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OTTAWA REPORT

By

John Roberts MP

YORK SIMCOE

Benson's White Paper On Taxation

Most of my summer was spent in Ottawa helping to draft the report of the House of Commons Committee on Tax Reform. Our report was presented to the Commons early in October and provides I believe, both an equitable and acceptable basis for the government's legislation — expected early next spring.

Our basic divergence from the Benson White Paper was to insist that considerations of growth were as important as equity in framing a tax system. Like the government we advocated a capital gains tax — but at lighter rates. The White Paper had suggested that capital gains be taxed as ordinary income — the committee urged that they be taxed at half the rate of personal income tax. In practice this would introduce a capital gains tax in Canada at slightly less than American levels.

The committee urged that no capital gains tax be collected on the sale of a residence, nor on stock shares every five years (as proposed by the government) nor on personal property valued under \$1,000 per item. Making these changes led us to recommend that the tax on capital gains be applied upon death, and this in turn led us to recommend a great relaxation on estate taxes — namely that no estate tax be collected on estates valued at less than \$150,000.

Business men will be interested in proposals which will affect them. We recommended there be strict accounting on claimed business expenses. We were extremely concerned about the position of small businesses — this is one area where there is great public controversy. The committee decided small businesses should be helped — but it could not agree on whether this assistance should be to all small businesses, those which are new businesses, or those that are growth businesses. The committee supported the basic approach to the mineral resource industries outlined in the White Paper, but adopted proposals to encourage more processing of these resources in Canada.

The Commons Committee accepts the White Paper proposal to raise personal exemptions to \$1,400 from \$1,000 for single persons and to \$2,800 from \$2,000 for married persons.

The Commons Committee accepts the form of the proposed

In The Spotlight

(Continued from Page 2)

theory of directing and acting. Michael, after casting the play in the conventional way of most directors, stepped out of the "mold". He started the whole group on improvisations, trust exercises and individual confrontation of each other in a positive way. Thus, in a very short time in a room filled with strangers, Michael could easily select those who domineered, took command, and those who were in need of his help in confidence building. A neat trick indeed!

Judy was beside herself as she tried to explain — "We all sat in a circle and Michael crushed a paper bag, shaped it and convinced us it was a dying bird. Then he passed it to the first person in the circle... you should have seen their faces Bonnie (fantastic!). We really believed it was a wounded bird and some of the people actually had tears in their eyes as they cradled it to their breasts. In a few minutes it took the bird to go full circle, we became one in our grief for this creature.

As the last person handed it back to Michael, he moved to the centre of the circle, laid the bird gently down — then violently smashed down and crushed it under his heel. Explosive results! Instant hatred! The whole group turned on him, normally shy young girls swore vehemently at him and others started toward him." Pretty powerful stuff eh? Judy told me of other exercises he had them perform and was clearly excited about it.

Michael plans to have all these "strangers" continue like this until Christmas, without so much as a glance at the script. He can afford this luxury because "Birdie" won't be staged until May when it opens at Hart House. He is extremely pleased with last week's confrontation and feels his people are really becoming a cohesive group.

Michael's reaction is indicative of the remaining members of the cast, Michael Stanwick is capable of fantastic person-to-person results. Enthusiasm? I'm not even in this thing and I'm enthusiastic! Terrific!

(I'll let you know how Bye-Bye Birdie fares six months from now).

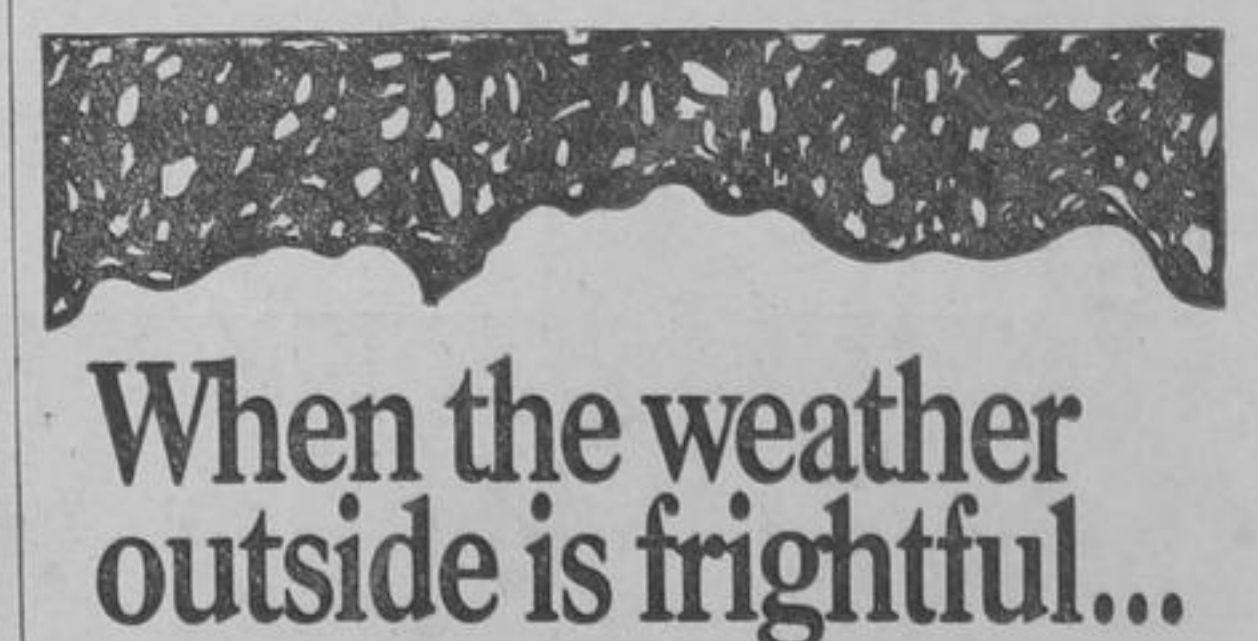
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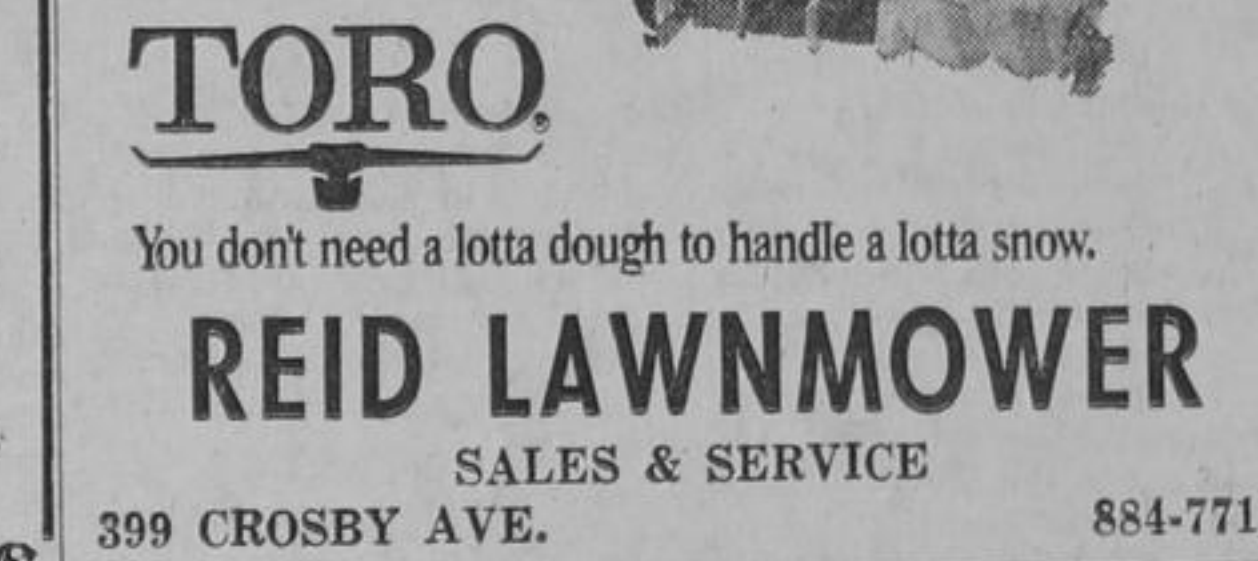


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Now is the time to make provision for proper and convenient care of your dog during the coming winter, says local Canine Control Officer James Ryan. Keeping animals in applies the whole year round, not just in summer, says Mr. Ryan. "If a dog is unfortunate enough to be hit by a car and injured in winter, it suffers a lot more than in summer. So to avoid getting them hurt in the first place keep them under control. "Anybody who lets his dog run is simply displaying to the world he really isn't an animal lover in any way. People whose animals are found running at large can be charged and fined up to \$50 for the offence," says the canine control officer. If your dog is kept in a fenced yard, now is the time to check the fence to see if it is secure. There will soon be frost and ice to hamper repair work. If a dog is kept outside in a kennel or house, the building should be insulated if possible. The dog house should be raised from the ground on two pieces of wood, or in some other way, so there is an air gap between the floor and ground. A draft cloth of some kind should be hung over the kennel opening. Sacking or canvas are suitable materials. This keeps drafts away from your dog. "People who would normally tie their dogs securely during the day may find it impossible to do this in winter. This may be particularly true for the lady of the house if she has forgotten about the chain and has allowed it to become buried in the ice or snow. The best way to prevent this is to provide now for a high place to hang the chain when it isn't being used," says Mr. Ryan. Dogs kept out all night in winter should be the long-haired variety. Short-haired dogs are usually unable to withstand long severe cold nights in winter without suffering exposure. Precautions taken now will help keep dogs off the roads in winter time. Allowing dogs to run in winter is unfair both to the animals and to the motorists. On icy roads a dog doesn't stand a chance, and the motorist has even less of a chance, says Mr. Ryan. Dogs running loose can cause motorists to have accidents. For further advice on winter care of your dog, Mr. Ryan invites owners to call Canine Control at 889-1081 or 887-5562.

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LEMONTVILLE — A beautiful thoroughbred filly, owned by Jim and Louise Milligan of Lemontville, in Whitchurch Township came home a double winner from the Royal Winter Fair. She not only topped the yearling filly class, but also went on to take the junior championship. Her sire is Nashua Belle, owned by James Sabiston of Unionville.

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