

Letters

Truth year, forsooth

Dear editor:
Trustee Margaret Coburn of the York County Board of Education (hereinafter the board), in her letter published by you April 14, opens with assurance, — 'The year of the smear is here ... moving into high gear.'

To which one might answer: 'The year of the truth, forsooth.'

She lacks the courage to name names, but ambles on with paragraphs of generalisations worded democracy, including (in reference to her recent notice of motion) quote: 'The intent is to reinforce the principle that the majority decision shall stand ... to discourage individuals who have expressed contrary views crying "Not me, not me!" thereby casting discredit on the decision and on those who made it.'

Just cast a smelly eye on that statement, will you? How innocent it sounds.

But in plain English rather than in her euphemistic fog, the intent, by some wordy straitjacket, some throttling procedure, is to gag dissenting trustees.

How can a dissenter cast discredit on a

decision, and those who made it (poor dear souls) by holding and expressing a different opinion?

The board appears to be stymied by the medieval practices of York region's misgoverning midgets.

Trustee Coburn finds my 'early knowledge' of a motion she had served notice to make, 'interesting' because it was not public information until the agenda went to the trustees Thursday evening, which was April 1.

Well, indeed! I wrote my letter April 1, this date being stated in the letter.

In any case, neither I nor anyone else with any interest in protecting our freedoms can have any respect whatsoever for the ridiculous yet dangerous conceits of those elected and appointed nonentities on York Region who, effete and insignificant in themselves, seek arbitrary powers such as those once wielded by Joe Stalin.

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Philosophically speaking, are they merely less sophisticated members of the same brotherhood?

Trustee Coburn believes in calling dictatorship democracy because of the illusion, held by so many, that once elected or appointed they have the unchallenged right to do as they like for their term of office, and that any opposition or criticism is an impertinence to be weaselled out, stamped out, or fought out.

In fact, some elected nobodys believe that unless you actually run for office you have no rights whatsoever.

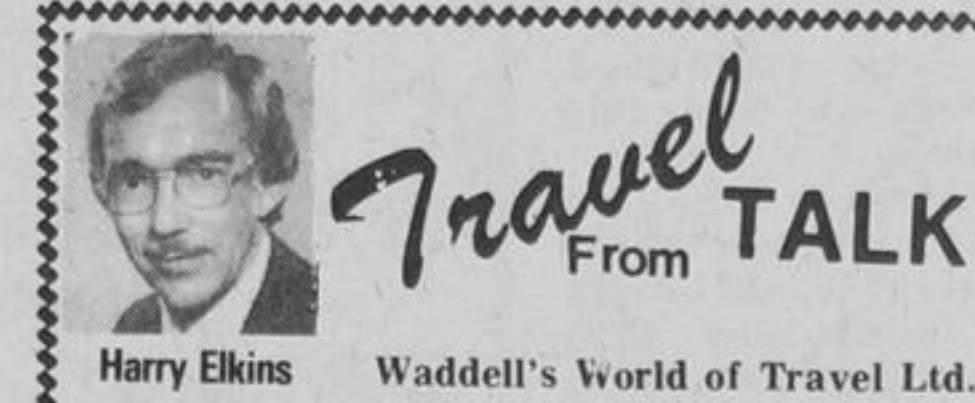
The possession, the understanding, the joy, of

the liberated mind, reaching for freedom, for full expression of human potential, for real communion, is here then lost in the tricky, shackling phrases and confinements of those who would preserve their petty power and the status quo.

Man's whole progress, in all his endeavors, has been sparked by the few — always a few — who were different, who dared disapproval, sometimes faced inquisitions — and death.

Let us support the few who carry the torch.

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TREASURES OF YUGOSLAVIA
While many visitors to Yugoslavia focus their attention on the rich charm, fun and frivolity of the Adriatic coastal resorts, there are scores of fascinating landmarks which go almost unnoticed from the Alps in the north to the plains of Serbia in the south.

The walled city of Dubrovnik, one of the most interesting and beautiful tourist resorts in Europe, was founded in the 7th century. Aside from the Gothic palaces, almost every house has a history. Just up the coast is Pocitelj, a perfectly preserved 16th century Turkish settlement with old Oriental buildings and

breathtaking views of the Neretva River Valley. The picturesque town of Korcula, where Marco Polo was born, boasts a splendid 13th century cathedral and is located on one of the prettiest islands in the world. Brightening every season, are colorful folk festivals and in the remote regions, lively peasant markets indicate how Yugoslavia has changed over the years.

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OTTAWA and Small Business



(This column is provided with the co-operation of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and is published by The Liberal in order to provide a forum for a point of view from this important sector of the economy in York Region — Editor)

The pension fiasco

By KENNETH McDONALD

When the Canada Pension Plan became law in 1965, a massive deception was perpetrated on the contributors. They were offered, apparently, an opportunity to save for their retirement at the low, low price of 3.6 per cent of contributory earnings (presently those earnings are between \$800 and \$8,300 per year).

Well, they were had and it will be necessary for them to cough up more than twice this amount to keep the Plan viable. The Plan was never actuarially sound from Day One. It's a similar story with the Quebec Pension Plan.

A recent Ontario Government study points to an increase in the combined employer-employee contribution rate from 3.6 to 8.3 per cent to insure all the benefits promised can be paid. This would mean additional combined contributions of up to \$352.50 per year. The Quebec Pension Plan will be bankrupt in 1994, the CPP in the year 2000.

Our provincial governments were willing partners to this deception because pension plan contributions were made available to them as a source of low-cost financing. However, in the early 1980's, the provinces are going to find themselves in a bind. The amount of money available annually from the fund will be less than the interest payments they will have to make to Ottawa on past borrowings.

An actuarial analysis conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business provides insight into the problems of financing. Take, for example, the case of a man retiring in 1976 at age 65. He and his employer would have contributed, at the maximum rate, about \$2,000. But based on a normal life expectancy, normal payments to his surviving spouse, and a continuation of inflation at moderate rates, he can expect to receive at least \$35,000 in benefits.

If a more than 100 per cent increase in contributions doesn't bother you, what about one of the proposals of the Canadian Labour Congress that pension benefits be tripled? This would require a total contribution rate of three times 8.3 or 24.9 per cent of contributory earnings.

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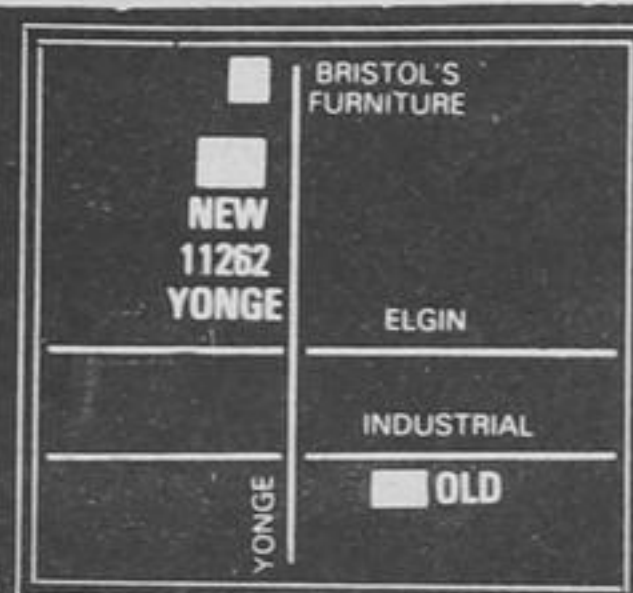
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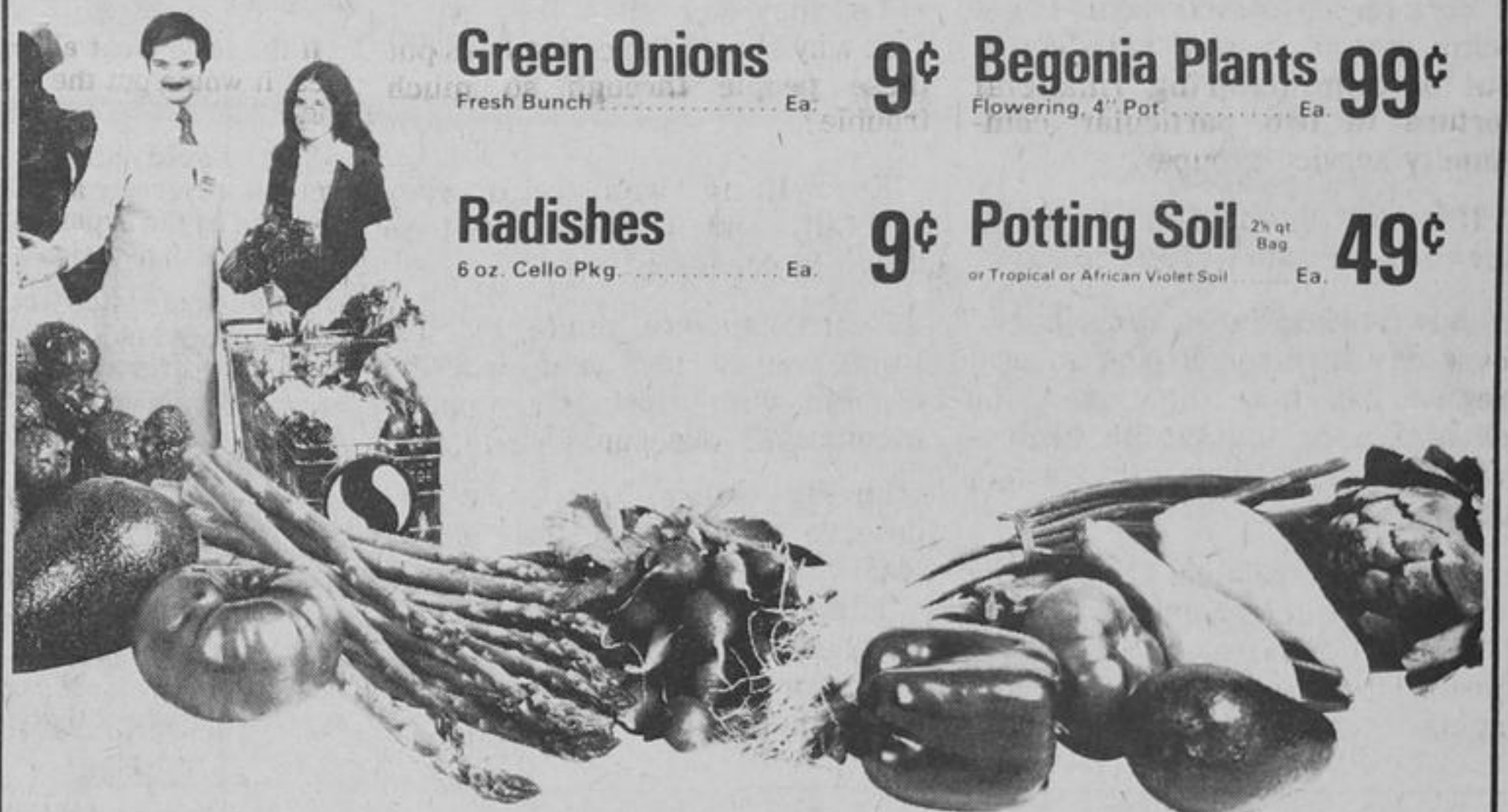
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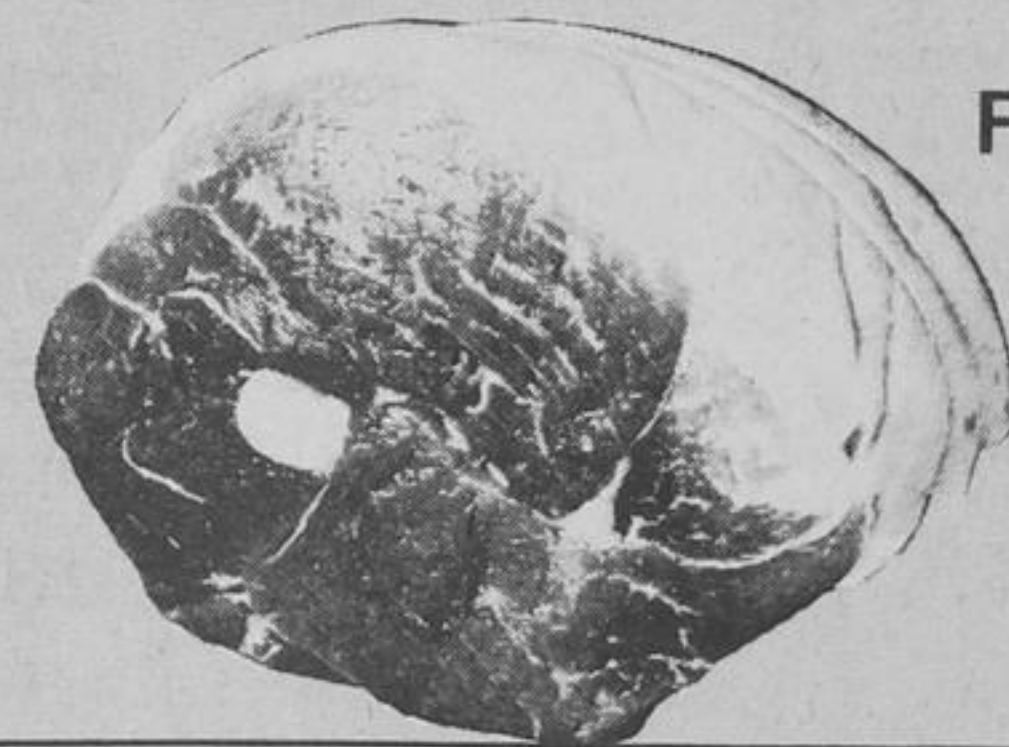
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