

Pollution Danger From Industrial Waste Dumping Draws Huge Crowd At Stouffville

(Continued from Page 1)

Reeve Laushway said that from an elected official's standpoint "we had run up against a brick wall on getting the dump closed."

"Closing a few industrial plants employing 5,000 people for a short time would be insignificant in relation to the cost of destroying the water supply for a village of 4,000. The supply was tested and planned for as many as 15,000 people," he said.

"I don't know why they let anything in that might ruin it," the reeve said. He added that the dump was only 5,000 feet in a direct line from the Stouffville wells. This was half a mile less than all the official reports said.

"If the chance is one in a million that this dump could ruin our water supply, then it should not be permitted to carry on," said the reeve. He wanted to know who would pay the costs of piping in water if the wells were polluted, and he wanted to know what the people of the village would do while the pipelines were being built.

Waste Management Director Heaman said he was pleased the Whitechurch Council was moving to close the dump as effectively as it can. But he suggested it would be poor citizenship to close the dump suddenly and immediately.

"What are the hazards we are talking of? They haven't been

demonstrated. There was illicit and clandestine dumping of fluid industrial wastes in Whitechurch and elsewhere when the dump was closed in December. The evidence exists," said Mr. Heaman, warning that an ill-considered quick closing of the dump could do more harm than good.

But the meeting was having none of this kind of talk, and shouted Mr. Heaman down. At one time a spectator marched from the back of the big auditorium and mounted the stage to confront Mr. Heaman.

The waste management director began his talk by saying he was caught between the upper and nether millstones. "You're blamed if you do and blamed if you

don't," he said.

"We don't have the power at the present time to close the dump. I doubt if anyone in the provincial government has. The responsibility for starting the dump lies with the municipality," he said.

Mr. Heaman added that legislation has been drafted for dump licenses and regulation. The new laws were awaiting cabinet approval. It was his department's action that recently stopped dumping in a gravel pit near Stouffville, and that was something done.

"We don't accept this dumping into the ground as adequate. But at the present time it is serving the larger community. Some of the people right here in the audience are probably getting their

livelihood from industries dumping wastes at this site," he said.

New Democrat MLA Deans said he was disturbed to hear Mr. Heaman say there was no legislation to allow the province to close the dump.

"The Legislature is a sovereign body and can pass what laws it likes at any time. The decision is clear. It is between immediate profit for a few, and the welfare of future generations. A serious lack of foresight by the government is being illuminated," the NDP member said.

OWRC representative Symons said a study taken about the time the dump opened showed the site to be suitable for domestic garbage, not for industrial waste. The

OWRC said the same thing again in 1969.

The OWRC was also finding a lot of bootleg dumping, and this was of great concern. Drilling under the dump in January had been indicative that the situation was safe, but the findings were not yet conclusive. Therefore the re-opening of the dump was only on a temporary basis, Mr. Symons said.

The dump sits over one of the best aquifers in the province, and we are concerned that this aquifer gets the protection from pollution it needs, concluded Mr. Symons.

There was a question period following the statements by the platform guests. Questioners obviously favored immediate closure of

the dump.

One question was of particular interest. It came from a representative of a waste disposal company. He said absolutely nothing is being done about industrial waste disposal, and anyone who tries to do anything can't get anywhere.

"Everybody sitting at that platform table is a past master as passing the buck," he said.

His firm had planned a disposal plant on the lakefront, on a site suggested by provincial officials. But it turned out they had spent their time and money uselessly.

Another provincial agency got into the act and the firm was told the site was not acceptable. All the effort was wasted.

Vaughan Township Firm Charged With Discharging Industrial Fluid

Tank Truck Transport Ltd. of Costa Road, Vaughan Township, was charged last week with illegally discharging industrial wastes into a watercourse.

A trial was held before Judge William Camblin in Richmond Hill Provincial Court April 29. The case was remanded to May 15 for judgement.

The charge was laid under the Ontario Water Resources Act, Chemical Engineer Victor Buxton, plus an official of the OWRC's laboratory and a chemical analyst, testified in the trial.

Evidence was given that a storage lagoon containing fluid industrial waste overflowed

through a pipe July 28 into a ditch on Costa Road. This count was 670, while an acceptable standard for such a count would be about 15, the OWRC experts said.

The case was prosecuted by senior OWRC Solicitor John Erichsen-Brown and the defence attorney was Jim Murphy.

Raymond Coyle, 28, of 1450 Sheppard Avenue, Apartment 315, Downsview, was fined \$150 April 30 for impaired driving.

He pleaded guilty to the offence, which took place March 12 in Vaughan Township.

three times as great as for raw sewage. The suspended solids count was 670, while an acceptable standard for such a count would be about 15, the OWRC experts said.

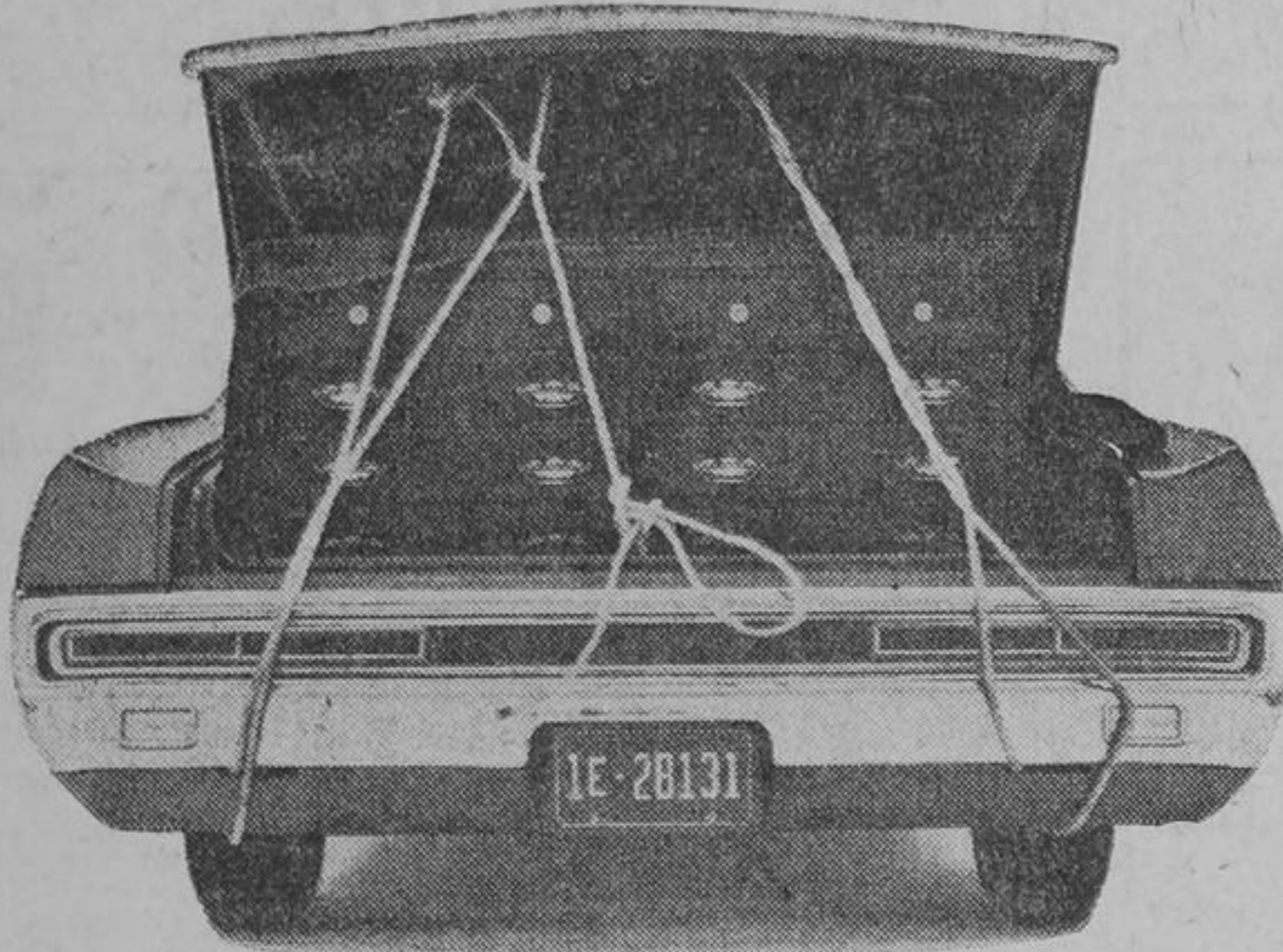
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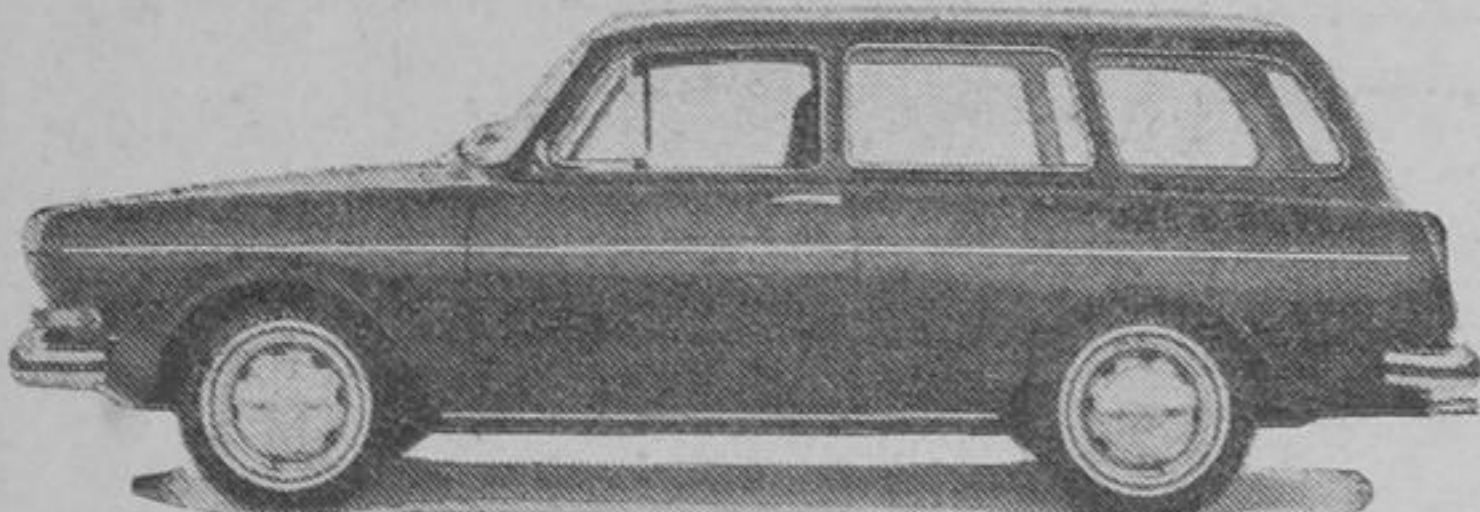
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