

# The Liberal

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## Situation serious

# Must support Inflation Act

The federal government's wage and price control program must receive the support of the nation. It is a time for the populace to follow responsible leadership. Political partisanship must be set aside.

Prime Minister Trudeau has taken the unusual course of bringing this matter of utmost importance to a press conference for this province's weekly newspapers, as was reported last week.

This appeal to the weeklies was a step by the prime minister that is unprecedented, at least in recent years, and is an indication of the gravity of the situation.

Not since World War II has a national leader of this country found it necessary to speak in such a serious tone as did Prime Minister Trudeau at that weekly newspaper press conference.

"In near anarchy, government has to step in. — We do not like to kick people — but when anarchy threatens we have to — jail sentences up to five years (for wage and price control violators) — the Ware Measures Act — the army to move the mails —"

We don't think the gravity of it all has yet more than begun to penetrate the public mind.

Times have changed. Widely held beliefs in a free market and free enterprise require such modification today that they have almost become public fallacies.

The big and highly technical industrial and commercial

organizations have become like autonomous kingdoms in themselves, able to wipe out and exclude all competition, able to regulate prices and wages almost at will. They depend on government only for a few things, one of these things being the control of inflation.

If government fails to control inflation, the alternative is depression and mass unemployment. The only known cure for the inflation we face is wage and price control.

Also useful is expansion of the government share of the economy where such expansion gives government more power to regulate wages, prices and production.

Useful government expansion might be in such areas as public transit, parks recreation, housing, utilities and transportation (probably including such items as the scrapped Toronto international airport plan at Markham-Pickering).

But it should be remembered there are other harmful kinds of government expansion — like wasteful spending, inefficiency and 'feather-bedding'.

Canada is lucky Opposition Leader Robert Stanfield had the courage and foresight to advocate price and wage controls at the last national election.

This may just be a factor which will make it politically possible for price and wage controls to succeed and for the battle against inflation to be won.

## Day care subsidies issue not so simple

The York Region day care centre rates issue rears its head again. Rates have gone up \$10 a week to \$40 for pre-schoolers and up \$15 to \$50 for infants. And parent petitions are snowing down on regional councillors.

But the shock came last week from a first glance look at East Gwillimbury Mayor Mrs. Gladys Rolling's revelation.

She made public the fact a family with annual income of \$18,000 was getting a day care rate subsidy and another \$16,000 a-year family was paying a rate subsidized down to \$2.50 a week.

Mrs. Rolling would have done more sterling service if she'd said whether or not these families of such income deserved a rate subsidy, and for what reasons.

Since family costs including such things as medical expenses are taken into account when day care subsidies are allowed, the situation may not be so absurd as Mrs. Rolling's bare facts make it seem.

If a family for some unusual circumstance must have preschool day care, we could see

circumstances where subsidies for high income people could be substantiated.

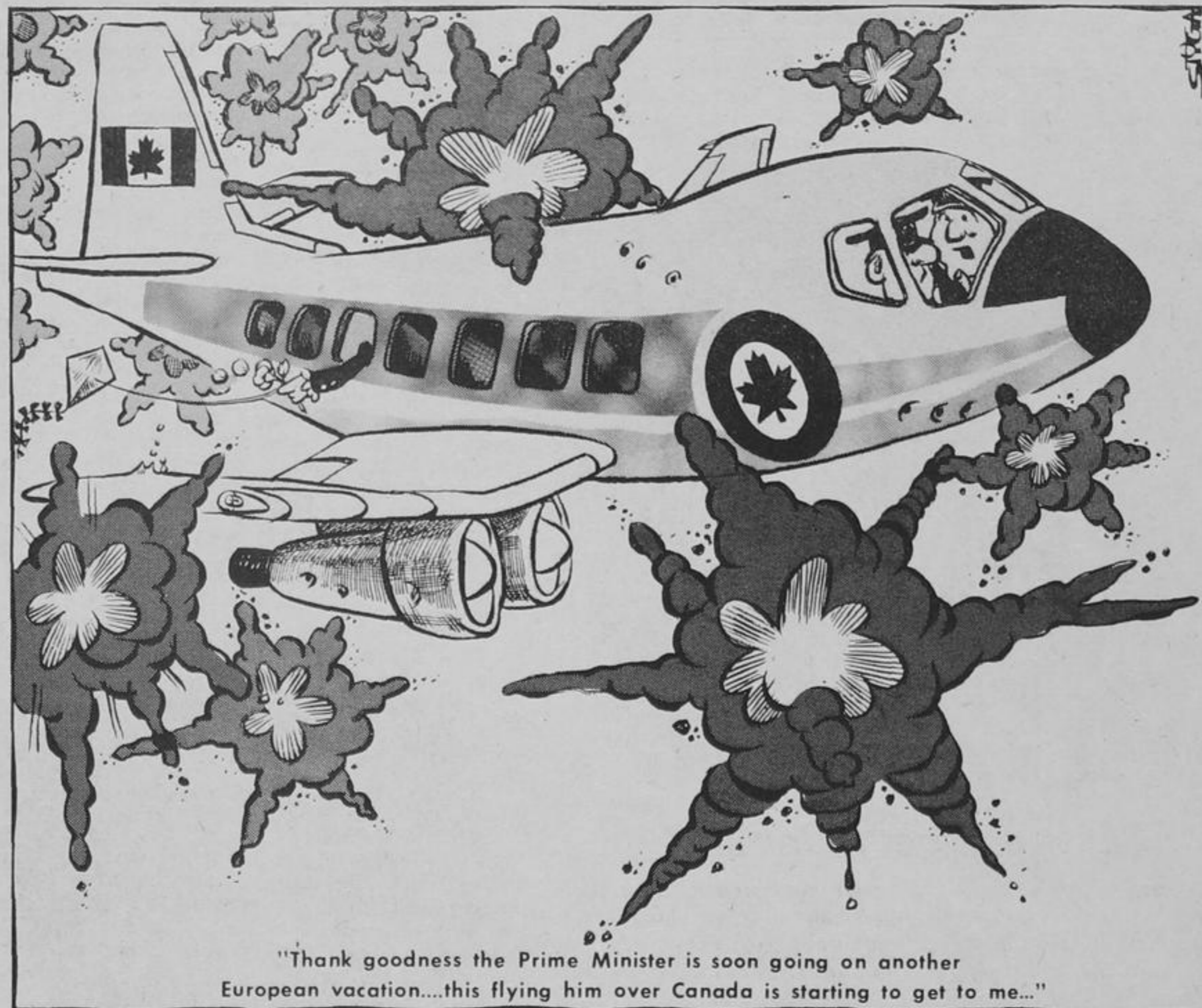
A deserving combination of health disaster, housekeeper salary, special dependents, etc. could very well occur.

Like so many issues involving family problems and welfare, the situation may well be very different from what it seems on the surface. And surface impressions may be drawn to provide excuses for lack of charity.

So here judgment should be reserved until each case is examined on its merits and until every little detail of the situation is known.

But many thanks should go to Mrs. Rolling for the information she provided, since it could certainly give heart to any parent desperately needing day care service.

There could well be deserving parents who haven't applied for subsidy and who now will know they have a chance for help if they really need it.



"Thank goodness the Prime Minister is soon going on another European vacation...this flying him over Canada is starting to get to me..."

# Opinion

## Give Irving a nudge

Dear Editor: Would it be possible for you to nudge columnist Irving toward producing the questionnaire sent to him by the Day Care Liaison Committee?

Preoccupied as he is with syntax, spelling, Women's Liberation and The Good Old Fashioned Virtues of Women in the home, he has quite spectacularly missed the point of the letter addressed to him.

Namely, that the committee in turning to him were doing him the honor of acknowledging that he has a following among the readers of the paper and, as his column is titled "Viewpoint from the regional desk," day care centres are quite deserving of his attention.

It is Mr. Irving's privilege not to publish the questionnaire in his column.

But I am quite certain a great many citizens would welcome the opportunity to reply to it, and therefore I respectfully suggest that you publish the questionnaire in some other part of your paper as soon as Mr. Irving can be coaxed into giving up the material so hopefully entrusted to him by the committee.

RUTH COOK,  
79 Centre St. W.,  
Richmond Hill, Ont.

## Letters

# Decries Sunday store hours

Dear Editor:

The Thornhill Ministerial Association is concerned about Sunday and holiday opening of supermarkets, department and other stores.

Members of this association have had local businessmen, including non-church people, challenge them to take action to put an end to Sunday and holiday opening.

The pressure of living in today's world makes it vital that they be afforded opportunities to close their stores without having to suffer loss because of unfair competition.

A sampling of feelings of cashiers in supermarkets indicates dissatisfaction with having to work on Sundays and holidays.

There are people such as nurses, firemen, etc. who have to work because

of essential services needed.

The extension of services offered the public will further deprive individuals the right to be with families at a time when they can do things together and-or deprive them of the opportunity to renew themselves spiritually.

Supermarkets and other stores are open until 6 p.m. for three nights of the week and until 9 p.m. for the remaining three nights.

The stores in malls are open until 9 p.m. for six nights of the week. It is hard to understand why they need to open on the seventh day.

The association was happy to hear on a recent news bulletin that this matter is being considered at government level.

It heartily urges you to support any

measures to enforce the existing Lord's Day Act. It also urges you to support a bill naming certain days throughout the year as national holidays.

(REV.) ALFRED McALISTER,  
Secretary,  
Ministerial Association,  
Thornhill, Ont.

## Not so loud or insulting

Dear editor:

Laws limiting sound volume in television advertising are not being enforced effectively. Neither are the quick flash techniques being restricted.

The latter have been proven to leave an indelible print on the mind of the viewer.

Without their knowledge the viewers are being programmed in their living rooms. Worse still their minds are becoming polluted with garbage facts.

The implications of this are frightening.

If we continue to allow a few profit-motivated moguls to direct our thinking for us, where will it end?

With the advent of Christmas toy advertising, just how much is it affecting our children?

Besides the obvious effects and the greed and dissatisfaction it inspires, there is the inevitable disappointment usually taken out on the parents when the gifts don't measure up.

Out of this probably comes the distrust of the system and the widening of the generation gap. Adults lie.

Is it any wonder youth has become so cynical.

The blatantly foolish attempts to flatter, amuse, and coddle the viewer in reality insult, bore, and irritate. But they do achieve their aims in spite of that.

Constant bombardment is the key. From extensive studies they know your resistance is limited and you can be sold. And you can.

They know exactly what mental strings to pull, how and how long to pull them.

The only way to combat them (and it has been proven very effective) is this. Write the company that builds the product.

For every letter they get, they feel there are 1,000 people out there who feel the same way but are not incensed enough to write. They will withdraw the ad.

Don't continue to suffer or allow your children to suffer misleading and mind damaging television commercials

(MRS.) HEATHER DeQUETTEVILLE  
61 Inverloch Blvd., Apt. 12,  
Thornhill, Ont.

## Schools budget procedures

Dear Editor:

A number of misconceptions on how the York County Board of Education strikes its budget each year should be straightened out.

Openness on how the public's money is spent is one of the fundamental principles of the board.

Except for salary negotiations, all budget considerations have been discussed in public either at open board meetings or open committee meetings.

Any ratepayer or interested citizen is welcome to attend these meetings and there is ample opportunity for the public to express views.

No trustee wants to spend more money on education in '76 than in previous years. But rising costs of salaries, fuel, supplies, transportation, maintenance, have all forced increased expenditures.

The key question is: "How much more will have to be spent in '76 than in '75?"

I would like to see the tax levels stabilized at the '75 levy rate, but know

this is impossible because of the many increased costs.

The taxpayer does not want increases in educational taxes. However there are a number of reasons that will explain unprecedented increases in educational spending in 1976.

The trustees are going to be looking at every reasonable way to reduce costs in '76, and will welcome constructive suggestions from any of the teacher or employee groups, or the citizens of our community to help keep costs down.

We want to contain costs, yet want high quality education.

How much can costs be reduced without impacting the quality of education?

When we find the answer to this question, we can trim the budget and be confident that we as taxpayers are getting our money's worth.

DONALD COUSENS,  
Public school trustee,  
2 Southdale Drive  
Markham, Ont.

## Viewpoint from the regional desk

BY JIM IRVING

A letter to the editor this week from Ruth Cook of Richmond Hill, takes me to task for my column of the week before, and, reluctant as I am to admit it, makes a good point. In my preoccupation with "syntax, spelling, Women's Liberation and The Good Old Fashioned Virtues of Women in the home, he has quite spectacularly missed the point of the letter addressed to him" writes Mrs. Cook.

And the point is that, "the committee in turning to him were doing him the honor of acknowledging he has a following among the readers of the paper, as his column is titled "Viewpoint from the regional desk," day care centres are quite deserving of his attention."

She then went on to suggest the paper publish the questionnaire, which the day care people had sent to me, and which I had ignored, the implication being the arrogant Mr.

Irving would never reproduce same in his own column.

Well Mrs. Cook, in an effort to both regain a little humility and also fill up some space — this being a slow week — I'm going to reproduce the questionnaire just as it was sent to me more than a month ago, forsaking as best I can any asides — chauvinistic or otherwise — along the way.

The questionnaire, just as I received it:

"Draft of questionnaire re Day Care (for inclusion in Region newspapers and return, when completed, to a P.O. Box number (H&S) OR?)

"As an involved parent or simply an interested tax-paying member of the community, your response to the following questionnaire about day care will be appreciated. Please check your response in the appropriate space in the right-hand

column.

1. Have you children of preschool age? . . . Yes — No —

2. Have you ever used regional day care services?

3. Are you presently using regional day care services?

4. Do you feel day care services are necessary in your community?

5. Should the regional municipality be providing day care services?

6. Should the regional municipality subsidize (provide cost assistance for) these services?

7. Is the approved \$40 per week for day care services for a preschool child reasonable in your estimation?

If NO, please check the fee you consider reasonable for weekly day care services for a preschool child: \$25 — \$30 — \$35 — \$40 — \$45 — \$50

8. Is the approved \$50 per week for

day care services for an infant reasonable in your estimation?

If NO, please check the fee you consider reasonable for weekly day care services for an infant: \$25 — \$30 — \$35 — \$40 — \$45 — \$50.

9. (a) Do you consider day care as an educational opportunity for a child in his early years?

(b) If yes, do you think day care should be made a part of our present educational system?"

So there you have it one and all; fill it out if you wish. There are no prizes and just where you are supposed to send it afterwards, I still haven't been able to ascertain.

But at least I feel I have now done my duty in good newspaper fashion. Whether Mrs. Cook feels so, too, I don't know. But there is a possibility that, just as a member of the school board told me I wouldn't have

anything to write about if it wasn't for them, Mrs. Cook might find her own literary bent stifled if it wasn't for my periodic forays into the world of day care.

For, although it was sometime ago now, I remember another column of mine on day care prompted a reply from Mrs. Cook, which the editor saw fit to place in The Guest Spot.

So maybe I'm not all bad.

Although the latter state, it seems, is quite impossible to attain right now. For the furnace has been off all day and, as my colleague Fred Simpson says about the permanent chill here: "Well, at least we don't have to worry about turning bad."

Which may account, too, for the rigid preservation of my various prejudices all this time.

Obviously, it's been strictly a matter of something in the air.

## Syntax stress sometimes stiling

Dear Editor: In regard to last week's From the Regional Desk column entitled Determined Alienation by Jim Irving:

People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

To put it another way, it is probably not bigotted (your spelling) to feel that one should be sure of one's own spelling before putting the knock on someone else's.

Would three lashes on the derriere (also your spelling) with a wet noodle be suitable punishment?

Also, I wonder whether Napoleon's contribution to humanity was really that great an advertisement for the kind of person turned out by a loving and concerned mother.

No doubt it is fanciful to suggest that the tens of thousands of French soldiers who died in the Russian snows might have been spared if some shrewd and kindly day care teacher had told the promising lad that it isn't a good idea to march on Moscow.

Laying this flight of fancy aside, I do think it would be possible to find a better example than Napoleon of the kind of person that can be produced by a good mother.

You weakened your case, in my view, by the choice of a poor example. Nevertheless, I found your arguments, in the main, very persuasive.

SALLY MacDONALD  
85 Inverloch Blvd.,  
Thornhill, Ont.