

The Liberal

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Opinion

Let's have real fresh Christmas

BY REV. ROBERT QUICK
Richmond Hill
Free Methodist Church

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."
Isa. 9:6

As compared to all the chapters in the Bible, the four (Matt. 1,2; Luke 1,1) that deal with the birth of this child, that Isaiah prophesied about some 700 years before it happened, do not seem like very much quantitatively speaking. But these four are quite enough to tell us a story that is equal to none other in beauty, love and simplicity. There has never been a true story that has been told or an event in all of history that has happened, that has been as wonderful or moving or as significant to our lives today as the story of the coming of Jesus Christ the Son of God, as a baby to earth. It is the story of a gift like none other gift:

"The gift of Christmas is God's gift of love His only Son From Heaven above."

God has given us the sun and moon and stars, the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans, and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things, everything that blossoms and bears fruit. But the greatest gift of all was giving Himself; and that is what Christmas truly means — God giving us Himself — in the person of Jesus Christ. Christmas truly means — God

Christmas was not just an event in history, a baby being born, it was "the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us."

The joy of Christmas, then, for us is not just remembering a baby was born 2,000 years ago — the Christ child — but that we now can possess a personal Savior. Christmas means the COMING OF CHRIST. Christmas is Christ. The "Spirit of Christmas" in us which we talk about so often is just that — a personal encounter with the Christ of Christmas.

Christ not only came 2,000 years ago as a baby, to Mary and Joseph, to the shepherds, and to the wise men, He comes now to us at this Christmas time and every year giving us the opportunity to know afresh "the vital, joyous, rewarding reality of the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Clement's contribution to Richmond Hill great

Richmond Hill has suffered a great loss municipally with the resignation of Clerk Mack Clement, after 19 years of service to the town.

During that time he has seen the town grow from a population of about 4,500 to its present 35,000. He has an endless firsthand knowledge of the problems which have been faced and solved.

Clerk Clement was one of the group of dedicated municipal servants who, according to Mayor William Lazenby in a recent speech, "brought the town back from the brink of bankruptcy in the 1950s to the stable, sound financial situation it enjoys today."

The growth of the municipality in Mack's lifetime here has been even greater. During his school days the population was less than 1,000.

Throughout all these years Mack's contributions have been many — as a boy, as a young man, as the father of two growing boys.

Few experiences in life are more tragic than missing something important when there was no real need to miss it. Yet that is the experience of many of us at this Christmas time. It was the experience of those who missed the first Christmas, like the innkeeper, or Herod, or the religious leaders of the time. And it is the experience of us who miss Christmas today. Christ is Christmas. Leaving Him out of Christmas is in fact missing Christmas altogether, and missing its true meaning.

Let us this Christmas look beyond the Christmas cards, the tree, the tinsel, the presents, and the parties and even beyond the "facts" and historicity of this birth to the person of Jesus Christ. None of these things are wrong, and all are a part of our holiday season but there is more to Christmas. Let us this Christmas experience a fresh "coming" and not just celebrate the one 2,000 years ago. Don't miss Christmas.

As you celebrate His birth, and experience Him afresh in your lives this Christmas, remember the words of Peter, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

As you exchange gifts among your family and friends, remember the most worthy gifts at Christmas know no price in dollars: the gift of praise, the gift of consideration of others, the gift of concession, the gift of gratitude, the gift of attention to others, the gift of inspiration, and the gift of your personal presence in the time of need. Let us give lasting and worthwhile gifts this Christmas season, expressing the love God showed toward us in giving us His Son. May God give each of you a very meaningful and happy holiday season.

Take with you the words of the poet Isabel Sanderson and make them your prayer: 'Dear Father at this Christmas time

Let no one walk alone
Rekindle in these sacred hours
Some gladness each has known
Revive a hope, restore a faith,
That all may clearer see
The promise given to the world
In Christ's Nativity.
Renew our trust in holiness
Let praise and glory win
Draw close the bonds of brotherhood
That Christ may enter in.

He has contributed through sports organizations and through service groups to make this the kind of town where it is a pleasure to live.

Richmond Hill is his town and we are happy that although his future work may be done outside the municipality he will remain, along with his wife and sons, as a good citizen and will continue to make his contributions as he has done in the past.

Congratulations, Mack, on your appointment and good luck in the future!

Clerk Clement is only the fourth man to have held the position of clerk in Richmond Hill in its 101 years of incorporation.

The first was Matthew Teefy, who was appointed in 1873 and served to 1905. He was succeeded by Alex Hume who held the position of clerk-treasurer until 1942.

Hume was succeeded by Russell Lynett who served until July 1, 1973, when Mack, who had been clerk-treasurer and treasurer, became clerk.

JOHN S. STYON 12/24/74



'If I submit to your 50% pay raise demand, how do I know you'll unlock and go all the way?'

Don Deacon says



MLA, YORK CENTRE

Over 200 residents of Thornhill gathered recently to protest the Ministry of Transportation's recent decision to widen Yonge Street to seven lanes between Steeles Avenue and Richmond Hill. The deputy minister noted in his letter to the local municipalities that representatives of both Vaughan and Richmond Hill supported the seven lane swath, although Markham opposed it.

On receiving this report, I immediately contacted the Hon. John Rhodes, Minister of Transportation, to point out two important developments occurred subsequent to the October meeting with local representatives which warranted consideration.

Supporters gone

The first one is that only one of the several

There are alternatives to widening Yonge Street

councillors who supported the widening is still a member of council.

The second is that the ministry has since that meeting agreed to restore Highway 404 to its original design. And because Highway 404 is only 1½ miles east of the major built-up sections of Thornhill and Richmond Hill, it will be able to relieve a great deal of Yonge Street traffic.

Alternative solutions

Previously, I indicated to the minister and his advisors several alternative solutions to the ministry's proposed widening of Yonge Street and the destruction of Thornhill.

These included speeding up and improvement of public transportation, including express downtown

and mid-town rail service, several intersection improvements and similar minor design changes along Yonge Street.

These would greatly increase Yonge Street's capacity without a major widening. Improvements on Bathurst Street and Bayview Avenue which would increase their carrying capacity.

Staggering waste

Widening Yonge Street to seven lanes involves a staggering waste of money as well as destruction of a lovely community. And it won't solve the traffic congestion.

Hopefully, we can persuade the Hon. John Rhodes to direct our tax dollars toward more sensible and less costly answers to our traffic problems.



SINCLAIR STEVENS
REPORTS
SINCLAIR STEVENS MP
YORK SIMCOE

"Only time will tell whether it has been a wise decision to man ships with SIU crews," stated the Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe, then Minister of Trade and Commerce, on May 26, 1949. Twenty-five years later we are still wondering if it was a wise decision.

Violence and intimidation grew among maritime unions until the Diefenbaker government, in July 1962, commissioned the Hon. T.G. Norris to conduct an inquiry into the situation.

A year later, Mr. Norris tabled a report outlining SIU activities which included the lavish use of union funds to gain influence and support, violence and intimidation, fraud, and a multitude of other unlawful activities.

Hal Banks, then president of the SIU, was described as being "of the stuff of the Capones, and a bully, cruel, dishonest, greedy, power-hungry, contemptuous of the law. In his mouth, the use of the word 'democracy' is sheer blasphemy. For him, the 'big lie' and the failure to remember, are ever-ready weapons and shields." Mr.

Norris stated.

Listed as assistants to Mr. Banks were L.J. McLaughlin, Immediate Past President of the SIU and Roman Gralewicz, current President of the SIU.

Mr. Norris recommended the unions be put in a trusteeship and concluded his report by stating, "It is hoped, whatever measures may be adopted, that as a result of this inquiry . . . seamen may pursue their callings in the dignity of an assurance of freedom and justice."

By an Act of the Canadian Parliament in October 1963, the maritime transportation unions of Canada were placed under the management and control of trustees. This trusteeship continued until the end of December 1967.

Since that time there have been growing reports of renewed violence and intimidation surrounding SIU activities. Since April of this year, the Ontario Provincial Police have been investigating such complaints. To date, five charges have been laid by the police for offences ranging from

unlawful use of firearms to assault occasioning bodily harm.

In this background it is surprising the Minister of Labor in Ottawa, John Munro, whose department is directly responsible for SIU supervision, accepted a \$500 donation to help defray his election expenses last July. Two months after the election, Mr. Munro returned the money to the union.

He now maintains there was nothing improper in his accepting the funds in the first place. Solicitor General Warren Allmand accepted a similar donation which he has retained.

In answer to current charges of SIU irregular union activities, including waterfront violence and bribery of public officials, Munro has asked Allmand to have the RCMP investigate the matter.

Under extensive questioning in the House of Commons last week it was established the government would not permit the report of the RCMP investigation to be made available to the public. And as

T.C. Douglas of the NDP stated, "The very people whose integrity has been called in question will be deciding what disposition will be made of that report."

Opposition Leader Robert Stanfield added, is it "proper for a minister who had received a contribution from the union in question to be in charge of the investigation?"

To date the government has refused to refer the matter to a committee of the House of Commons and they have refused to transfer from the two ministers, their duties with respect to the SIU.

Munro maintains, "I have a responsibility to determine whether an inquiry should be held."

Douglas perhaps summed it up best with his statement, "It seems to me important for Parliament and the whole parliamentary process that the government not only be deemed by itself to be right but that it appear to the public to be right."

SIU violence and intimidation still question 25 years later



Queen's Park Report

William Hodgson MLA,
York North

"Orville, it won't fly."

It wasn't too many weeks ago that I heard that remark from the Opposition benches in the Ontario Legislature. At that time the debate concerned the future of Ontario's transportation policies.

At the time of the Wright Brothers' attempt to make man's first air flight all the sceptics and other assorted critics were predicting the complete failure of their invention. It simply would not get "off the ground." I've often wondered what the world would be like today without the airplane.

When the Ontario Government introduced the Employment Standards Act not too many years back, a lot of people were doubtful as to its purpose and general usefulness. While the comparison with the Wright Brothers' invention is

inexpert in terms of its widespread impact on society, the same attitudes of the critics persisted.

The "it won't work" approach or "It's too complicated" comment greeted the introduction of the first Employment Standards Act. Such negative attitudes even applied to the work world. "If you don't like your job you can always leave."

Such attitudes were perhaps understandable in times of economic uncertainty. They get short shrift in today's world.

Employee protection
Such an approach was one of the factors which helped to bring in the Employment Standards Act — the basic means to guarantee certain economic and social rights.

The act was designed to protect those employees who worked for a small

company or for certain reasons do not have the option of joining a labor union. These people do not need the protection afforded by the Employment Standards Act because they can negotiate for wage and fringe benefit improvements through the collective bargaining process backed by the collective strength of their union.

What is an employment standard? Generally, it is a requirement originating in the act to define the terms of working conditions under which an employee works for his or her employer.

Employment standards pertain to overtime pay, minimum wages, equal benefits and termination of employment. These standards set out, insofar as it is possible, the employee-employer relationship for

unorganized workers.

1974 version

Just last month, the Honorable John MacBeth, Ontario's Labour Minister, introduced the 1974 version of Employment Standards. The 1974 Act makes a number of significant changes which reflect current social and economic conditions.

For example, in recent years thousands of women have entered the labor force on both a full and part-time basis. The pregnancy leave provisions point up this new reality and clearly set out the terms of this section of the act.

Pregnancy leave is extended from a 12 to a 17 week leave of absence. As well, the employee with her employer's consent, may shorten the leave. It is the employer's responsibility to

give her employer two weeks notice.

The other change relates to the size of enterprise for which the employees work. Previously an employer of 24 employees or less was exempted from the pregnancy part of the act.

Overtime pay

The overtime pay section has changed so employees will receive overtime for any work over 44 hours instead of the present 48 hours. When an employee is dismissed improperly and without notice, the employer is obliged to pay the amount equal to the wages the employee would have normally received if the proper notice had been given.

The general principle of equal pay for equal work is also updated. Presently the principle is equal pay for the

same work which requires equal skill and effort.

The new principle is equal pay for work that is substantially the same and requires the same skill and responsibility.

Under the equal benefits section every employee is treated equally. No special treatment is to be permitted because of age, marital status or sex under life insurance, pension or medical plans.

Like the craftsman who expanded upon the original invention of the Wright Brothers', the 1974 Employment Standards Act represents new improvements and refinements to meet the ever-changing character of our labor force.

It will also help to brighten the overall morale of all employees affected by these changes.