

CUPID'S HELPER Valentine Flowers

Beautiful Way to Say
"I Love You Truly"



Flowers are so romantic... perfect gifts for your favorite Valentine. Send her a beautiful bouquet of her favorites or select a table arrangement for her home. We'll design your floral gift just for her. Free Metro-wide delivery.



RICE'S FLOWERS

RICHMOND HEIGHTS CENTRE

884-1812

889-1812

Roberts Wants Pay Raise Federal MPs

By JOHN ROBERTS, MP YORK SIMCOE

One old political adage — and a good one — is never go out of your way to look for trouble. This week I am going to throw caution to the winds. I am going to talk about MP's salaries. Nothing seems more likely to prompt a deep sense of outrage on the part of the public. Often I have the impression that voters regard MPs as a rapacious bunch of bandits unconcerned about the lush life they live at the taxpayer's expense. And yet many of the members live a life which could only be described as genteel poverty, (also a surprisingly large number, perhaps 10% are millionaires).

Over the years, federal members' salaries have become a football for almost every journalist in the country. Governments and MPs have become so sensitive to the mishmash of misinformation that they seldom have been willing to discuss the matter in the open way that it deserves. I believe that MPs have an obligation to explain the facts and let constituents judge for themselves. This I intend to do, and I would appreciate hearing your views.

A member's salary is \$12,000 a year, and in addition to this he is paid \$6,000 for out-of-pocket expenses. A member is allowed the cost of his air travel from Ottawa to his constituency once a week.

Now this sounds like a big income but as any farmer or businessman knows, it is not the gross amount of money you take in, it is the net after expenses which is important. And speaking of expenses it should be pointed out that the cost of living in Ottawa is the biggest in Canada. There is also no travel cost paid for overnight accommodation while going to the riding, for meals, travel within the riding, long distance charges within the riding, or telegrams; or is there any travel cost paid for an MP's wife, nor for any other member of his family.

My costs are not as high as those of most MPs — and yet they mount up. Parking rental at Malton Airport is \$60 per month; taxis to and from the airport in Ottawa add another \$40 per month; telephone answering service, long distance telephone calls, extra postage amount close to \$100 a month. Rental of an apartment costs close to \$1,500 a year. Almost all meals in Ottawa are restaurant meals. Charitable contributions, entertainment, and other incidentals have a way of skyrocketing.

In any case, an MP's costs can reach amazingly high sums. The worst example is that of the North West Territories riding, which is an area of several million square miles, larger than most countries in the world, and it must be travelled by one MP at his own expense. No differentiation is made in expenses between large and small ridings, nor between western members living three thousand miles away and eastern members living near Ottawa.

Whether or not the member's family accompanies him to Ottawa (and most do nowadays, because of the long sessions) a member must maintain two sets of housing. The \$6,000 expense allowance is therefore adequate in some ridings, but falls far short of the actual costs in most, particularly those which are a great distance from Ottawa.

The \$6,000 tax free a member receives, therefore, is not a bonus. It corresponds to legitimate expenses that a businessman, farmer, or company employer would never calculate as part of his income. Perhaps it was unwise to set the sum at an arbitrary figure — but that figure is certainly below our realistic honest operating expenses.

The truth is that for one of the top jobs in the country, Members of Parliament are at a level comparable to that of the junior levels of the civil service, the armed forces, and well below the salary levels paid in industry. Most MPs were highly successful people in their own occupations and have taken sizeable reductions to serve in Parliament. Costs rise for the 264 members, the same as they do for everyone in society, but since 1962 there has been no change in members' incomes, and there are very few occupations that have not had some very substantial increases in that length of time. The civil service for instance has seen salaries rise 6% a year, or 42% in that period of time.

The most common complaint about changes in MP's salaries is that MPs raise their own salaries. Unfortunately, there is now no other way to do it. There is no higher authority in Canada than the Parliament of Canada, so there is no way of the members avoiding this responsibility. There have been suggestions that an independent commission make recommendations, and tie the MP's salary level to that of the civil service. I believe this would be a good idea.

Some people say that salaries should be discussed at election time; that members accepted the job knowing the salary levels and should not expect a change without campaigning on the issue. The weakness in this argument is that members may know the salary but most members, certainly new ones, have no idea of the size of the expenses. Of course, anyone who takes a job knows his starting salary; but no one thinks this is an adequate reason for him to stay at that level.

Some people argue that old age pension, veteran's allowances, and civil service should be raised before MP's salaries. The majority of members feel that the two things bear no relation to one another; and that while both are important, comparing them is about as sensible as comparing apples and shovels. They contend that the salary of a working man is not, in any other area of the economy, compared to or geared to the amounts received by pension recipients, and that the two areas must be kept separate and treated separately.

Of course the government is extremely concerned about inflation and unwilling to risk the psychological consequences of a rise in MP's salaries — even though the federal members are now far behind the salary level of Quebec provincial members and, in some ways, worse off than the Ontario members. No one likes the fixed expense allowance which is arbitrary (and contrary to the recommendation of the taxation White Paper) and misunderstood by much of the public. The situation would be clearer if members were paid a straight salary and accounted for their individual expenses.

Quality, Service, Variety... PLUS BIG SAVINGS ON STAPLES AT...



EXTRA SAVINGS FROM DOMINION!

GENERAL MILLS COCO PUFFS 8½ OZ., LUCKY CHARMS 8 OZ., OR

CHEERIOS 10 Oz. **38¢**

DOMINION'S OWN BRAND - COUNTRY CLUB
COFFEE ALL PURPOSE GRIND 1 Lb. Tin **99¢**

MORTON FROZEN CHICKEN, TURKEY, SALISBURY STEAK OR
BEEF DINNERS 11 Oz. Pkgs. **49¢**

BRIGHT'S FANCY
TOMATO JUICE 48 Oz. Tin **27¢**

LIBBY SPAGHETTI IN TOMATO SAUCE OR
ALPHA-GETTI 6 8 Oz. Tins **95¢**

DEL MONTE FANCY CUT GREEN OR SEASONED WAX BEANS, CREAM STYLE CORN OR
ASST'D PEAS 4 14 Oz. Tins **89¢**

Dine Out

Bring Your Family or Friends to any of these Fine Eating Places for Excellent Food and Supreme Service

KEEP THIS GUIDE FOR REFERENCE

Relax With Your Family and Friends in a Cosy Atmosphere

CONTINENTAL and CANADIAN CUISINE
Dining Room & Lounge FULLY LICENSED
We offer you excellent service, an Austrian chef and weekend music entertainment
WEDDING & BANQUET FACILITIES
Accommodation up to 200
Graystone Tavern
Proprietors
Max & Anita Wiedeman
183 YONGE ST. S., AURORA
Call 727-9561

Key to Perfect Dining for you

CHOICE Wines

The right wine makes a fine meal perfect. Enjoy our cuisine, quality service and warm decor...

The RICHMOND INN
MOTOR HOTEL
69 Yonge St. S.
Richmond Hill
884-1101
Plenty of Free Parking
Dining Room & Lounge
Fully Licensed by the Liquor Licence Act

Dine In A Beautiful Country Setting

DIVERSIFIED MENU
With the added feature of
'Classical Italian' Dishes
prepared upon reservation

SUMMIT VIEW GARDENS TAVERN
Yonge St. - 1 Mile North of Richmond Hill
884-1370

RELAX WITH FRIENDS OVER GOOD FOOD

Enjoy a leisurely visit with friends over our delicious food, served in a continental atmosphere

VILLA NOVA RESTAURANT
Keele St. & No. 7 Hwy.
889-6030

For a taste of the Exotic in a delightful Chinese setting come to the

YANGTZE PAGODA TAVERN
Internationally Known

CHINESE Food
and Canadian Cuisine
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL
884-4278
YONGE ST. NORTH RICHMOND HILL
Licensed Under Liquor Licence Act

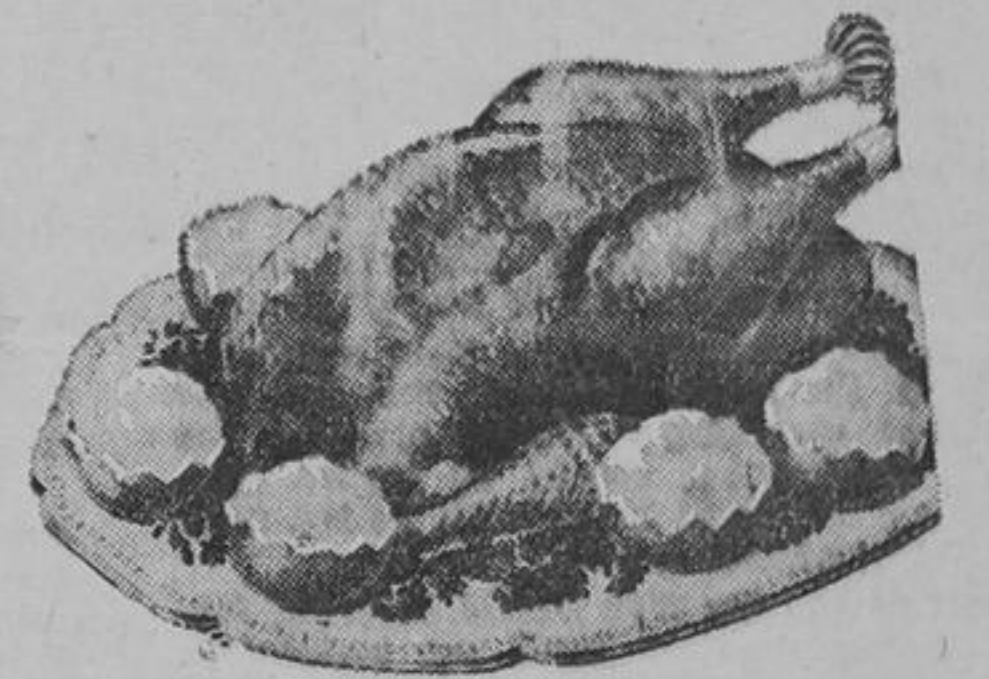
Prime Meats, to Your Taste

Roastbeef and STEAKS
Are A Feature At

POP'S TAVERN
194 YONGE ST. N. RICHMOND HILL
Where You Dine In A Congenial Atmosphere
LICENSED UNDER THE LIQUOR LICENCE ACT
For Information 884-2752

Self-Service! THIS WEEK'S BEST MEAT BUYS Personal Service!

GRADE "A" EVISCERATED YOUNG TURKEYS
10 to 12 Lb. Average Lb. **39¢**



GRADE "A" EVISCERATED (3 to 5 lb. Average) Roasting Chickens Lb. **36¢**

MEATY FROZEN WHOLE, TOP HALF LAMB LEGS Lb. **59¢** **ESSEX WALLET PACK COOKED HAM** 6 oz. Pkg. **69¢**

ESSEX BEEF & PORK SAUSAGE Lb. **59¢** **TENDER, TASTY FROZEN RIB LAMB CHOPS** Lb. **49¢**

FRESH FROM THE GREEN GROCER

FLORIDA GROWN SWEET & JUICY ORANGES

5 LB. BAG 69¢

STOCK-UP NOW & SAVE!

DOMINION'S OWN BRAND HILLTOP BLACK

TEA BAGS Pkg. of 150 **69¢**

DOMINION **CHOCOLATE CHIP BISCUITS** 16 Oz. Pkg. **49¢**

FEATURE VALUE!

PEPSODENT FLUORIDE TOOTH PASTE Family Size Tube **88¢**

this week Volume 3

COLUMBIA ENCYCLOPEDIA

Values effective in Richmond Hill & Newmarket until closing Sat., Feb. 14, 1970... We reserve the right to limit quantities.

DOMINION