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Ottawa's Economic Blunders

The decision of Regional Economic Minister Jean Marchand to pour over \$5.3 million in federal tax dollars plus another \$4.5 million from the joint Canada-Quebec Forestry Program into a new co-operative cardboard mill at Cabano in the Gaspé area of Quebec was based on political considerations and not economic ones. The Quebec Provincial Government has promised to contribute \$2.7 million to the project and Belgian interests another \$4 million.

Several factors should be given careful scrutiny by the Canadian taxpayer who is being asked to pour \$5.3 million plus a major share of the Canadian - Quebec Forestry Fund into yet another Quebec project. It is difficult to imagine that a project of this magnitude employing an estimated 176 people and creating another 500 indirect jobs could successfully be operated as a Gaspé co-operative. It will take expert leadership by men who are not only familiar with the technical side of such an enterprise but also comprehend the financial and marketing aspects to mention only two of the major conditions of any such undertaking.

The co-operative leaders have promised Ottawa an eight percent return per year on its investment at a time when two other cardboard plants have recently closed down in the neighboring province of New Brunswick. The St. Anne-Nackawic Pulp and Paper Company has had to mothball its corrugating plant at Nackawic while another producer, Fundy Forest Products Limited at St. George, is now bankrupt.

In assessing the Gaspé project's eligibility for federal assistance, Mr. Marchand stated that Ottawa would have to assess its potential impact on the present market for cardboard both here at home and overseas. There is no question that the new plant is going to aggravate the present oversupply position. In the world markets Quebec will likely lose France as a potential customer as it has added to its productive capacity and is not exporting at very low prices. The Gaspé plant will affect existing Canadian plants at Matane and East Angus in Quebec and Trenton and Sturgeon Falls in Ontario.

Mr. Marchand is quoted as saying that from a purely economic point of view he wouldn't invest "one red cent in the Gaspé project", but from the "social aspects" he considered it qualified for federal assistance. "It required a little bending of the rules" but Mr. Marchand said he considered it a "special case". Canadians expect Ottawa to encourage industrial development and also help industry to be competitive in world markets. But the Gaspé deal, coming as it did just five weeks before the federal voting, smacks of blatant electioneering by The Three Wise Men of Quebec (Trudeau, Pelletier, Marchand). The lack of expert management and soft market conditions make the Gaspé plant's future as a viable economic operation highly questionable. The Canadian public has no guarantee for the millions of federal tax dollars that have been poured into the project beyond the obviously jaded economic judgement of Mr. Marchand.

No United Appeal In York

October is United Appeal month we are told. The daily press, radio and television make pleas on behalf of the Red Cross, Family Services, Big Brothers, YM and YWCA, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, Mental Health, Association for the Retarded, Senior Citizens, Visiting Homemakers and dozens of other essential and worthy services. And every year at this time, the hard working boards of directors and administrators of these services of the Region of York wince as they think of the hundreds of thousands of dollars being syphoned off from York into Metro through payroll deduction plans that, in many cases, literally force residents of the region to contribute to services they will never benefit from.

When we read that "a hard driving campaign to let our employees know the company really cares" has spurred 130 employees of a Don Mills firm to more than double their contribution to this year's United Appeal, we wonder how many of these employees live north of Steeles Avenue.

When we note that last year only 31 per cent of the company's staff contributed, that this year the number giving is 75 per cent, we wonder if the company and that portion of its employees who live in the Region of York realize that not one penny of those contributions will come to York.

For years a hard-working committee of the Richmond Hill and District Social Planning Council has been attempting to devise ways and means of setting up a united fund to help our own community services. When the local agencies launch a local drive for funds, willing and eager canvassers are soon disheartened and disillusioned as they are dismissed with the curt response, "I gave at the office"—the office in Metro.

Volunteer boards of directors are bone weary from making the annual trek, hat in hand, to municipal and regional councils pleading for money. And yet somehow these services survive and expand, and new services come into being and soon have waiting lists of clients applying for and desperately needing assistance.

For the sake of the members and clients of the 78 services that depend largely upon the United Appeal for their very existence we hope that the current campaign in Metro is a roaring success. We hope also that the residents of the Region of York will be mindful of the local need, that they will open their hearts and their pocket-books to campaigns and fund raising drives to meet these needs, for in the end we all benefit. Like the company in Don Mills let us collectively and individually let the region know that the people really care.

Encourage More Girls To Take Technical School

A report of the Advisory Board of Education says more girls should be encouraged to take technical courses, even if it means taking them at the technical literacy level.

York Region Scouts, Venturers Pennsylvania Bound For Weekend

Sixty-nine local Scouts and three leaders will represent the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Troops of the York Region Scouts and Venturers. They will be among 700 Southern Ontario Scouts and leaders who spent last weekend on the second half of an exchange visit with American Scouts.

A cavalcade of 14 buses left the Yorkdale Shopping Centre at 7 am Friday bound for Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, for two days of camping, a day of school with American Scouts and a two night stay with host families. The group will return home on Thanksgiving Day.

From the local area, 26 boys fall of 1973.

The report was handed down at a meeting of the board September 25. Two years in the making, it was prepared by Harvey O'Neill of Sutton, a superintendent with Ontario Hydro, and by Peter Sale, Richmond Hill, an employee of Philips Electronics Industries Limited.

"There should be an active campaign with girls students to make them recognize the equal opportunities which are being created for them," the report stated.

The report also stressed the need for schools to be flexible, so they could be converted to general shops if necessary. Technical instructors, too, should be given every opportunity to remain abreast of new developments in technology. Other recommendations in the report included: a method be developed for informing teachers about equipment available to them from other schools; assurance should be made that repairs to complex equipment be made by qualified persons; guidelines should be developed covering the expected life of equipment and disposal of outdated items; the purchase of bulk electronics supplies by individual teachers, should be facilitated.



(Photos by Stuart's Studio)

Key To Kingcrafts For Lady Flavelle

Lady Muriel Flavelle founded Kingcrafts 22 years ago with the aim of preserving the crafts of the pioneer women of the area. On September 27 she was guest of honor at a birthday celebration at the modern Kingcrafts building on Keele Street in King City and was presented with a key to the building handcrafted by the copper enamelling group and mounted on a plaque. She also had an opportunity to visit the new wing just opened.

Lady Flavelle is pictured above (right), with Mrs. Teen Chalk of King City as they admire the plaque.



In the Spotlight

By MONA A. ROBERTSON

The Magical Far East

Travelling to Canton, China, via Turkey, John Graham of Channel 10 TV station, visited the beautiful Mosque of the Sullanhmet, and site of the German Fountain in Istanbul . . . "It was almost unreal and covered an area as big as a football field", John told me as the story of his seven week trip to the far east continued. He also has an excellent collection of colored films to further enhance his glowing description of the places he visited.

While in Istanbul John had dinner with Gavin Scott, bureau chief of the mid-East for Time Magazine. Scott is a nephew of the late Gordon MacLaren of Richmond Hill.

Gavin Scott, John told me, has personally interviewed Premier Golda Meir of Israel and the former president of Turkey. He also did an article on Premier Sadet of Egypt, among a host of other celebrities in the mid-East.

In Beirut and Lebanon, John Graham met contacts supplied by Gavin, and one of these in Tehran, was the much talked-about belly-dancer who once entertained Kissinger with her dancing.

The surprise was John's when he found the cost of a ferry-ride on the Bosporus River — from Istanbul to the Black Sea — just the equivalent of 25 cents. Here John met school children who had never before seen a Canadian. They gave him a wonderful welcome to their school — through the interpretation of the principal, who was the only person he met there who spoke English.

"These were great people for washing themselves", John reminisced smilingly. "When I was introduced to them they immediately poured scented water on my hands. Then they presented me with a lovely bouquet of their native spring flowers."

John drove from Beirut to Baalbeck . . . "the oldest city in the world," he said, "built by Greek, Roman and Turkish cultures, the buildings often built on top of each other." A world-renowned music festival is held in Baalbeck each year.

Aran was the country and Tehran the city where, after three hours of haggling (everyone is expected to do this before buying anything), John bought an oriental rug . . . for cash plus a small TV.

Visiting Americans used clothing plus cash for merchandise. One American went as high as "25 shirts and cash" for a purchase!

The contrast in Pakistan was very pronounced. Here the poverty "was terrible". But it was here he found a genuine camel market . . . on the same street as a snake charmer. Outdoor dentists and open-air "laundries" wooden tubs and hand paddles, dotted the scene.

Arriving in Bangkok, John found Thailand much cleaner and very quaint and picturesque. He felt this was the prettiest city on his trip. . . . And the early morning water-market — with boats plying their wares with fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and even coal, up and down the river — "was very interesting and colorful indeed." Thailand is graced with countless shrines and most young boys become monks for at least a few months in their youth, he told me.

Finally, as recorded in "The Spotlight" last week, John Graham arrived in the city of Canton, and the Chinese Trade Show. This was the longest stop-over on the trip, until his return via San Francisco, where he was joined by his wife, Marylo (president of the Richmond Hill Curtain Club).

At the Canton Trade Show, John met two tobacco farmers from Tillsonburg, Ontario. They affirmed Canada has not been aggressive enough in selling Canadian tobacco to China. So they determined they would sell Canadian tobacco to the Chinese, themselves. And they did.

It took a day or two of dicker over the price . . . the Canadian farmers adamant in not lowering

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Five-Mile Hike Sunday At Glen Haffy Forest, Also Motorists' Tour

Some of the most spectacular vistas of autumn colors close to Toronto will provide a vibrant scenic backdrop for a five-mile hike being held Sunday at the Glen Haffy Conservation Area.

The Glen Haffy area is approximately 1,500 feet above sea level and offers many vantage points from which to view miles of colorful countryside. The five-mile hike will be conducted by naturalist Ron Hudson, and gets underway at 10:30 am. Hikers should bring a lunch and wear suitable clothing and footwear for cross-country walking. The Glen Haffy area is in Northern Peel County on the Airport Road about 1 1/2 miles south of Mono Mills.

Also car tour. Travelling along country roads is another way in which to enjoy the fall colors and the Metro Conservation Authority has mapped out a tour for Sunday which includes visits to some of its conservation areas.

You can pick up maps at the Greenwood Conservation Area, which is four miles north of Pickering on the Greenwood Road and start by enjoying the scenery from the lookout point. From there you drive along pleasant country roads to the Claremont area, and then past rugged rolling land at the Glen Major Forest and Wildlife area. The route then travels a westerly back-country course to Bruce's Mill. If you have planned your trip to arrive at Bruce's Mill just before 2 pm or 3:30 pm you can then take part in a conducted nature hike through the area.

Nature Hikes. There are also regular nature

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hikes conducted in some of the conservation areas on Sunday. There is one at Greenwood at 2 pm, one at Claremont at 4 pm and two hikes at both Boyd and Albion Hills at 2 and 3:30 pm.

For further information on these and other activities contact the authority offices at 630-9780.

Announcement

Dr. B. W. Granton and Dr. L. W. Krystolovich

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