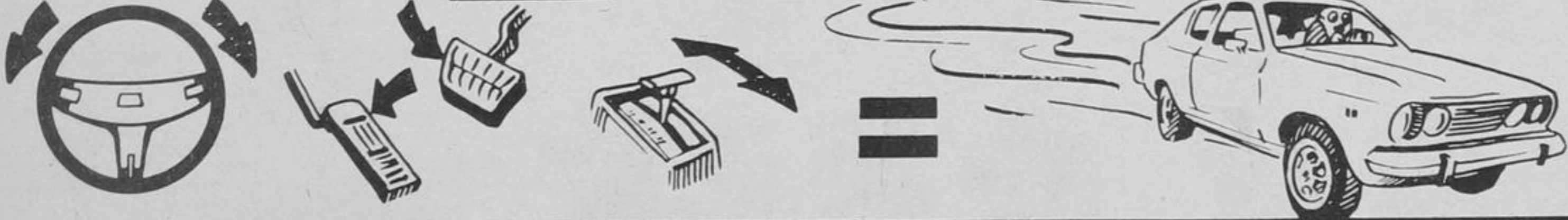


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PREVENTING SKIDS: Any sudden steering action is hazardous on a slippery surface. Slowing down or speeding up too quickly can cause skids. Shift gears before you reach the upgrade of a slippery hill. Shifting halfway up

may cause the wheels to spin. Greater distance is needed to pass safely so be patient and stay in line. Next week: Handling Skids.

For a copy of a skill driving book including these and other useful tips write: Datsun Skill Driving Centre, P.O. Box 2501, New Westminster, B.C.

Free market system not dead yet

By William Hodgson
MPP York North

What really is ahead for this province in 1976? A good question. But unfortunately one which defies human ability to predict accurately and successfully.

Yet we do not have to throw up our hands in despair or throw the baby out with the bath water — as the Prime Minister of our country is so apt to do. At this critical time in our history, our people are concerned, and some even frightened, about the future directions of Canada. A lot more are thoroughly confused about our economic performance.

There is much justification in these expressions of uncertainty. Never before have we experienced parallel developments of high unemployment and severe inflation. In past periods of economic uncertainty, we either had worsening inflation or unbelievable unemployment, as occurred during the depression.

Many times I recall some of my more harrowing experiences from those days. After it was over, everybody agreed they never wanted to see another depression. In those days everything economic was more black and white.

Now, along comes Mr. Trudeau proclaiming that the "free" market system no longer serves our purpose. He conveniently ignores the fact that our market system — our private enterprise way of life — has helped us to enjoy one of the best standards of living in the world.

When I place quotation marks around the word free; we recognise that the market system is not without its imperfections and peculiarities. It is relatively free in contrast with so many countries which have gone the centralized, regimented way of life.

Is that what our prime minister is offering us in future years as our leader? He only compounds existing confusion. Common sense simply tells you that this institution occasionally needs some improvements and tune-ups, just like our own car.

That is why Ontario advocated, as early as April 1974, that strong leadership was needed to stem the tides of inflation. Our practical advice was ignored, only to be embraced in different forms some 18 months later.

The very market system which Mr. Trudeau regards as obsolete will help Ontario's economy to recover effectively in the first quarter of 1976. Economic growth is expected to reach 5 per cent because Ontario's exports of raw and fabricated materials will be required in the light of a highly improved U.S. economy.

What persists is a really perennial problem in the rate of high unemployment among our young people and women, as more and more continue to enter the work force.

As I have reported before, the Ontario Government is making every effort in 1976 to restrain the rate of government expenditure to 10 per cent. Already our intentions are being tested to the full. For whatever reasons, some critics suggest that



queen's park

we are abandoning social services, etc. etc. Just not so!

The real question to be faced by all of us is: Do we want to resolve today's problems with tomorrow's taxes? A mortgaged future is indeed a poor gift to hand our children and grandchildren. Economic Growth is the engine for improving social services to those who need these services out of no fault of their own.

Because we sense the urgency of beating back inflation, we support the principle of a prices and incomes program. For these reasons Ontario refused to create a provincial anti-inflation board as argued so fervently by the opposition parties.

Inflation is a national problem which can only be beaten by a national effort. Separate provincial boards would only fragment and disrupt the federal counter-inflation effort.

Ontario did not champion the controls program as the final answer to our economic woes. We are looking to Ottawa for solid, sensible, and sound leadership on the economy, not some future heaven full of bureaucracy.

1976 need not be a year of gloom and doom, but a time to work together in resolving our problems and reducing our uncertainties, a year to make good judgments helpful to Ontario. And each citizen's future.

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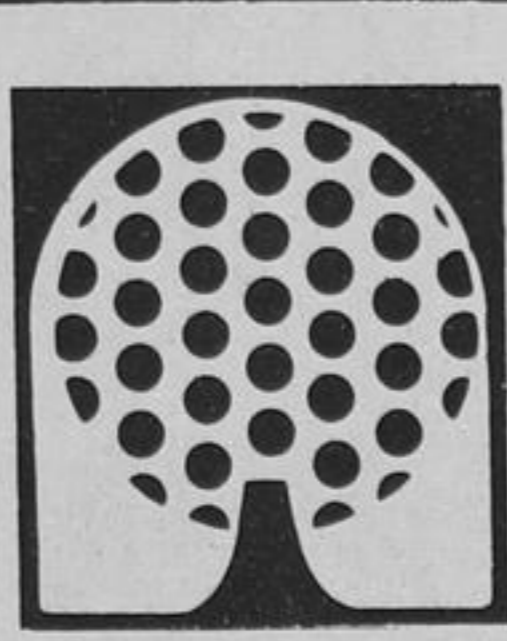
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Teen-age welfare

Although the over-all percentage of people on welfare in York Region dropped from 0.56 to 0.53 over the year, the increased number of teen-agers receiving its benefits is causing concern to the region's health and social services committee.

According to Milton MacDonald, welfare administrator, many family counselling agencies are telling teen-agers, who don't get along well at home, to leave and apply for welfare.

He said that of the 1,129 people receiving welfare last month, about 250 were single.

Those receiving welfare in the region last month included 217 heads of families and 515 dependents.

The welfare branch, which will overspend its budget this year by \$116,000, approved a transfer of funds from its budget for day care expansion.

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Mrs. Sabina Watts
homemaker, reg. nurse

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Hurt badly

Thomas Sinton, 24, of Queensville, is in intensive care at York County Hospital, Newmarket, as a result of being burned around his face, hands and arms in an accident at Goodman Auto Parts, Davis Drive.

Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce

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Chairman Garfield Wright.

Wm. Hodgson M.P.P.

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