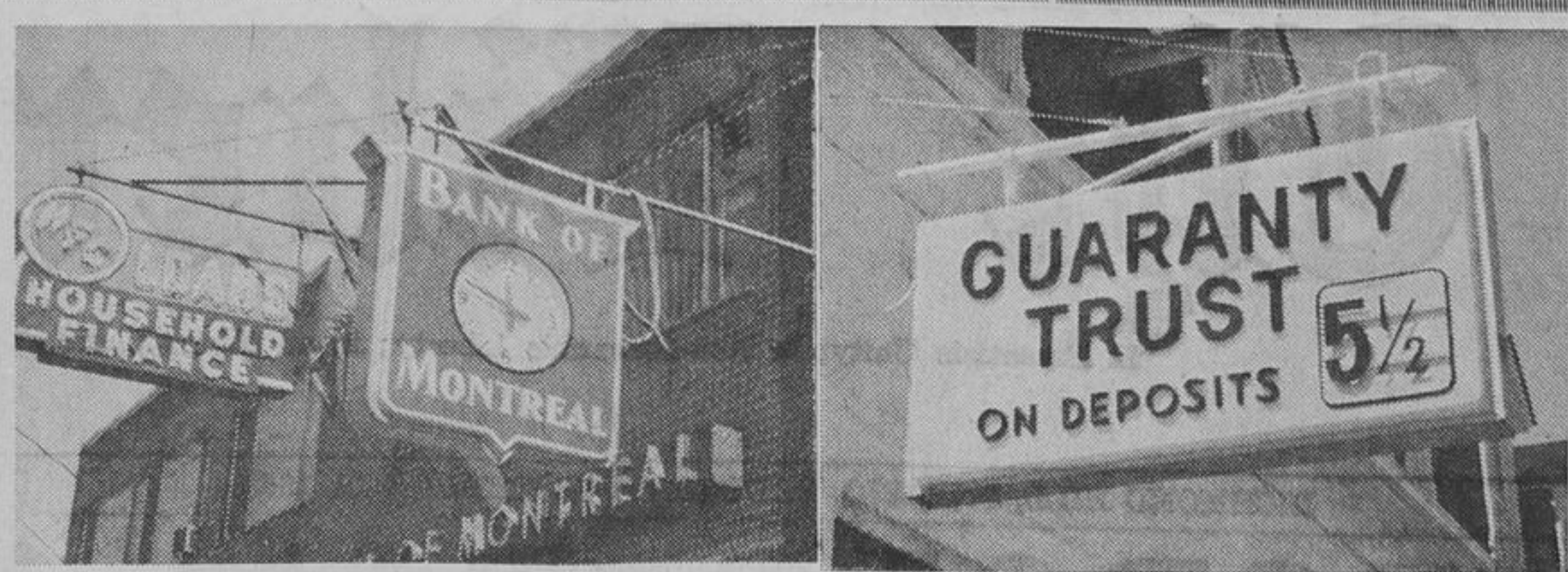
The Red Cross has now suspended all mercy flights to that part of Biafra held by Biafran forces. (About one-sixth of the original secessionist state). However, supplies are going to Lagos, capital of Nigeria and being moved from there by the Red Cross to areas in the country to which it has access, including the parts of Biafra under federal Nigerian control.

With Nigerian forces advancing on the war front the end of the conflict seems in sight. Once the war is over, relief aid will flow freely to all stricken areas of the country.

There is no limit on the amount of money that can be used for relief in a country as catastrophically devastated as Biafra. Moreover, the need for relief will last for a very long time to come — at least a year after the end of the war, Mr. Gluns feels.

Contributions to the Canadian joint relief fund therefore will not be wasted. No person who wishes to help should be held back by the misapprehension that his money or part of it, will merely go down the drain.

Biafra, and parts of Nigeria, need all the help that can be mustered in countries of goodwill, particularly from peoples in the few countries, like Canada, that have the good fortune to be both peaceful and prosperous.



Sign Simplicity Is Significant

By DYLAN CROSS

With advertising playing such a key role in our society it is small wonder that Canadians are so sign conscious. Go down the main street of any Canadian city or town and you will be confronted at every turn with signs of all kinds. These signs provide information of some sort, or else seek to draw the public's attention in some way to a business or a product.

It is unfortunately true that many people seem to think that the best way of doing the latter is with signs that are glaringly bright, bold and brash. Signs that almost demand to be noticed.

The result is that too many signs violate good taste and are nothing better than eyesores, no matter what useful economic purpose they might play. Moreover, they may not be doing the job of attracting and informing people very efficiently, for ugly signs can repel rather than attract.

Fortunately there is a trend away from the elaborate, garish signs of grotesque design that draw their inspiration from Times Square and are such unpleas-

ant features of urban life. The simple, straightforward sign that proclaims its message modestly and tastefully is becoming more in evidence.

As a guide to what constitutes an appealing, effective sign, the Lake George Park Commission in New York State recently issued a booklet on the subject.

GIMMICKS

First the publication deals with bad signs, and in this regard is particularly critical of those that use gimmicks to get attention. These are signs that try to catch the eye through the use of arrows, stars, flashing lights, spinning devices, etc.

Also high on the list of eyesores are signs that use large, vulgar lettering, and signs that look cheap because of their loud colors or because of the material of which they are made. Mentioned as two prime examples of cheap-looking material are corrugated plastic of the type often used for backgrounds, and large, pre-formed plastic letters, often seen on gas stations and supermarkets.

The booklet points out that signs that try to carry that much information as pos-

sible usually defeat their own purpose since their message is often obscured in the clutter of letters, and because passers-by rarely bother to read all anyway.

Overdesign is another bad feature of many signs, it is noted. Overdesigned signs tend to draw attention to the sign rather than to the message.

People who want well-designed signs are advised to seek the services of professional designers, but if this is not financially feasible it is recommended they follow certain basic rules laid down in the booklet. These are outlined briefly below.

SIMPLICITY

Simplicity should be the keynote in all signs. Simple forms such as rectangles and squares are recommended. Bizarre shapes and pseudo-Tudor, Colonial and other "quaint" signs should be avoided. The supports of a sign are important. They should not be too thick and should not detract from a sign. Simple iron rails and square wooden legs are particularly recommended for supports.

Lettering is the most important aspect of a sign, the

booklet states. Whatever form of lettering is chosen from the many varieties available, it should be easily legible, clear and not too large.

In decoration, "corny" representations of human figures and faces and of products like motor cars, speedboats and so on, should not be used. Only simple direct symbols are advocated for decorative use.

Colors should not be garish and should harmonize with the surroundings. The colors used for lettering should not clash with those in the background of the sign.

The illumination of signs is recommended only if the lights are not made part of the sign. Preferably they should be hidden from sight where they cannot draw attention away from the sign's message.

The positioning of a sign is important if it is to have maximum effect on people. Above all, it should not dominate its surroundings, and should be situated where it can be easily seen.

The simplest material produces the best signs. Highly recommended are wood, metal or smooth plastic.



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

Bazaars Are Wonderful

One of the most traditional features of the fall season is the custom of holding bazaars. Bazaars are truly wonderful occasions. They are showcases for the skill and talents of homemakers. Just about every household art is highlighted during these significant events.

One of the most attractive aspects of the bazaar is the originality of the articles. The creative talents of many women are used to produce new items and refurbish old ideas, to create something no one has ever thought of before as well as to put new and original touches on such ordinary things as aprons.

There is such a variety, from handmade clothes, loaves of bread, house plants to "white elephants"; from knitted sweaters to children's toys, from aprons, party and practical, to quilts so beautiful that they end up as bed spreads.

Quality items, handcrafts, cakes, pies, homemade candy, decorated soap, delicious preserves, sparkling Christmas decorations, embroidered dish towels and dainty doll clothes all are a part of the traditional church bazaar.

BAZAARS ARE FUN

No occasion brings more delight to the members of church or community than a beautifully presented bazaar, with articles and activities to please everyone. The fish pond is always exciting for the children. The afternoon tea served at most bazaars is a wonderful opportunity for pleasant socializing.

What fun to choose from tastefully displayed, attractive, worthwhile articles! What fun to find just the right presents at just the right prices!

What fun to buy something you have wanted or needed and at the same time support your hard-working women's organizations!

Some bazaars have interesting themes and booths with tables and wall displays keyed to the theme.

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In the Spotlight



By JOAN HAROLD

The midnight oil burns almost nightly at the Curtain Club these days as the cast of "The Odd Couple", under the direction of Gerry Crack, prepare for their October 4 opening of this side-splitting comedy that has had audiences rolling in the aisles since it opened on Broadway three years ago.

With a director who knows how to please an audience and a cast headed by those two Curtain Club veterans, Neville Cross and Dennis Stainer, this show promises to be an excellent choice with which to open the season.

You might even notice vibrations on Yonge Street — caused by backstage workers attempting to control their mirth as Neville Cross (Walter Matthau in the movie) takes aim with a plate of spaghetti and sends it hurtling across the stage to land (he hopes) in exactly the same spot nightly!

That genius of comedy Neil Simon (he also wrote "Barefoot in the Park" which will be presented by the Curtain Club next spring), when he wrote "The Odd Couple" for the Broadway stage would have found even his fertile imagination taxed if he had tried to visualize his production on a stage with a sixteen foot proscenium, but it is no deterrent to the Curtain Club which is quite used to meeting this challenge.

In Katherine Ross Robinson they have a set designer of great talent and imagination, who never fails to design a set that is right for the play, original, and making the most of every inch of the acting area.

Katherine, or Kit, as she is called by her friends, is a fine artist who trained at the Ontario College of Art. She now specializes in pastel portraits, which she works on at home — a charming apartment in a row of town houses on Clarence Square, that were once used as army officers' quarters in the 1800's.

Kit met her husband Chiq, also a trained artist who works on sets for the CBC (remember the great production of "Jekyll and Hyde" that was filmed in

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Don Deacon Reports

MLA York Centre

Tax Committee Recommends Changes Basic Shelter Grant, Sales Tax, Defines Working Farm

The gap of many weeks since I last reported to you is not an indication of disinterest or of an idle summer vacation but rather of a strenuous six-week period following the prorogation of the Legislature in mid July as a member of the Select Committee on Taxation.

We had been appointed in mid June to study the three volume report of the Ontario Committee on Taxation (better known as the Smith Committee) prepared over a four year period and to make our recommendation by September 17.

In addition to hearing over 50 delegations in morning meetings while the Legislature was still in session, we travelled to Fort William, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, Sudbury, Ottawa, Kingston, Peterboro, Windsor, London, Hamilton and St. Catharines to hear another 50.

We also read over 300 briefs to give us a reasonably complete public viewpoint and perspective of the 347 recommendations made in the 1,300 pages of the Smith Report. It was a very intensive course in taxation for the 13 members (as well as the staff of nine).

Since our report will have been published when you see this report you will know we have made two or three recommendations which break new ground including a major change in the basic shelter grant and sales tax exemptions. We have also provided a definition of a working farm. I hope you get the impression our work was worthwhile because I personally have never participated for such an intensive period in a more dedicated and better informed group.

I wish to congratulate the Kleinburg Festival Committee for a particularly fine community project well planned and well executed. Unfortunately I had to miss it and some other

events due to the tax work, the Boy Scout Jamboree and other prior commitments.

Mrs. Deacon and I are now taking a three-week vacation during which period Mrs. Stephenson at 894-5837 or Box 32 Richmond Hill will endeavor to assist you.

Canada Permanent Is Essay Contest Sponsor

All secondary school students in Canada can win cash awards of from \$100 to a grand prize of \$1,000 in a student writing contest being sponsored by Canada Permanent Trust.

Students can write on any subject that interests them. Manuscripts must be about 2,500 words, and can be in either English or French.

The contest closes November 1, and winners will be announced in mid-December.

A first prize of \$500 and five merit prizes of \$100 will be awarded in each of the following regions, Ontario, Quebec, Atlantic, Prairie, British Columbia.

The five regional first prize winners will then be judged for the grand prize winner who will get an additional \$500, as well as a portable typewriter. The libraries of schools that produce winning entries will be presented by Canada Permanent with books of their choice.

The contest is an extension of the company's Centennial project that attracted more than 2,500 entries. Its object, says Canada Permanent Trust President C. F. McKenzie, is "to stimulate and encourage creative writing talent among our students."

Contest rules and regulations can be obtained from any Canada Permanent Trust office.

Letters to the Editors

PUPIL INSURANCE

Dear Mr. Editor: I would like to see a public explanation of why our schools sell accident insurance. Why do they act as insurance salesmen? Do the school and teachers earn a percentage? If not, teachers should have more worthwhile and educational activities to fill their working hours.

My first impulse with blanket types of advertising (e.g. mailbox fliers) is to burn them. But each child is compelled, by threats of detention, to return these insurance forms — even when the coverage is not desired by the parents.

To many members of our society, any material sent home from school automatically has the school's endorsement. Thus the insurance people are using our schools to pressure parents into buying their policies.

Other parents, who feel teachers should stop this excess booklet, please telephone your local principal.

Most students would respect teachers who could say NO to the monsters of our commercial advertising world!

MRS. BERNICE LEVER
79 Denham Drive,
Richvale

POOR BUS SERVICE

Dear Mr. Editor: I am writing this as an open letter to Markham Township ratepayers.

We are no longer a "backwoods" community, but when it comes to transportation we are still back in the horse and

Summer Months Are Busy Time For VON

During the summer months of June, July and August, Richmond Hill VON Nurses made 1,094 home visits.

Seventy-four of these were in Markham Township, 155 in Vaughan Township, 337 in Richmond Hill, 112 in King Township, 115 in Aurora, 60 in Whitchurch Township, 62 in Markham Village, 55 in Newmarket and 124 in the remainder of the county.

During the summer a student from Queen's University spent three weeks with the local VON nurses.

buggy days.

Fifteen years ago Yonge Street buses ran every 40 minutes, today Yonge Street buses still run at 40-minute intervals. People on the rim of Metro get seven to 10 minute bus service and Metro provides shelters for them. But Markham ratepayers are not so kindly treated.

We must wait up to 40 minutes for the next bus, in rain, sleet, snow, sub-zero weather and blazing sun — and we get NO shelter, but must endure whatever the weatherman has in store, in the open.

Unfortunately everyone does not have a car and those people without a car between Steeles Avenue and Richmond Hill are the forgotten and neglected.

Nothing will change unless we all get together and demand a better deal from the powers that be. Otherwise, it would appear that Markham Township has no concern for its taxpayers.

MRS. N. SIMPSON,
22 Sussex Avenue,
Langstaff

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