

The Liberal
 An Independent Weekly: Established 1878
 Subscription Rate \$5.00 per year; to United States \$6.00; 15c single copy
 Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
 Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association
 Published by Richmond Hill Liberal Publishing Co. Ltd.
 W. S. COOK, Publisher
 "Second class mail, registration number 0190"

Sensible Welfare Approach

Faced with spiralling welfare costs and continued abuses of the present system, governments everywhere are taking a long, hard look at the whole matter of public welfare payments. Here in Ontario the provincial government is planning to introduce legislation to halt the practice of young people who voluntarily leave home, where their parents still are willing to support them and seek regular assistance as welfare cases. In British Columbia welfare recipients who are healthy and refuse to accept gainful employment as offered by the municipalities are to be refused any further public assistance.

This planned gouging of the tax supported welfare system is not confined to Canada only. Our neighbor to the south is experiencing the same problem. Governor Richard Ogilvie of Illinois, in a hard hitting speech to a joint session of the House and Senate, has called the present welfare system in his state a "human outrage and a fiscal monster". He promised a major overhaul of public aid based on "the old-fashioned notion of working for a living". "The welfare system embodies all the worst of our failures — moral, fiscal, administrative and legal" stated Mr. Ogilvie in his message which at times drew resounding applause from both sides of the House. Under Governor Ogilvie's plan people on welfare who now receive their cheques in the mail would pick them up once a month at

a state employment office where they would also meet with job counsellors to review prospects for work. Any recipient who refuses work will be summarily denied further benefits.

Other features of the Illinois plan include a substantial reshaping of general assistance, which has been described as the least effective and most abused welfare program; tighter machinery to curb fraud; more state and local government jobs for those on relief, and a cutback on the state's Medicaid costs. In conclusion, Mr. Ogilvie said the "sky-rocketing demands of welfare are producing a serious financial crisis which can only result in a substantial increase in the state income tax".

Welfare costs across Canada are creating essentially the same financial burden for the taxpayer as they are in the U.S. No one would deny welfare to those who through no fault of their own are in need of temporary assistance but what the taxpayer does object to is the brazen announcement by certain elements in society of their intention to make welfare living a way of life. These people have no intention of making any real contribution to this nation let alone sharing in other burdens of government by paying taxes. This irresponsible group in our society should not be allowed to take advantage of the majority.

York Star Chamber

Not too many centuries ago the English speaking world was ruled by a feudal system without any semblance of balance of democracy. At the same time in Spain there were local councils remarkable for their open meetings and degree of democracy. They won charters and the freedom to rule themselves.

As the years passed England developed citizen councils with freedom to rule in a responsible democratic fashion. At one point, so the story goes, an English nobleman established a democratic precedent when he risked his personal freedom and published the proceedings of the House of Commons.

Here in Canada we have inherited this tradition which has allowed the English speaking people to lead the world in freedom and progress. Across Canada the legislative assemblies and the committees of these assemblies are open to the public, except in the most unusual or grave circumstances. The right to publicly publish these proceedings is scrupulously protected.

While these democratic rights and the protection of open public meetings, free and responsible, were developing in the English speaking world, the Spanish world moved in the other direction. A central and dictatorial Spanish authority eroded the freedom and responsibility of the local councils.

The central Spanish authority appointed emissaries to sit on local councils, and these emissaries eventually usurped the rights and freedoms of responsible local democracy. The result is that today we have dictatorship in a Spain sunk deep in social and economic trouble, and a huge Spanish and Portuguese new world that has never yet been able to achieve real freedom and progress.

Perhaps there should be a lesson in all this for our central government authority in Ontario and the new York Regional Municipal Council that now controls so much of our local government affairs.

Recently we had the spectacle of a huge \$18,690,000 budget formulated in secret by the new regional council. Without being revealed to the citizens of York, this budget was submitted to the emissaries of the central provincial authority for approval. Details of this budget are still secret,

and it appears that from one-half to three-quarters of it will be spent before it receives approval from elected local representatives.

In fact, there is an evident danger that details of this budget may never be made public. And it is being spent by a new regional regime that has a chairman at the helm who was appointed by the central provincial authority.

Recently, too, we saw the York Regional Police Commission in secret sessions prepare a \$31½ million budget, up one million dollars from the previous year. With a central provincial authority's emissary sitting in and making the key recommendations, the police commission decided to spend \$360,000 on a headquarters building.

When the elected members of York Region Council balked at approving the police commission's summary request for money, the elected council was threatened with the possibility of an appeal to the central provincial authority for a dictated order.

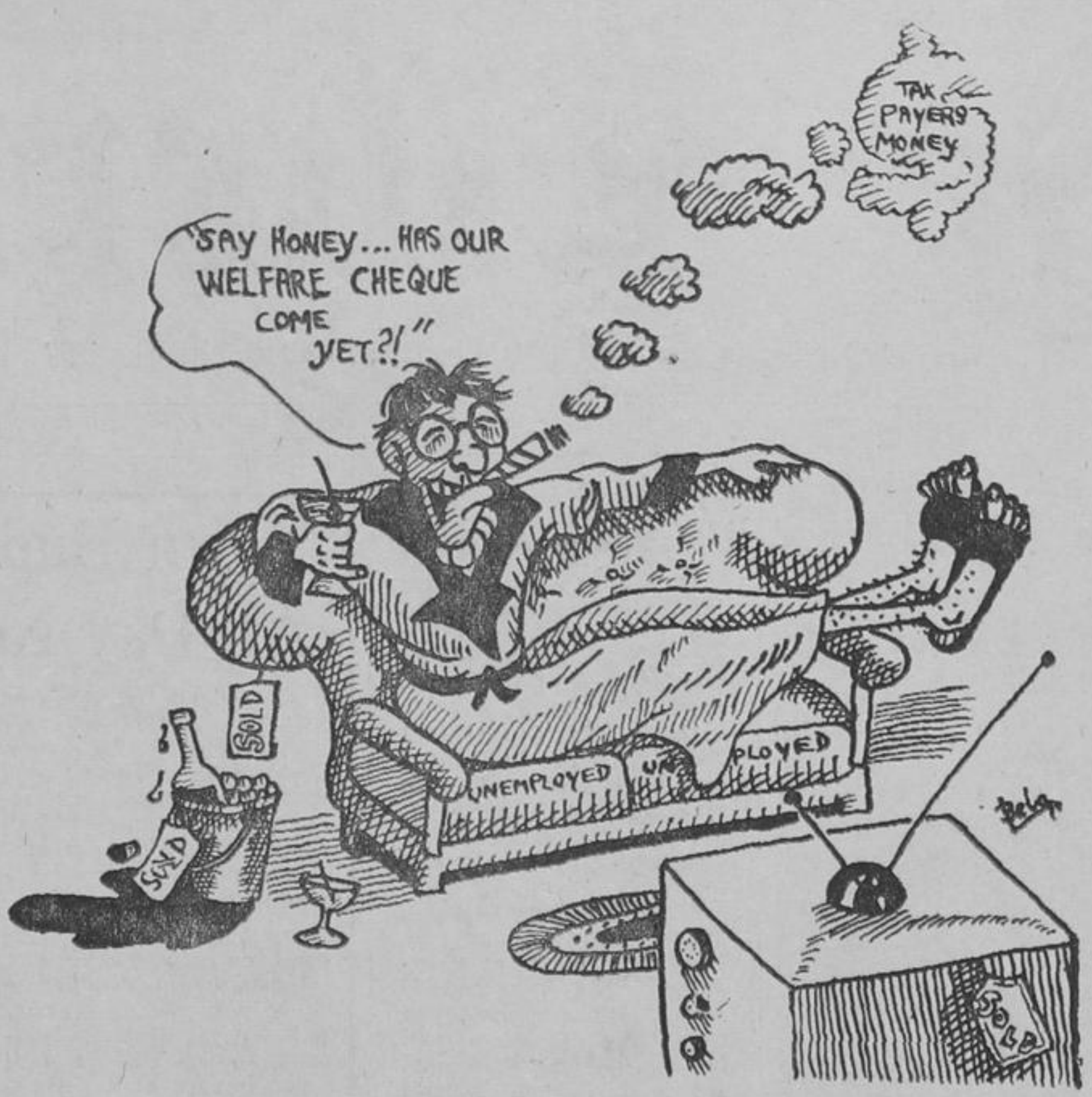
Where does the right to local responsible democratic government fit into this picture? Is this right in jeopardy and are we in danger of taking that road Spain took so many years ago? At least one elected member of the local regional council thinks so.

During the last council session Mayor Richard Illingworth of Aurora fought implacably and practically alone against centralized dictatorship of local affairs, and against star chamber proceedings in regional council budget deliberations. Indeed, as Mayor Illingworth said, the people must know.

Municipal councils, almost without exception, must hold their plenary and committee meetings in public. Notices of the time and place of such meetings should be freely circulated and posted in a prominent public place. We recently have had complaints from citizens about secret municipal committee meetings.

York Region Council and several local town and township councils at present leave much to be desired in this respect.

We are indeed fortunate to have a leader in York Region like Mayor Illingworth, who is willing to stand upon an important public principle, and fight for it if necessary.



Easy Living On Welfare

Letters to the Editors

APARTMENT BUILDING A DISGRACE

Dear Mr. Editor:

I am writing to complain about the disgraceful appearance of the apartment building at 60 Laverock Avenue. This property has become so run down and shabby that it makes this area of lovely homes look like a tenement. Weeds grow unchecked, washing flaps from the balconies and the building itself is sadly in need of painting. Several calls to town council members over the past couple of years have brought the response "there is no bylaw to cover this situation." However, bylaws can be made, as was proven in the case of Arnold Street not too long ago.

The apartment is a disgrace to the community and to the town and steps should be taken at once to ensure that it is maintained and landscaped in keeping with the surrounding homes.

IRATE HOMEOWNER

COURT PROCEDURE INTERESTING

Dear Mr. Editor:

Late last March my husband was involved in a minor traffic accident on Crosby Avenue at a time when the roads were in an extremely slippery condition due to ice buildup from a recent storm. The other driver was subsequently charged with failure to yield and my husband was subpoenaed as a prosecution witness. The case was scheduled to be heard in Richmond Hill County Court early in May.

Since I have never been to court and since I was curious about judicial procedure, it was decided that I would go along to get some first hand impressions.

The court chambers in our municipal building are sedate without appearing imposing. However, when court is in session one does get the feeling of the full "majesty of the law" even in minor cases as were on the docket that day.

The presiding judge gave indications of a very humane personality when he warned one man charged with careless driving that it was a serious offence and that he might request an adjournment if he were not adequately prepared. To further emphasize the gravity of the charge, the defendant was told of the stiff penalty which would be imposed if he were found guilty.

The procedure relating to this case and the many that followed, all dealing with minor traffic violations, were orderly, cautious and extremely interesting.

The range of emotions elicited by the sympathy for a defendant and the resultant conviction was a revelation to me. On the other hand, when the reverse occurred — when I felt no sympathy with the accused and then saw him acquitted, it made me question my own judgment.

It seemed fairly obvious in some of the cases that invention was the order of the day, even under oath. However, the judge seemed to take everything into consideration, and it seem-

ed, if there was the slightest chance that the conviction could not be upheld, the defendant was given the benefit of the doubt.

Indeed one could go so far as to say that justice seems to bend over backward for the ordinary man on the street.

For me, my several hours as a spectator was an education and I would recommend to anyone who has not had occasion to be in a courtroom in any capacity that they attend a sitting of the local provincial courts and become acquainted with our judicial system.

MRS. RITA ROSENFELD, 216 Neal Drive, Richmond Hill.

MARKHAM ROAD IS DANGEROUS

Dear Mr. Editor:

I have sent the following letter to the York County Board of Education and a copy of it to Don Deacon, M.L.A., York Centre and to Superintendent Russell MacDonald, Area 4. I trust you can find space for it so that other concerned parents can join us in our concern for our children's safety and our attempt to have some corrective action taken.

As a parent of a child starting kindergarten in September, I feel that the Board of Education should become aware of certain unsatisfactory conditions that a 4-5-year-old has to endure in order to arrive at school.

Residing on Cedar Avenue, my child has to attend McConaghy School, a distance of approximately 1¼ miles from our home and has to traverse two main roads, i.e. Markham and Yonge, not to mention several side streets, en route.

On Markham Road traffic is fast and heavy. Trucks obviously assume there is no speed limit. Traffic travels close to the curb, sidewalks are narrow and are not always cleared of snow in the winter, forcing the children to walk into the road, or climb over mounds of snow from which they could easily slip into the path of on-coming traffic. At a

recent PTA meeting police officials informed parents that traffic conditions could only get worse.

I, myself, have second thoughts of walking along Markham Road. Even with crossing guards conditions are still unsatisfactory as children from the south end of this street have to walk about a mile in order to reach such a guard and as much as we would like to think that we have taught our children the rules of safety, there is always the chance that for one split second they forget and side-step on to the road to be knocked down by a speeding car or truck.

Some kindergarten children are not quite five when they have to walk this distance, and from grade 1 up return home for lunch making a total of about five miles a day. By the time they get home for lunch it is almost time to leave for school again and in the winter they are frozen stiff by the time they reach home. Plodding through snow takes longer than walking along dry sidewalks with the result the children are left very little time to eat a hot meal before returning to school.

One solution to the problem would be the provision of a bus to transport these children to McConaghy School. I understand that children from the Crosby Area are being taken to Walter Scott School by bus — a similar, if not shorter, distance than from Cedar Avenue to McConaghy, and that kindergarten children from the Day Care Centre also go by bus or taxi to Walter Scott. Why then could we not have a bus to McConaghy. If transportation can be readily given to these two groups why not to us also?

Another solution would be for the children in this area to attend Walter Scott School, a proposition which I believe has already been suggested by parents in the past and rejected, but which I would like the board to reconsider. Though they still have to negotiate Markham Road the distance is considerably shorter.

One objection in the past was due to regulations regarding children crossing the railroad track. However, at a recent planning committee meeting it was revealed that children from a proposed new development on Cedar Avenue would be provided with an over or underpass in order to attend Walter Scott. To my mind this seems like preferential treatment for children who are non-existent at the moment. The real need is for children already living on the street.

I hope the board will seriously consider these propositions and as several of the residents on this street feel the same way as I do they have also signed their names below.

MRS. FIONA CAMPBELL, 186 Cedar Avenue, Richmond Hill. (And six other residents of Cedar Avenue).

Records Ottawa Trip In Poem

The following poems were written by Bill Neal, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Neal of Langstaff, a pupil of Roselawn Senior Public School, during a recent school trip to Ottawa.

THE HIGHWAY

(Highway 401) May 28
 Traveling along concrete gardens
 Where no green shows and warmth all hardens
 Makes me feel so very cold
 To see a land of beauty fold
 One mile wide and a thousand long
 Nature weeps to it and sings death's song
 What will this in 10 years be?
 An ugly wanting concrete sea.

THE FACTORIES

May 27
 Factories, factories everywhere,
 They pollute our sky but they don't care.
 They kill all life but it's better dead
 As long as they can make their bread.
 The people speak of what they had
 To factory owners money mad,
 The world once flourished full of life
 And then was stabbed with jagged knife,
 Less people now die in bloody wars
 Than from blackened skies of our outdoors.

FORT HENRY

May 30
 Great men stood here in the past —
 The spirits run in me at last
 I let my imagination run
 Past screaming men and firing gun
 When I see machines of present day
 Which make my dreams all drift away.

THE ROCK

(At the Peace Tower) May 30
 The rock stands firm and hard and cold,
 It stands there strong and all so bold
 As to defy time and just watch it fly
 And watch all life just fade and die.
 The rock now smoothened by the rain
 Which caused to us such vicious pain
 Is jutting from under soft green grass.
 The defiant rock is tamed at last.

Tighter Welfare Reins

(Hamilton Spectator)

Queen's Park apparently intends to make things tougher for those who unfairly milk the province's welfare system. Under new regulations, local welfare officials will get more power to exercise discretion in individual cases.

The action isn't any too soon. Between the deserving cases, legitimate victims of the national unemployment crisis, and the lazy leeches who live on the toil of others, Ontario welfare costs have gone wild.

Even if the province wanted to carry a disproportionate share of parasites, the taxpayers can't afford it; there are too many honest citizens who genuinely need the help a welfare system provides. And they must get it without undue difficulty. (Local welfare committees and the province welfare appeal board should suffice to protect the rights of legitimate applicants).

In some cities, American draft dodgers have moved in at the Ontario taxpayers' expense. Throughout Southern Ontario, it is becoming fashionable for some shiftless teenagers to move out of their parents' homes and set up house for themselves — on welfare.

Working people — the source of most of the tax money gushing out of the welfare system's loopholes — can afford to carry only so many spongers, and only at personal sacrifice.

Society has no moral obligation to young people who voluntarily quit their homes and parental support. It's to be hoped that the new regulations, to be presented to the cabinet by Social and Family Services Minister Tom Wells, will give welfare officers the scope they need to tear greedy paw out of the public pockets.

In the Spotlight



By BONNIE SHEPPARD

Bayview's Revelation '71 Attracts Large Crowds, Enthusiastic Comments

It's one thing to be asked if one is a student by an older person, but quite another when the inquirer is sixteen. Revelation '71 was bound to be successful if this question were asked to all adults. Good manoeuvre.

Since I'd neglected to pick up a map of the various displays and activities, I just happened upon things and in most cases was delightfully surprised. Revelation '71 was the climax of Bayview Secondary School Fine Arts Department's school year. It was a whole new venture and a very formidable undertaking. When the school's artists and sculptors were demonstrating their techniques at one end of the school, the chefs of tomorrow were stirring the soup at the other. Scenes from Shakespeare were enacted in an open quadrangle only minutes away from an electronic rock group in the gym. Sounds complicated already doesn't it?

In any case, walk around the school with me. (And by all means, be flattered, for the girl has just asked for your student card). Art work is everywhere and some of it extremely professional. Bill Derry's work in particular was the first thing to catch our attention with a striking water colour. He's very sure of himself with a water color brush and the strokes are energetic and bold.

We got lost somewhere after walking down a long narrow corridor. But very soft music seemed to bring us back to reality (if that sounds corny to you, you may be right but believe me that is how it felt). The source of this very soothing and reassuring music was revealed to us. (Remember you are with me) through a window and it was an outdoor setting. The softness of the music was fitting at that moment because from our vantage point it felt like we were trespassing on a very secret little gathering. Men, women and youths were seated quietly on the grass and a few chairs, completely caught up by the two young singers. A barefooted long haired blonde with a clear soprano voice, and a melancholy folksong. If those two knew how romantic a picture that whole scene provided I'm sure they would be flattered indeed. The girl was Debbie Bolger, a student who has appeared frequently on Channel 10, and the young man was Barry Pearson the former theatre arts teacher at Bayview and currently a writer at CBC. (Ah-ha we too have been guilty of assuming youth!) The lyrics and mood changed as we stepped into the quadrangle. The two singers sang one of Barry's own compositions. Listen — "It don't matter what you do, inevitably you lose. You get an acid queen (?), Bill McVein and the CFRB news".

Back into the school and a room where artists were busily demonstrating their works. A sculptress at work, two girls doing portraits and a gal explaining wire sculpture. Glance about the room and Bill Derry's work steps out boldly again, black and white fashion drawings, excellent gesture drawings and a stippled graphic piece of John Wayne from True Grit to be employed on a record jacket. Bill Derry has a command of many mediums!

The gymnasium door is locked and we've missed

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Concord Annual Meeting Occasion For Celebration As Many Graduates Start New Life

BY MARGARET LADE

When a calf is born in a barn in a rural community it is not exactly news. It does not make the social pages of the local newspaper, and unless the parents are of exceptional prestigious pedigree, it is not even mentioned in the farm journals.

But when "Lucky" arrived in the barn at the Salvation Army House of Concord farm on Dufferin Street it was cause for celebration, and the group of young men who had assisted the birth were not ordinary farm boys. They were not at Concord by choice. They came from cities and

towns and villages by order of the courts.

Judged by the usual standards of our society they are "undesirables." They have broken laws and been tried and found guilty and been put on probation, and the Salvation Army has assumed the responsibility of working with them, helping them to sort out their confused and unhappy lives.

The 300 people assembled for the 12th annual meeting at the House of Concord on May 12 were fascinated by the story related by Concord's Director Major Archie MacCorquodale.

Lucky's mother had a very difficult pregnancy, he ex-

plained, and it was plain that she was going to have a very difficult confinement.

One young man, who had worked around the farm for several months, was greatly concerned and insisted on sleeping in the barn during the last few anxious nights.

When the time arrived, half a dozen other lads came to his assistance, and despite numerous complications, aid and supervision from the farm manager and a veterinarian, the calf was delivered. No one expected that it would survive, but survive it did, and so did the mother.

After dinner the brief informal meeting, guests were invited to visit the barn, and one of them, Rev. B. F. "Biff" Andrew, pastor of the Presbyterian charge of St. Andrew's Maple, and St. Paul's Vaughan, marvelled at the cow's obvious affection for the boy who had spent so many hours with her in her agony.

"I have never seen a cow show affection for a person like that before," declared Mr. Andrew, "I was amazed."

But the action at the barn is only a small part of life at Concord. When it opened as a rehabilitation centre 12 years ago, there were 40

boys and five workers. It now has 54 full time employees, and although he is reluctant to discuss statistics, Major MacCorquodale did admit that 116 boys from 16 to 21 had successfully passed through the program in 1970, and more than 2,000 in 12 years with an average stay of seven to nine months.

After a sumptuous dinner of roast beef and all the trimmings, including strawberry parfait and assorted sweets, prepared under the direction of Chef John Wright and served by staff and residents, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Lindores, director of correctional services for the Salvation Army, re-

ported on progress.

The people at Concord, said Lt.-Col. Lindores, had built a skating rink last fall, and they hope to cover it by next fall.

The successes at Concord have prompted federal and provincial authorities to assist financially in setting up similar Salvation Army facilities across Canada.

When the rehabilitation program was described to Solicitor-General Jean-Pierre Goyer, he continued, there had been substantial increases in grants at both federal and provincial levels. "We are very grateful for this support."

Lt.-Col. Lindores explained that not only the Salvation Army is involved, that a number of concerned people share in the program, including judges and other law enforcement officers and officials.

The invocation was pronounced by Rev. Andrew. Musical interludes were provided by Mrs. Helen Robbins, wife of Inspector Robert Robbins of Vaughan Detachment, York Regional Police, and former Chief of Police in the old Town of Richmond Hill. Mrs. Robbins sang "Green Pastures" and "Bless This House."

Territorial Commander Commissioner Clarence Wiseman was the main speaker.

"The Salvation Army goes about its work in a very practical way," said the commissioner, "with love, warmth and understanding."

As a testimonial of the work at the House of Concord he read excerpts from letters received from a grateful mother, from an equally grateful "graduate," and from the glowing testimonial of a satisfied employer.

Concord is much more than an experiment, Assistant Director of Provincial Probation Services George McFarlane told the assembly, "It is a model, a dem-

onstrated project — one that will be followed in many other jurisdictions."

"Attending the annual meeting at Concord," he said, "is like spring tonic. Here we are in touch with the very heart of the matter, of the program and what it can achieve."

The guests said Mr. McFarlane, are people vitally interested and concerned with the problems of youth. They are people with similar goals. He observed that there were a number of probation officers present, and concluded, "May your work flourish."

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