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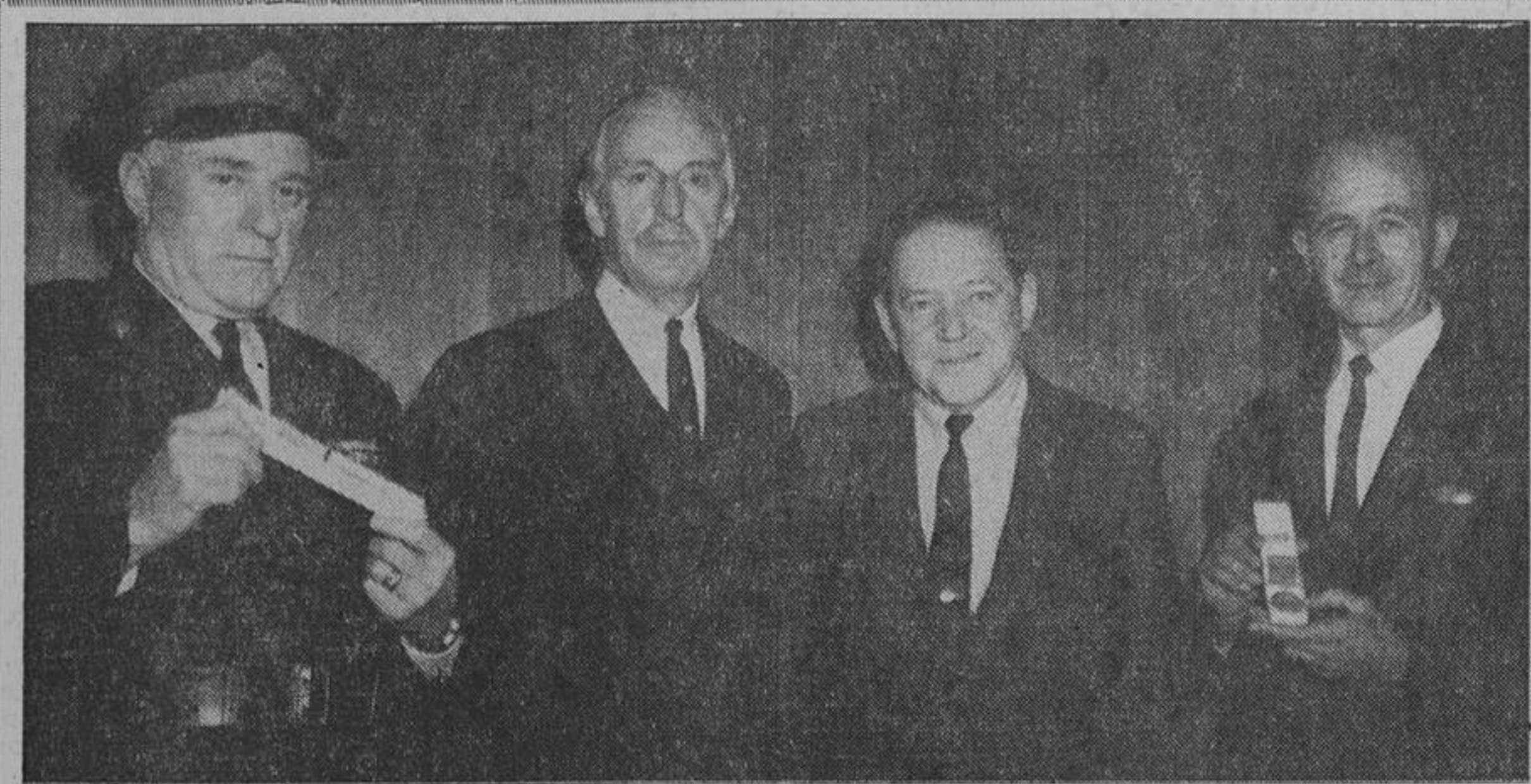
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Thornhill In Mood To Fight Metro Grab

Talk Of Forming Metro Borough With Richmond Hill And Oak Ridges



It looks like a real wave of grass roots opposition to the proposed Metro annexation of Thornhill area is rising in the communities affected. There is also growing opposition in the rest of Markham and in Vaughan, and among teachers' groups.

Residents fear a 44% hike in taxes. Opposition to the loss of Thornhill has already come from the York County Board of Education and Markham Township Council.

If annexation must come, the possibility of a new Metro borough including Richmond Hill and Oak Ridges has been mentioned.

Last week four public meetings, involving five different ratepayers' associations, were held.

Voting at these meetings, with a total of 324 people attending, was almost unanimously against annexation.

Vaughan Honors Two Veteran Policemen

Two veteran Vaughan Township policemen were honored for 20 years' service last week during a meeting of the Vaughan Police Commission.

Shown with their 20-year medals are Sergeant William Adams, at left, and Detective Robert Smallbone, at right.

At centre left is Judge Garth Moore, police commission chairman, who presented the medals. Vaughan Reeve Garnet Williams, centre right, is another police commission member.

Sergeant Adams previously served as deputy-chief and senior staff sergeant in the Vaughan Police. He was born in Toronto and has lived 45 years in Vaughan.

Sgt. Adams served 14 years in the Canadian Army, joining as a drummer in the Militia. He first went overseas to Iceland, and then to England in 1939 with the Royal Regiment of Canada. He then had the rank of sergeant in the intelligence section.

In 1942 he went into action as a commando in the Dieppe raid. He was taken prisoner and his younger brother was killed.

Released in 1945, he spent a further year in England, where he met and married his wife Helen. He returned to Canada in 1946 with the rank of Chief Quartermaster-Sergeant WO2.

After four years at the RCAF Depot at Downsview, Sgt. Adams joined the Vaughan Township Police in September 1950, and has served with the force since that time.

He has four sons, one married and three at home. The youngest is attending Don Head Secondary School.

Detective Smallbone resided in the Toronto area during most of his early life. He was educated at the Humber Bay Public School and the Mimico High School.

In 1940 he enlisted in the RCAF, and at the end of World War II received his discharge.

In September 1949 he joined the Ontario Provincial Police. He served for 10 years in detachments at Chatham, Windsor and Thornhill.

In June 1960 Detective Smallbone joined the Vaughan Township Police. His service thus includes 10 years with Vaughan Police and 10 years with the OPP.

Detective Smallbone has been a resident of Vaughan Township since 1956. He is married and has two children. (Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Last May Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough opened up the possibility that Metro might be allowed to move north from Steeles Avenue to the proposed Highway 47 right-of-way. This is roughly to the present line along Highway 7.

Mr. McKeough indicated about a year would be given for the issue to be settled.

Metro has shown a readiness to grab the well-served, highly industrialized, and vacant-land-rich areas of Southern Vaughan and Markham.

At the same time Metro has rejected annexation of areas in Pickering where services are needed and industrial tax revenue is low.

FORM COMMITTEE

A York South Region Citizens' Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr. John Fotheringham, 127 Elgin Street, Thornhill.

The strength of the grass roots feeling was first noted in October by municipal council and school board candidates in the election campaign.

Successful candidates generally were those who told the voters they opposed the Metro annexation of Thornhill.

Local elected representatives were attentively present at last week's meetings. They included members of next year's new Markham Town Council, Mayor Anthony Roman, Regional Councillor James Jongeneel, Thornhill Councillors Bob Adams and Roy Muldrew.

Also present were York County Board of Education Chairman Jack MacKay, and Trustees John Honsberger of Thornhill and Ross Jolliffe of Vaughan.

The only area in Thornhill where ratepayers haven't yet held a meeting is in the central area neighborhood of Clark, John and Elgin Streets. It is hoped a meeting will be held there soon, says citizens' committee chairman Dr. Fotheringham.

PLAN BIG FIGHT

The committee's next move will probably be a meeting of ratepayer association executives to work out a common strategy in opposing annexation.

Probably a large general meeting will be held early in the New Year, hopefully with Municipal Affairs Minister McKeough in attendance, says Dr. Fotheringham.

In the meantime ratepayers are initiating a campaign to show Mr. McKeough the strength of their opposition to annexation.

At their meetings they voted to write personal letters to the

(Continued on Page 3)

Ask Region Use Area Wholesale Water Rates

Under Bill 174 which establishes the Regional Municipality of York, the regional council will take over all works for the production, treatment and storage of water operated by or on behalf of each area municipality. It will also take over sewage treatment works and trunk sewers.

Bylaws are being prepared at present so that the take-over will be possible on January 1.

In Richmond Hill the region will be assuming the present town's five operating wells, the two located in Vaughan Township in the Carrville area and the two in King Township in the Oak Ridges area.

The town's sixth well on Dufferin Street, which has been partially developed with no additional work anticipated in the immediate future will remain in the town's ownership. Also being assumed will be the Harding Park pump-house, since it is the only one that has a direct trunk main to the well, according to members of the town's staff, who reported to the November 16 meeting of the organizational committee for regional government.

At the sewage treatment plant, the holding tank now in the process of construction to ease the load at peak periods will not be assumed by the region until it is completed. The region will then issue the necessary debentures, it was pointed out.

The town will recommend that the region assess wholesale water rates on a water area basis rather than on an area municipal basis. There are six water areas in the expanded town with consumer rates ranging from 45c to \$1 per thousand gallons, it was reported. One area is unmetered and pays a flat rate.

The organizational committee decided to recommend continuation of area water rates at present levels until there has been time to investigate the matter thoroughly. All were agreed that the ultimate goal should be to have a uniform rate throughout the municipality.

New York Central Mental Health Service Plans Open House Dec. 3

The emphasis is on prevention at the new York Central Hospital Mental Health Service which has been operating since September in temporary quarters at 122 Yonge Street North in Richmond Hill.

The hospital's chief of Psychiatric Service Dr. William Shaw, a specialist in child psychiatry, and Dr. John McTavish, whose speciality is adolescent psychiatry, began last summer to set up the service in a converted bungalow. They have since been joined by Dr. William Surpliss, former director of an 80-bed psychiatric service at the Sudbury and Algoma Sanatorium.

A supportive staff of five has been added, and the service will be having open house from 3 to 5 pm next Thursday to give the public an opportunity to meet the staff and discuss the function of a mental health service.

With major financing by the Mental Health Branch of the Department of Health, the service will operate on an out-patient basis for the next two years, until the addition to York Central Hospital is built and psychiatric wards are available.

For the present, the team of psychiatrists and their assistants are working closely with other community resources—teachers, guidance counsellors, family doctors, psychologists, clergymen, policemen, family service workers, public health nurses.

These are the people, Dr. Shaw said.

(Continued on Page 3)

Lazenby, Rowe Turn Down Offer Of York Police Commission Post

Richmond Hill Mayor William Lazenby and Richmond Hill Councillor Gordon Rowe turned down appointments to the York Region Police Commission for different reasons.

They each had a second chance at the job November 12. Region Council Chairman Garfield Wright first grabbed the appointment on October 29 at one regional council meeting, and then "threw it up for grabs" again at the next.

"I can't accept in the circumstances," said Mayor Lazenby, when nominated.

Councillor Rowe was then nominated, but he also declined. Mayor Lazenby said he couldn't accept, "in view of outside comment and reports that I have criticized the chairman personally."

"I was not personally attacking Mr. Wright. I was only criticizing protocol and procedures," said Mayor Lazenby.

For more news on regional government see Pages 5 and 7.

See Editorial on Page 2.

Councillor Rowe said now that he had been appointed to the council engineering committee, it was evident that he already had too much work to do. He said he would prefer not to serve on the police commission.

Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth and Richmond Hill Councillor Rowe had some strong feelings about how the police commission appointments were made.

Council had made up its mind on appointing Chairman Wright and Markham Councillor Hi Lawrie October 29.

But in announcing his withdrawal from the appointment, Chairman Wright said a new council vote was required to comply with a legal technicality.

So council did the job over again, and made some more careful stipulations.

"We have to be very careful. The police have been able to maintain very good salaries and fringe benefits that are very expensive for the taxpayers. And they are setting a pattern for other municipal employees," said Mayor Illingworth.

"I don't want any three-year appointments to the police commission as far as I'm concerned. If in the first year the council isn't satisfied with the police commission's performance, then they (the council appointees) may have to serve as sacrificial lambs. I favor one-year appointments," said Councillor Plaxton.

Newmarket Councillor Ray Twiney agreed to serve on the police commission, so a resolution was passed appointing Mr. Twiney and Markham Councillor Hi Lawrie for a term of one year.

Trustees Set Guidelines County Board Begins Budget Planning

In anticipation of a tough financial year ahead, York County Board of Education has begun organizing its various budget committees.

In a letter to all board chairmen in the province, Education Minister William Davis announced early in October that, effective January 1972, spending above the education grant ceilings will not be tolerated.

He notified the boards that over-expenditures must be reduced by half in 1971, and completely eliminated in 1972.

York County Board of Education's \$34.8 million operating budget for 1970 was \$1.5 million above the grand ceiling. This means that county taxpayers are wholly responsible for the over-expenditure. Provincial grants were available for about 46 per cent of the remainder.

At its meeting November 9, the board had agreed to set up a series of budget committees, and trustees on each committee will work with staff in budget preparation.

Recognizing that not all trustees can be expected to become expert on all aspects of the budget, they were asked to choose which committee they would prefer to sit on.

The instruction committee will study instruction costs, including educational administration, business administration and educational and special services. The debt and grant committee will study debt charges, short term financing and transportation. (Substantial portions of the budget are set aside for interest payments on debentures and transportation of students.)

A third committee will study plant operation and maintenance costs, and a fourth will be known as the budget or strategy committee, and will consist of representatives from each of the other committees.

The original recommendation from the communications committee had been that six committees be formed with three trustees on each. However, it was felt that those trustees who will serve on the salary negotiations committee should not be

Taxi Licences Suspended

Taxi cab licences belonging to Richmond Hill Taxi Company were suspended by Richmond Hill Police last week when the owner failed to produce Department of Transport safety check reports within 48 hours of a warning, it was reported to council Monday night.

Yonge Bus Deficit Is \$1,910 In Two Months

The Yonge Street buses, operated by the Toronto Transit Commission for the municipalities of Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham, ran up a deficit of \$1,910 in the two months preceding the advent of the GO buses, a letter to Richmond Hill Council has revealed.

Richmond Hill is responsible for 50% of this deficit or \$955.35, each of the other two municipalities are assessed 25% or half the above amount.

Any further deficits on this line until the end of next year will be picked up by the Government of Ontario.

The total above deficit includes \$361.31 for seat taxes, when the former electric railway right-of-way was turned over to the province in 1949 for road-widening purposes on Yonge Street, an exemption of seat taxes for 10 years was granted the bus line. This has been extended on a yearly basis since then, and it is usually well into the following year that the province's decision is made available.

Revenue for July and August this year totalled \$24,041.66, operating expenses amounted to \$25,951.06. Only 238,566 fares were collected, while the buses travelled 27,963 revenue miles. It cost 91.52c per mile and revenue averaged 85.9c per mile.

Good Buys For Christmas

The magic night when Santa slips down the chimney and fills the stockings, piles gifts under the tree and disappears for another year is now less than a month away and the wise person is buying Christmas gifts.

For your shopping spree, Canadian Tire is offering gifts for all the family at amazingly low prices.

For the youngsters there are games, toys and sports equipment galore. For Mom there are attractive electrical appliances, hair curlers and watches. For Dad there are steins, watches, tools, tires and car accessories.

Be sure to read the third section of this issue of "The Liberal" to check these "good buys." You'll be glad you did.

They are available to December 7 or while quantities last.

Canadian Tire Christmas shopping hours will begin tonight (Thursday). For your convenience the store will be open from 8:30 am to 9 pm Monday to Friday and 8 am to 6 pm Saturdays, until Christmas.

Hancey Balks At Idea Firemen Flood Rinks

Councillor Lois Hancey, chairman of Richmond Hill Council's Fire Committee, dug in her heels at last week's brief council meeting, and refused to take a request to her committee.

Her refusal arose from a recent recommendation from the town's parks committee, headed by Councillor Shaun Bages that the town's permanent firemen be asked to look after the flooding of outdoor rinks this winter. This suggestion received approval of the majority of council members and was referred to committee. Mrs. Hancey based her objection on lack of manpower and the belief that fire-fighting equipment should not be tied up on jobs of this nature.

"I choose not to take this suggestion to the committee," stated the only woman councillor. "I have always tried to be co-operative and this is the only time that I haven't been."

"As an elected representative, do I have to do something I don't want to do?" she asked Town Solicitor Tom Fraser. Mr. Fraser doubted there was anything in the Municipal Act which would force a councillor to take action. "Then you would go to your normal rules of procedure, but I understand this council does not have a procedural bylaw."

Mayor William Lazenby solved the impasse by stating he would call a meeting of the fire committee as a whole and introduce the proposal at that time.

Reeve Donald Plaxton told Mrs. Hancey, "I think it is a little ridiculous that your decision can frustrate the decision of a majority of council, but I don't blame you for trying."

County Boards Share Costs Services

In a move to reduce costs and at the same time improve services, the York County Board of Education and the York County Roman Catholic School Board set up a joint liaison committee shortly after the two boards were formed in January 1969.

This committee has been particularly useful in extending areas of special education to children from both systems, and there has been considerable co-operation among teachers in their in-service training programs.

After a recess of several months, trustees of the two boards will get together again on December 3 in the Roman Catholic Board administration offices in Richmond Hill.

At a recent meeting Roman Catholic Committee Chairman Donald Ferguson of the town of Markham told his board that his committee would like to see priority given to discussion of shared transportation, a co-operative film library as eligible for grants from the Department of Education, joint purchasing and a review of other shared services.

Chairman of the board of education committee is Richmond Hill Trustee Deena Simpson.

4 Cabinet Ministers Tell Taxation Story At York Mills Seminar

York - Peel Reassessment, Federal - Provincial Negotiations Keys To Ontario Tax Reform

BY HAROLD BLAINE

Reassessment of real estate in York and Peel Counties, along with federal-provincial tax reform negotiations, are key items in the Ontario Government's drive to achieve a more equitable tax system.

This was what about 170 citizens were told at the recent York Mills Progressive Conservative Association public seminar on tax problems at St. Gabriel's Church Hall, Sheppard Avenue East, Willowdale.

The guest speakers were four members of the Ontario Cabinet — Provincial Treasurer and Economics Minister Charles MacNaughton, Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough, Labor Minister Dalton Bales (MLA for York Mills) and Education Minister William Davis.

It was the fourth in a series of such seminars being held in the riding. The ones held earlier were on landlord-tenant law, pollution, and drugs.

"Now we have York and Peel reassessed, we can move to design a new, fairer and more equitable tax system in these areas," said Municipal Affairs Minister McKeough.

Education Minister Davis outlined what the provincial government is doing to assume a greater share of the education cost load and relieve the property taxpayer.

Among tax saving moves he mentioned as being favored by the province for the local government level, is the combining of school and public libraries.

"We find it works very well when the top floor of the library is for the public and the bottom floor is for the school," Mr. Davis said.

The Education Minister was answering a critical question from a citizen who cited provincial expenditures for public libraries as growing smaller in relation to community growth.

Economics Minister MacNaughton told the meeting that for many people the present federal-provincial-municipal tax package is "a financial straightjacket — a tax burden that binds them in perpetual poverty, or prevents them from becoming economic citizens.

"For examples of this striking paradox in the midst of our relatively affluent society, you need only look at the impoverished old age pensioner who must pay income tax, municipal tax, sales tax and other government levies, even if his sole income is the old age security and guaranteed income supplement," said the Economics Minister.

"Or I might refer to those who have been described as the 'new poor' in our society — the people who are considered to be in middle income brackets but whose total tax burden jeopardizes their ability to make ends meet.

"Taxes should be designed like a suit of clothes. They should be tailored to fit the people who pay them.

"Or let me quote an eminent economist who stated: '... nothing shows so clearly the character of a society and a civilization as does the fiscal policy its political sector adopts.'

"Or as stated in our 1970 Ontario Budget, '... tax reforms must meet the needs of taxpayers first and of governments second.'

"Unfortunately, we have three different sets of tax tailors in Canada — federal, provincial and municipal — each trying to squeeze out enough cloth to serve a particular form of government. We have three taxing jurisdictions — each raising funds for its own programs — but only one taxpayer," said Mr. MacNaughton.

"On the premise, then, that our tax system must be tailored to serve taxpayers first, Ontario has taken two basic approaches to the current process of tax reform.

"The national income tax system must be used as the catalyst through which all other government levies, including provincial and municipal tax burdens, are adjusted and modified to meet the individual's ability to pay.

"We cannot agree that this important shared tax field should be redesigned simply to serve the purposes of the federal government.

"Unless the federal-provincial-

municipal tax system is redesigned in a comprehensive and co-ordinated manner, meaningful redistribution of tax burdens cannot be achieved and the best interests of taxpayers will not be served.

"Taxes in Canada already are too high.

"Government spending has grown from 26% of the gross national product in 1952, to almost 36% this year.

"Inter-government controls must be established to contain the rapid rise in government expenditures.

"We cannot achieve meaningful tax reform unless we pursue, hand-in-hand, expenditure reforms.

"Ontario appears to have succeeded in partially achieving this objective.

"As you know, our analysis of the federal White Paper showed that the Benson (Federal Finance Minister) proposals incorporated a significant increase in taxes from the income field.

"We made our case through a series of public statements, and finally, a comprehensive report to the Canadian people.

"The result has been a commitment from the Federal Minister of Finance to readjust his proposed new income tax rates to contain revenues at their present levels.

"This commitment, in our opinion, will ensure that our collective efforts are directed toward taxpayers' interests, rather than toward governments' needs," he said.

"Many of you will be aware of the numerous proposals by which Ontario believes that comprehensive tax reform can be achieved.

"Our refundable tax credits — (Continued on Page 17)