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### Never Again

Most Canadians are past the stage where they can be shocked any longer by revelations of waste and inefficiency in the handling of their tax monies by their elected officials. It is now a regular occurrence, certainly in the case of the two senior levels of government, to confront the Canadian people with tales of mismanagement and extravagance.

However, the shocking waste of millions of federal tax monies in overhauling the ill-fated Aircraft Carrier Bonaventure pales any such previous excursion into government inefficiency. National defence is the sole responsibility of the federal government and Ottawa's inept handling of this major project can only be taken as a serious indictment of its administration. To date the only official comment by a senior government official on this massive blunder has been Defence Minister Leo Cadieux's assurances to Parliament that the total cost is really only some \$17 million instead of the earlier estimate of \$22 million.

The Bonaventure is now in the scrapper's yard despite an 18 month repair job which ended in September 1967, and which cost the Canadian taxpayer a grand total of 17,108,090 dollars and 74 cents. This includes "overheads", such as salaries, for the sailors involved. But in terms of hard cash spent on labor and materials alone the bill ran to about \$12.3 million. Original estimates totalled \$8 million.

The all-party Commons Public Accounts Committee headed by Conservative MP Alfred Hales (Wellington) has recommended that the government take disciplinary action against two deputy ministers (defence and defence production) and four senior civil servants for the role they played in this whole sorry mess. Disciplinary action can include firing, demotion or withholding of a scheduled pay raise.

After an extensive six month investigation of the Bonaventure refit — it held about 20 public sessions in Ottawa and carried out an on-the-spot inspection in Halifax — the public accounts committee says it "feels it has only explored the mere tip of an iceberg of unsatisfactory estimating procedures, miscalculations and poor administration." It rebukes the civil servants concerned for allowing the contractor, Davie Shipbuilding of Quebec, to renegotiate the terms of its contract while work was under way, in order to raise labor rates from \$3.95 an hour to \$5.10. This decision alone, says the committee, cost the Canadian taxpayer an additional \$1 million in costs.

Davie Shipbuilding originally tendered \$5,768,068 for the repair job.

### Community Service

Since pioneer days the churches of Richmond Hill have played an important part in life in this community — they are still filling that role. The number of people actively supporting each may have dwindled recently and pews may be sparsely occupied some Sundays but the facilities provided by the churches are in full use throughout the week.

When accommodation is needed for Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies, whose training in good citizenship is an essential part of a community, where do you turn? To the churches, in most cases.

When accommodation is needed for teenagers who have outgrown or are not interested in such activities, who provides it? Again it is the churches.

Other groups such as unions, lodges, clinics, nursery schools and day care centres have found the only accommodation available to them is in church-owned buildings.

Federal treasury board estimates added about \$2,300,000 for the supply of materials that Ottawa would pay for, and approved an expenditure of \$8 million. But by the time the refit was over, the public accounts committee says \$10,290,090 was paid to the Davie firm and the direct cost of materials was \$2,068,000.

Adding in about \$4 million in "overheads" — such as salaries to government employees involved in the operation, the total cost to the taxpayer was a whopping \$9 million more than originally estimated. The refit started in April 1966, was scheduled to be completed a year later, and was eventually finished in September 1967.

Although the public accounts committee has singled out six top civil servants for criticism, the politicians should not be allowed to escape all blame. In our democratic society the politician must accept prime responsibility for the sins of commission or omission of any government. What of the ministers concerned and the departments of which they were the ultimate head — Paul Hellyer in defence, Charles Drury in defence production and Edgar Benson, chairman of the treasury board? Where did they fail their responsibility?

One major way the Trudeau Government could strengthen parliamentary control over the public spending is by implementing the recent recommendations of Auditor-General Maxwell Henderson to speed up the annual review of federal accounts. One important consideration is his request for additional office staff so he can carry out a more thorough examination of federal expenditures. The present practice of delaying consideration of the public accounts and his own report for as long as a year after the fiscal year ends, prevents Parliament from carrying out suggested reforms until another fiscal year passes.

The practice in Australia in a similar situation could very well be adopted here. There, the treasurer's statement of receipts and expenditures is brought down within weeks of the end of the fiscal year. It is then reported on by the auditor-general, examined by the public accounts committee and reported back to Parliament, all within three months.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau should waste no time in pushing Mr. Henderson's proposals through Parliament. Not only would such action help to restore public confidence in our parliamentary system, but it would also give the Canadian taxpayer some guarantee that similar "Bonaventures" will not occur in the future.

Churches are also used by many young couples so that their weddings will be a lifelong pleasurable memory. They return to have their children christened, they drop their children off for Sunday school training in the basics of moral development, but these are the only times the church sees them.

Week after week the same few faithful church members attend the church services, present their free-will offerings, work in the church organizations and struggle constantly to pay the bills so that the facilities are maintained and are at the disposal of the community. They do not sit in "Comfortable Pews", they work and work hard for all of us.

If you and/or your children have made use of these facilities or plan to make use of them, don't you think you should contribute even a little by filling up those vacant pews and help, even a little, to see that these institutions can continue to fill their place?



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

### The Last Queen's Scouts In This Area

Fifty-one Queen's Scouts from Barrie, Bracebridge, Cannington, Claremont, Dunbarton, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Lemonville, Midhurst, Newmarket, Oshawa, Richmond Hill, Scugog, Sharon, Thornhill and Whitby received their coveted awards at the annual Lakeland Region Ceremonies held in Bayview Secondary School May 9. Each received his award from Col. W. J. Rankin of Camp Borden, representing the Queen.

York Summit District was the host and the impressive ceremony was arranged by Assistant Provincial Commissioner for Lakeland Region Ron Sculthorp with assistance from the local district council, including Bob Miller, Ray Weeks and Mrs. Fred Fifield.

The invocation was given by Rev. Father Michael Grace and the benediction by District Chaplain Rev. Fred Jackson. Music was provided by the Bayview Secondary School Band.

After 60 years of Scouting in Canada this was the final Queen's Scout ceremony, since under the new program the Queen's Venturer award will be the highest award, replacing the Queen's Scout.

York Summit was represented by the above group (left to right) Richard Bruce and John Lucas of 3rd Richmond Hill, Wayne Carswell of 3rd Thornhill and John Riley of 3rd Richmond Hill. Some indication of the amount of work which led to the top award is given in the badges on the red baldrics worn by the Richmond Hill Scouts.



### In the Spotlight

By MARY MONKS

#### "Harvey" Still Keeps 'Em Laughing

The Footlights Club of Thornhill celebrated the 140th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill, with a production of the delightful comedy "Harvey".

It is more than a quarter of a century since Mary Chase created that most lovable character Elwood P. Dowd, whose friend, the invisible but ubiquitous rabbit, (six feet, one and a half inches tall), gives the play its title. The years have been kinder to "Harvey" than to many of its contemporaries, and to judge by Friday's audience, it can still keep 'em laughing, sometimes hilariously. The Footlights' production was handled with affection and played joyously, and this was communicated to the audience, who responded accordingly.

Betty Priestman, who has been an inspiration to the Footlights Club for many years, and who directed "Harvey", cast her characters with remarkable accuracy, considering the fact that the club has been inactive for some time, and some of the actors had to be recruited from outside the parish. In a brief introductory comment, Mrs. Priestman expressed her delight at the support she had received from the young people of the church, who had designed and constructed the attractive sets, and many of whom were on duty backstage or serving refreshments in the intermission.

On the face of it "Harvey" is pure fantasy. After all, six foot, invisible rabbits just don't exist. Or do they? With Robert Priestman playing Elwood P. Dowd it was difficult not to come under the same spell, and to believe in Harvey as completely as he did. Perhaps the reason for the play's surprising freshness is that it is thumbing its nose at respectability and the so-called norm, which, for all the mildness of the actual script, is a very contemporary theme.

Elwood is a drop-out, (albeit a middle-aged one), fighting the establishment, represented by his socially conscious sister, his only weapons being love and Harvey. I understand that this role is one which Mr. Priestman has wanted to play for some time, and having seen his performance I can say he had every jurisdiction — he was Elwood P. Dowd.

Edith Jones, as Veta Louise, was the epitome of the snobbish, small-town matron, ashamed of her brother's eccentricities, and trying to get her greedy hands on his possessions. Her desperation and indignation were sustained throughout the play, and her dead-pan pronouncements produced some of the best laughs of the evening.

As her dumb but attractive daughter, Myrtle Mae, Judy Hartland showed less stage experience (Continued on Page 14)



### Rambling Around

By Elizabeth Nelson

#### Richmond Hill Councillor Lois Hancey

"There should be more women in public life," declares Richmond Hill Councillor Lois Hancey. This highly articulate, able and forthright councillor means just what she says. She would like to see more women in public life because even though family needs are looked after better than in the past, there is still much to be done. Women would be in a good position to see that these needs are met if they had enough representation on the governing bodies.

"Any good legislation is the result of proper participation and sufficient representation from all factions in society," she says.

Councillor Hancey feels that women do not take part in the political life of the community mainly because it takes money to run for office and many do not have it. The one group who could afford to do so are mainly concerned with volunteer work or other worthwhile community service. Even so, it is important that there should be a number of women serving their community at the political level also.

#### THE THREE ROLES OF LOIS HANCEY

Lois Hancey was born and raised in the Oakwood - St. Clair area. She is the wife of Lionel Hancey and she explains him in two words. "He's wonderful."

The Hanceys, who have lived 13 years in the Hill, have two sons. George, 17, is a student at Bayview Secondary School and Arthur, 13, attends Crosby Heights Senior Public School.

Being a devoted wife and mother certainly hasn't kept Lois from being a fully developed person in her own right. Her family acknowledges her needs and gives her the backing necessary for a strenuous community life.

Perhaps her leaning to politics stems from her family upbringing. Lois had a father who was deeply interested in who was standing for election and why. He passed on this considerable interest in public affairs to his five children.

Speaking of her father's involvement, Mrs. Hancey said, "He said it even before President John Kennedy, 'Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.'"

The Late George Trickey reminded his family continually that there were others who built this country and that it was everyone's responsibility to leave it a little better for the next generation.

"Generally speaking, this can be done in two ways," said Lois. "One is by taking an interest in (Continued on Page 14)

### Letters to the Editors

#### JOHN ROBERTS MP REPLIES "DIVIDED LOYALTY"

Dear Mr. Editor:

I would ask, as a matter of fair play, that you publish this letter as a correction to several mis-statements of fact in your editorial of May 7, concerning the issue of representation.

You say that in my column of February 12, that I "sought a substantial increase in salary". That is not true. My column reported the debate on salaries going on among MP's of all parties, and I made only three recommendations — that salaries be tied to some level of civil servants, that an independent commission review salaries, and that members be paid a straight salary and account for their expenses rather than have a tax free expense allowance. I do believe that MP's deserve a higher salary though I would prefer to have this increase take effect only after the next election. But your assertion that my column, written while "safely" in Ottawa, urges an increase in my salary is contrary to the facts.

You say that I voted for the recent pension increases for MP's. That is not true. I did not vote for them, I do not think they are justified, and I have publicly expressed my opposition to them.

You say that I question whether my loyalty should be to my constituents or to the policies of the Liberal Party and government. That is not true. That question is not discussed in my column. What I asked was whether my loyalty should be to my constituents' opinions or to the interests of Canada as a whole. What is good for Canada is not necessarily what is good for the government. But I have not so far found the interests of Canada, and those of the citizens of York-Simcoe, differ. It is false to suggest I was advocating government interests in opposition to those of the citizens of York-Simcoe.

I suggest a simple question to the editor: If he were a member of parliament would he vote for a proposal which after thorough study he was convinced would vitally harm the interests of Canada as a whole? Members of Parliament have an obligation to represent the interests of their constituents. Journalists have an obligation to verify their facts.

JOHN ROBERTS MP, YORK SIMCOE.

#### REPRESENTATION, PAY, PENSIONS YORK COUNTY MP'S

Dear Mr. Editor:

May I be permitted the privilege of the use of space in your fine paper to express some views regarding your Editorial "Divided Loyalty" (May 7)? It deals with the duties and responsibilities of our Member of Parliament, John Roberts.

In the same issue Roberts' Column bears the title, "Where Does Roberts' Prime Duty Lie?" The tendency to over-simplify the democratic process in both these articles is very evident. That same tendency was evident when three MP's (Barney Danson, Donald Deacon and John Roberts) appeared before their constituents (about 100 people) on Friday evening May 8 at the Masonic Hall in Maple. More-over the tendency was as notable on the part of the audience as it was on the part of the platform speakers.

It seems to me the issue is not divided loyalties at all but of balanced loyalties — often a matter of eventual good against an apparent temporary good. Three issues bearing on this subject arose at the Maple meeting.

First the matter of salaries and pensions for MP's. What can we say about a Canadian citizenship that is not prepared to raise the salaries of their representatives (which have not been raised since 1963) when salaries in every other segment of society have been steadily rising? It might cost each Canadian a few cents a year in their taxes. Are we so unappreciative of the leaders we ourselves have chosen that we cannot add gladly from our own annual income this pittance for those who are handling the most difficult and most important job in Canada? I say "shame on us".

The second issue that arose in Maple concerned itself with methods of dissent. Laurels go to Don Deacon for handling with sympathy and intelligence an emotional presentation from the floor regarding Darcy McKeough's right to bring action

on citizens of this area without due consideration of the citizens themselves by referendum.

Questions of two women relating to the abortion caravan were cleverly fielded by Roberts with the old cliché, "Canada isn't ready yet."

One must question the wisdom of the Liberal Party in spending tremendous sums of public money on a Commission On The Status Of Women, paying high salaries for Ottawa representatives to travel across Canada to collect masses of information — yet, when a group of women use their own money to come to Ottawa, nobody will speak with them — and this in spite of increases in government staff and salaries. An unfortunate episode in the House of Commons might have been averted by a little imagination or understanding.

Surely Prime Minister Trudeau must have someone he can trust in his government for such communication, when, understandably, he may be too busy. Or could it be that participatory democracy is a one-way street, just from the top down?

We, in York, are fortunate in having intelligent, dedicated young men to represent us in Ottawa. We owe it to them to read and listen to what they have to say. Yet let us not be like the voter who said: "I like the voice who said: 'What might has Joe Greene, one man, to speak in the U.S.A. for all of Canada on this issue?'" This voter is only demonstrating his complete ignorance about how government works, yet Roberts keeps explaining parliamentary methods to us whenever he writes. Why don't we learn?

John Roberts represents Canada on the UN peace keeping committee at the United Nations. Speaking of "Divided Loyalties", how does he decide what is his duty to his constituents in this regard — when to concern himself with public hand-shaking functions and when to disappear in solitude to do his homework for important international affairs.

The poor are important, as are tax rates, inflation and all the rest. Yet the future of the parents and children in Roberts' constituency may find the high cost of living to be a direct result of excessive military expenditures. We also spend three hundred million dollars every year on research into biological and chemical warfare. Why don't we spend this money researching for new jobs and for instruments of peace . . . instead?

Anyhow, let's all try together to make our democratic way of life a living reality. It's not easy and it still remains to be seen whether the human animal is yet sufficiently mature to handle this humanitarian concept of government or whether because of his own selfishness and stupidity he'll soon be washed down a polluted drain of his own making.

DOROTHY HENDERSON, RR 2, King.

#### Fantastic Bonaventure Refit

(Hamilton Spectator)

The cost of refitting the Aircraft Carrier Bonaventure — now destined for the scrapyard — is a scandal. It ought to — but probably won't — produce cries of wrath from already over-burdened taxpayers.

The Commons Public Accounts Committee, which has been investigating the refit job, has verbally chastised two Deputy Ministers and recommended that two departments consider disciplinary action against government employees on lower echelons.

Is that all?

When it was decided to give the Bonaventure a mid-life refit the estimate for the complete job was in the neighbourhood of \$8 million. Now the committee has determined that the total cost of the complete refit was over \$17 million.

Notwithstanding the enormous amount spent, the federal government has now decided to take the carrier out of service because it costs about \$20 million a year to operate. A barnacle cleaning job on its hull alone cost \$1 million.

The government intends to keep the defence budget at no more than \$1.8 billion until 1972 and eliminating Bonaventure is part of doing so.

The whole business is incredible. Among the costs was a charge of \$258 for repairing an \$8 medicine cabinet and \$320 for fixing an officer's chair. A paint job, estimated to cost \$150,000, was charged at \$1,103,000. There is a long list of similar shocking charges. All of it, the whole \$17 million, is wasted money now that the aircraft carrier is to be scrapped.

What will happen now that the report is published? It would be disgraceful if the affair were buried under mountains of words and a few minor officials were "disciplined" and became fall guys.

It is not enough that there is to be talk on the report. If this kind of thing can go on under the similar noses of our federal politicians there is drastic need for a departmental responsibility. What is there to prevent similar cases occurring?

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## Broader Horizons Opened In Mexico For Twenty Four York County Students

By MARGARET LADE

When 20 York County teachers took a group of secondary school students to Mexico City for a 10-day visit during the annual spring break, their one regret was that none in the group were of the "indecubable" or recalcitrant sort.

Said Russell Rees, master teacher of geography, in his report to York County Board of Education, "In a mileau of seriously self-motivated students who are also a happy gang, I have no doubt that the 'indecubables' would rapidly become recoverables."

Language teacher from Langstaff Secondary, Mrs. Isabel Clemson, was pleased

that so many of the 24 students were able to make themselves understood in Spanish, including one who had taught himself from books and records.

The students were from Williams, Langstaff, Stouffville, Huron Heights, Woodbridge, Newmarket and King City, and all had been studying Mexico, and in particular, Mexico City, in geography classes. They all paid their own way, many saving from earnings from part time jobs, and only the teachers were subsidized by the board.

Six Mexican students were with them most of the time, helping to explain customs

and the history of the country.

They also had an excellent and interesting guide - Senor Martinez de Vega, who acted as guide for George Bernard Shaw in 1924 and for John Diefenbaker on his honeymoon.

When Mr. Diefenbaker later visited Mexico as Prime Minister of Canada, he invited Senor de Vega and his wife to dinner.

The students were interested in more than history and geography, however — three made a study of the country's pulse rate from 3,000 feet to 10,000 feet above sea level as they ascended from

the lowlands to the ancient city of Mexico.

"In my opinion, the most predominant feature of Mexican culture is not its history, geography or language, but the people," reports Lin Timbers of Stouffville, "I have an avid interest in the early areas of Mexico's history, particularly the Aztecs. I have read extensively literature about these peoples and their civilization in Mexico, but seeing the actual articles and countryside seemed very much like hearing a book review of a book you have already read."

"Mexican people seem to have a passion for life. They aren't as rushed and materialistic as their more northern neighbors. Some people would interpret this as laziness, but I find it exceedingly refreshing. They live for living, and not for what the day will cost or profit them. They appear to be very poor, but to me they are very rich. Their wealth is not measured in gold."

"These people know how to laugh and sing. This is something we great white leaders of the stockmarket have lost."

Lin continues, "It is a marvelous feeling to walk down the street and have someone wish you never seen before you have never seen before taken over by Mexican authorities."

Robin Mackie and Joanne Howden, also of Langstaff, and Wendy Spry of Stouffville, were impressed with the crafts of Pueblo, which was originally settled by 40 Spanish families, all specialists in ceramics. From these settlers there grew an industry which still produces ceramics which are the pride of the town. Handcarved and polished onyx jewellery and ornaments are also produced in Pueblo.

The trio also described the subtropical town of Cuernavaca, 4,000 feet above sea level where the palace of Cortez was located and there

are many houses still remaining with historic frescoes done by Diego Rivera.

Taxco, by contrast, was desert-like and mountainous and is famous for its high quality silver. Although the mine is rich in ore, the visitors from York County found many beggars in the streets, chiefly young children and very old people.

Bill Herbert of Thornhill Secondary was impressed at the vast difference in the way of life of rich and poor. The upper classes he found very formal and polite, and they were hardly ever seen on the streets.

The lower classes on the (Continued on Page 14)