

Action overdue

Region marking day care time

The question of whether or not governments have a responsibility in providing day care for pre-school children of working mothers has been argued 'ad nauseum', with those on both sides equally convinced of the righteousness of their cause.

Governments at all levels have conceded it is a necessary service and, in many cases reluctantly, provided what appear to many to be mere token services.

Costs are rising by leaps and bounds and waiting lists growing at an alarming rate. If the children are lucky, some of those on the waiting lists may live long enough to see their grandchildren reach the top of those lists.

Moving with what can hardly be called lightning speed, York Region over the past five years provided a municipal centre in Richmond Hill for 65 children, one in Newmarket for 110, one in Aurora for 36 children and plans to open one in Markham next month for another 55.

It also provides subsidized care for children of needy families in privately operated centres throughout the region.

Now a giant step forward. The region's health and social services committee is preparing to recommend "a demonstration project" of limited private-home care.

The proposal is to enlist five or six women who are willing to provide care for five or six children each in their own homes, at total of 25 to 30 children. A home visitor —

a professional with experience in the field of day care — would supervise the operation.

Proposal for such care was put forward in a statement to the Legislature by Secretary for Social Development Margaret Birch in June 1974. It was inspired by a report prepared by a provincial task force which had worked for two years assessing and determining day care facilities and needs in Ontario.

At a meeting earlier this month the regional committee received a staff summary of the high points of the report.

The committee also received a staff report on policy guidelines relating to provision of day care services for children under the Canada Assistance Plan along with staff recommendations for modifications in regional day care policy.

But the issue was too hot for the committee to handle. Committee Chairman Evelyn Buck, mayor of Aurora, who has long opposed government involvement in day care, first recommended the report be made available to regional council members well in advance of their next meeting.

This was so they could be prepared to discuss what she obviously considers a highly controversial issue.

It then decided to table the whole report for further study and staff consideration.

One has the uneasy feeling the committee's policy on day care is, "When in doubt, do nothing."

Novelist condemns nation's high schools

Another condemnation was levelled against our high schools the other day.

This time the criticism came from Mordecai Richler, who is probably the most widely read Canadian serious novelist.

Admittedly Richler was writing one of his usual apologies for U.S. dominance of the Canadian publishing industry.

But still he was speaking from his experience as a visiting professor for two years at a major Ontario university.

Richler's comment was as follows:

"The truth is our high school students in British Columbia and elsewhere, are not getting a proper education any more than I was (when a Montreal student).

"And their lack of Canadian awareness isn't the crux, but only a narrow aspect, of their ignorance.

"The trouble, from British Columbia to the very capital of New Brunswick, is that our high school students are being insulted by an education that is second rate. Most of them, when they finally get to university, are shockingly inarticulate."

That's quite a morsel for our school authorities and school teachers to chew on.

Is author Richler's condemnation of the schools valid here? If it isn't, what are the reasons and the proofs?

If it is valid criticism, what should be done in our schools to correct the situation?

If anyone has the answers we would like to see them brought forward through submissions to our local school boards, letters to the editor, or through our Guest Spot column.

Viewpoint from the regional desk



Could churches pack them in?

BY JIM IRVING

As with my column last week, this also was written four years ago and performed at about the same time on the CBC radio program, "Inside from the Outside."

It is reproduced for much the same reasons as before in that I am now away on holidays, and because it seems to me nothing has really changed that much in those four years and much of the same sort of mood prevails today.

Scene: Minister in pulpit; speaks in earnest, self-satisfied tone: We hear a lot of talk these days about how the church has failed in its role as a source of spiritual upliftment and guidance for the community. Church after church reports empty houses — to use a show business term (chuckles) — and nowhere are they attracting the young people.

Well, as I look out and see the full house here — to continue in the showbiz idiom — and also see all the young people in attendance, I permit myself just the tiniest bit of smugness. Obviously, I say to myself, they aren't talking about us.

Then I ask myself why we are so fortunate to have retained our flock. Is it because of our mid-week Linda Lovelace Festival, as so many of our critics so cynically suggest? Or maybe it's the Friday night poker club, as some of our other detractors are so quick to imply?

(Primly) Perhaps it's our Saturday morning flea market? Our weekly investment club? Our Monday life class?

—Incidentally, I think I should remind any prospective models from the congregation that the age limit is thirty-five, much as we appreciate some of you older people coming out.

Is it our Key Club? Our mixed swimming class? Our topless choir?

No! I suggest to you that it's none of these things. But just a genuine desire to mingle with genuine people and partake of the spiritual, intellectual and moral sustenance that only a church can offer.

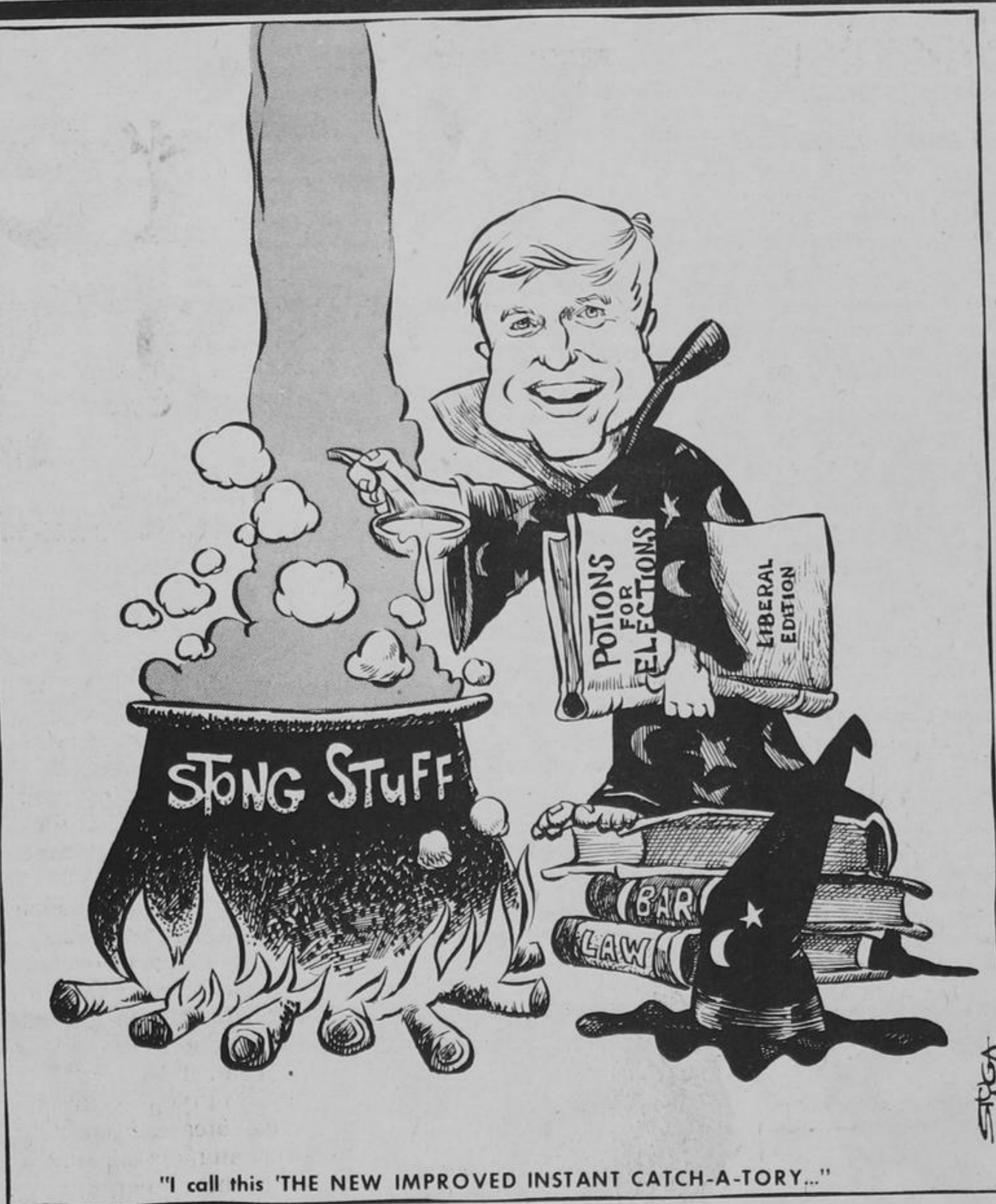
And I further suggest that we have not forgotten the real values here. And that they ARE available to one and all, regardless of color, creed, sex or social standing.

And that is why we stand tall today and people still come in the same numbers now, as they did in those great, God-fearing pioneer days of long ago.

(Pauses) We will now have the offering. (Organ music starts up in background.)

Now don't forget, folks, only the numbered collection envelopes are eligible for today's draw for the colored TV set.

And remember, the more envelopes you put in, the more chances you have.



"I call this 'THE NEW IMPROVED INSTANT CATCH-A-TORY...'"

Can't understand attack made on Mrs. McMonagle

Dear editor: I have regularly attended York County Board of Education public meetings for the past 20 months.

The people of Markham are indeed fortunate to have Mrs. McMonagle as one of their trustees.

I admire her deep concern for the children in the classroom and her positive attitude to the things I consider of major importance for the education of our children.

I do not understand the attack directed at her by the two letters appearing

last week in your paper. Mrs. Quirk voted in favor of hiring P.S. Ross Associates while she was a member of the former board before Mrs. McMonagle was elected.

She also voted in favor of implementing this report as a member of the present board.

These votes took place after the board was made aware publicly by a former trustee of Mr. McMonagle's connection with P.S. Ross Associates.

AUDREY CHRISTIE, Stouffville, Ont.

Columnist Irving is 'MCP' extraordinaire

Dear Editor:

In regard to Jim Irving's piece, Women's 'lib' dropout, published in the August 20 edition of The Liberal, I feel I must state I found it to be in rather questionable taste, especially as this is International Women's year.

Apart from demonstrating that he is a "M.C.P." extraordinaire, he also shows that not only does he not have the answer, but that he doesn't even understand the question.

This is precisely the sort of media exposure that the movement doesn't want and which blackens the name of Women's Liberation.

I think that in future, Jim Irving should confine

himself to subjects he knows something about.

VALLERI SAURO, 22 Maryvale Crescent, Thornhill, Ont.

Need wage and price controls

Dear editor:

We are told the government should impose wage and price controls on the victims of inflation.

I'd prefer to "quarantine the carrier" by imposing controls on our high-spending, inflation-creating government.

WILLIAM RAE, 29 Savarin Street, Scarborough, Ont.

Letters

Why veiled conflict of interest charges and attacks on Mrs. McMonagle's husband?

Dear Editor:

As a northern trustee, my constituents have told me plainly they want basics in education for our children.

Mrs. McMonagle has obviously received the same message from Markham.

Mrs. Quirk implies in her letter that the kind of education she wants will occur if we simply keep the present administrators and status quo methods and if the trustees will cooperate as a mindless mass.

She also voted for the P.S. Ross report at the board although she seems now to have changed her

mind.

All this is fair enough. But what has this to do with the veiled conflict of interest charges and attacks on Mrs. McMonagle's husband?

He works for the large firm of P.S. Ross, but is in no way connected with the York County study.

In any case Mrs. McMonagle studiously abstained from voting on the P.S. Ross report at the board.

The whole thing is ridiculous. You the taxpayers are still faced with the choice of which direction you want education in York

County to go — fundamentals or French, frills and furbelows. We're sure you'll let us know.

JOY HORTON, Trustee, East Gwillimbury, York County Board of Education, RR 4, Stouffville, Ont.

YESTER DAYS..

Prodigal son circa 1887

By Mary Dawson

An 1887 version of the Parable of the Prodigal Son as it appeared in The Liberal issued October 20 of that year ran as follows:

"No, my son, it isn't that the world has grown hard-hearted; it isn't that we aren't just as glad today to see the prodigal come home, and just as lovingly anxious to welcome him as ever was anybody in the fifteenth chapter of Luke.

"It is the manner in which the prodigal son of 1887 blanketly returns that throws a wet blanket over the festivities of the welcome.

"When he comes down the road with his hat hanging on his ear and his hands in his pockets; when he kicks the faithful old house dog as he lounges in at the gate; when he calls his father "Guvnor" and the hired man "Cull"; when he wants to know "what's for dinner?" before he has been in the house 15 minutes; when he gives his elder

brothers two fingers to shake and advises him to comb the hayseed out of his hair, when he throws himself into the easiest chair in the house, perches his feet on the window sill and announces that he will take a tub before dinner; when he comes back with a general forgiving air of good fellowship about him, and tries to make all the rest of the family feel very easy and assured —

"Then it is, my son that your father longs to run and meet you while you are yet a great way off, and fall upon your neck with a plow-line and welt you into a state of becoming humility and penitence until you are ready to take off your hat to the bound boy, and crawl up the front steps to ask your brother to shake hands with you.

"Good people are just as glad today as they ever were, my son, to see the prodigal come home, but it does rattle them a little to see him come home in a hack and ask them to pay the driver and send for his baggage."



Joy Horton

MP raps new federal redistribution plan

By Sinclair Stevens, MP (PC-York Simcoe)

Torn into five pieces, York Simcoe riding will be no more if Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission recommendations are adopted.

East Gwillimbury residents will be in the new constituency of Victoria Simcoe, a huge riding of 81,925 people stretching some 60 miles from East Gwillimbury in the west to Peterborough County in the east. Main towns in this riding will be Lindsay, Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon.

The Township of King will join the Town of Vaughan in a new Peel Halton riding of 66,790 residents. Main town in this proposed constituency is Georgetown which is now part of the Town of Halton Hills.

Tecumseth, Beeton and Tottenham would be placed in Dufferin riding which is proposed to be 75 miles wide and to reach from Palmerston in the west to near Bradford in the east. This riding would have 66,973 residents.

Bradford, West Gwillimbury, Cookstown and Innisfil will become part of a Simcoe South riding which will reach into Georgian Bay at the north. It has a population of 71,282.

The remaining parts of the present York Simcoe riding, that is the Towns of Newmarket, Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville, are proposed to be included in a new York-Newmarket riding with Richmond Hill. There are 76,201 constituents in the proposed York Newmarket riding.

Hard to understand Last weekend we drove throughout most of the area covered by these five suggested ridings. In most cases it is difficult to understand why the ridings have been drawn as proposed.

There is little natural community of interest between residents of Georgetown in Halton Region and those in King or Vaughan in York Region.

There is a diversity of interest between the inhabitants of Fenelon Falls or Lindsay in Victoria County and those in East Gwillimbury.

In each case there are no convenient road systems connecting the municipalities which span four counties or regions in the proposed Victoria Simcoe constituency and three in the proposed Peel Halton riding.

Lose historic name Since Confederation there has always been a riding of York North represented in the House of Commons. That title is now being dropped.

Provincially there is a York North riding with a population of 79,448. It includes the municipalities of Newmarket, Aurora, Vaughan, King and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

It is unfortunate federal authorities did not attempt to confirm their federal boundaries more in line with provincial existing ridings. It is confusing to residents when there are such large variations.

East Gwillimbury has a natural affinity with Newmarket. Both municipalities should be in the same riding. They have been separated in the

provincial redistribution and already dozens of East Gwillimbury residents are protesting the change.

As it now stands, driving south from Bradford on Yonge Street, within five miles you start in the proposed riding of Simcoe South.

Then you enter Peel Halton, next Victoria Simcoe and finally York Newmarket riding.

Redistribution is a difficult but necessary matter with our changing population patterns. Prior to the July 8, 1974 election another commission drew up proposed riding boundaries for



Sinclair Stevens, MP

Ontario. Their work was scrapped, partly due to the anticipated election but mainly because Ontario gained 95 seats, seven more than at present, in the new House of Commons.

Others were better On balance, the old proposed riding boundaries for this area as amended were more satisfactory than the new suggestions.

The heart of the present York Simcoe riding was preserved. This surely is a desirable goal in the redrawing of riding boundaries.

In the 1971 census York Simcoe had a population of 99,624. Under the new redistribution the average riding in Ontario is to be 81,085.

Dropping York Simcoe down to the new size would not appear to necessitate cutting us up in five pieces like one would cut an apple pie.

Submissions invited The commission is now inviting comment from interested parties.

If you have a view on this subject write to me at House of Commons, Ottawa, no postage necessary or send your representation to Brian S. McCool, Secretary, Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario, Room 301, Arthur Meighen Building, 25 St. Clair Ave. East, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1M4.

Any such representation will only be received in writing and before September 11.

If you wish to appear in person before the commission, you should so state.