

# Some trustees sure have nerve

Members of the York county board of education sure showed a lot of nerve last week when they stalled action on the planning and building committee's capital expenditure recommendations.

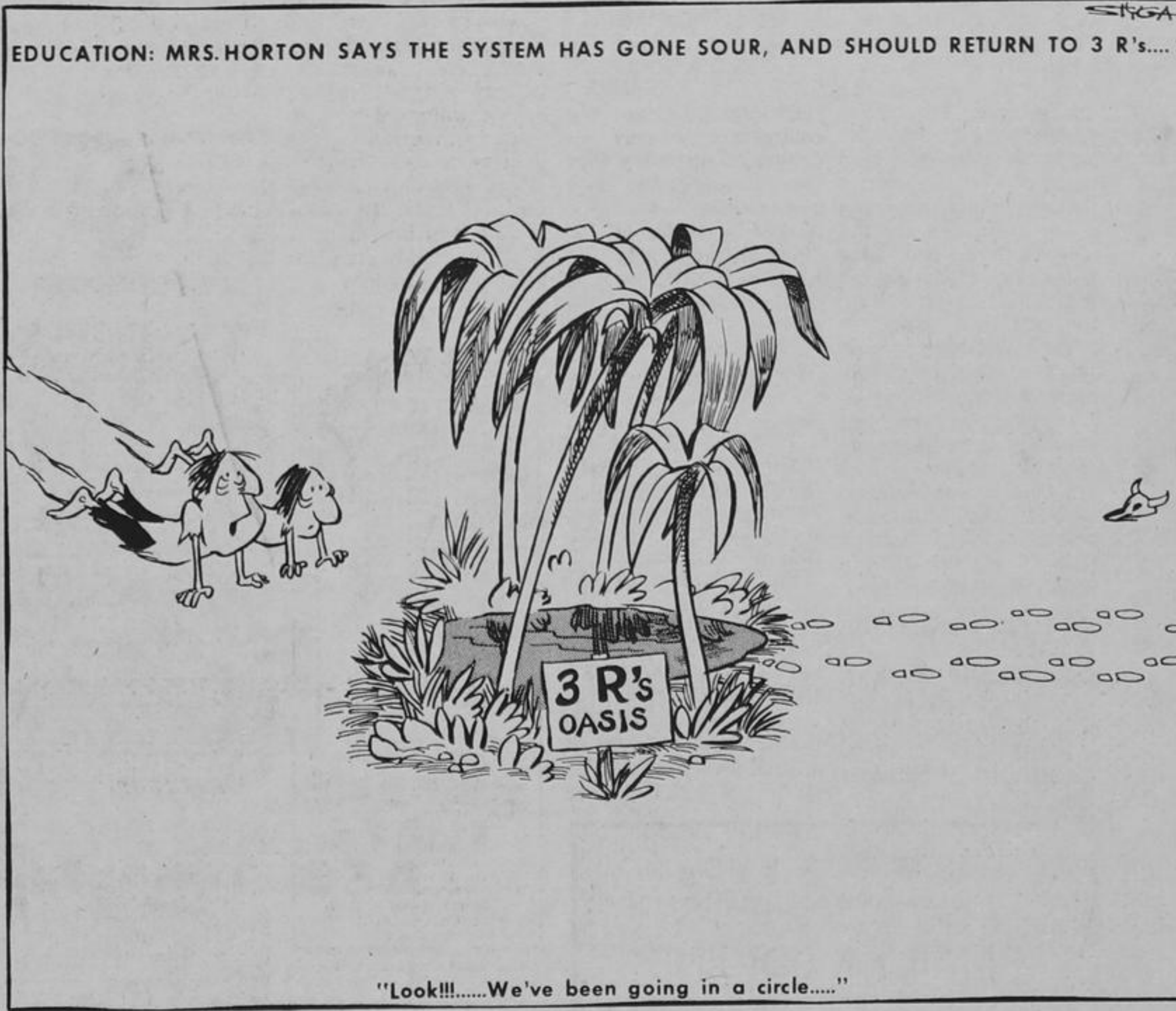
Where did they get the information upon which to base their complaints?

They didn't get their facts sitting on their behinds at home while only a few trustees turned out for the bus tour arranged

so they could inspect all the region's schools.

Trustee Harry Bowes of Whitchurch-Stouffville, acting chairman of planning and building, had good reason to be upset enough to write the letter to the editor that appears below on this page.

It looks to us as if some lazy trustees could well spend less time playing politics for the benefit of their local areas, and a little more time doing their job.



EDUCATION: MRS. HORTON SAYS THE SYSTEM HAS GONE SOUR, AND SHOULD RETURN TO 3 R'S....

## Viewpoint from the regional desk



BY JIM IRVING

I picked up a hitchhiker the other morning on my way to work around Steeles Avenue, and wondered as soon as he stepped in the car if I'd made a mistake.

Clad in the usual blue denim garb of the long-haired young — in his case, about 23 — he seemed friendly enough, thanking me for the ride when he got in, but he smelt strongly of booze. And I considered whether he'd get a bit unruly.

"Where are you going?" I asked. "Richmond Hill." "You're in luck." "Yeh — I'm on holidays. Gotta friend on Oxford Street."

I didn't feel like talking, so I didn't. But my friend persisted. "Yeh, I used to live there." Then, "Would you like a smoke?" he asked, extending his pack.

I told him I didn't smoke. "Do you mind if I do?"

"No." "Lottsa guys would, you know. They don't like it — if they don't smoke."

**Boozing all night** "Have you been boozing?" I asked. "Yeh, all night." He settled back in his seat and took a hearty drag on his cigarette.

"Been standing on that corner for an hour. Hitchhiked all the way up from downtown. Wouldn't take a bus. They want the exact change. I got on, gave the guy a dollar and he said he wanted 50 cents cash. Hell with him."

"What do you do for a living?" I asked. "I drive cab. That's a nothing job."

"Why?" "Well, it is."

"Why do it, then?" "I'm just in it for the bread."

"I guess we all are."

"What do you do?"

"I'm a reporter." "A reporter, eh? Hey — you made my day. Imagine, a reporter. I never met one before."

**Reporters no different** "They're no different from anyone else." I replied rather lamely. "Yeh, I suppose. What's your name — Clark Kent?"

"Then without waiting for an answer: 'The first ride I got was from a salesman; now a reporter. What do you report on?'"

"Meetings, mostly."

"Yeh, but what about cops and that stuff?"

"What about them?" "Don't you dig up stuff there?"

"To a degree. But mostly it's meetings."

"Why aren't you working on one of those big papers in Toronto?"

"It's a long story."

**Really a Musician** "I know, friend, I know." He was smiling now and decided it was time to put his own role in perspective. "I'm just driving cab for awhile. I'm a musician."

"What do you play — guitar?" "Yeh."

"That's a pretty crowded field."

"Yeh, but I'm planning on being the best."

"Are you planning on doing it?" "No, I'm doing it."

I looked at him, pock-marked face and shaggy hair. "Where's your guitar? Why aren't you doing it now?"

"I'm on holidays."

We drove past the Richmond Inn and into The Liberal lot. "This the plant?"

"This is the plant." He climbed out. "Goodbye, thanks for the ride."

**Disappeared from view** "So long," I said. "Good luck." Then I looked in my rear view mirror for a glimpse of him as I started to roll down the lot, but he had disappeared from view.

The best musician in the world knew where he was going — right then, anyway — to Oxford Street and his friend's house, where no doubt more booze would await him.

And with the head start he already had and the fresh supply in front of him, by the time the day was over he would have already made it to the top of that oh, so crowded field.

Even without his guitar.



## queen's park Is House minority regime working?

By Alf Stong  
 MLA York Centre

TORONTO — The Legislature adjourns June 22 for the summer recess and the question in everyone's mind at this time is: is minority government really working?

The concept of minority government is new for Ontario and no party presently represented in the House is used to the idea.

On Sept. 18 the electorate gave us a minority government and by that mandate the voters said they wanted the situation changed from the Conservative majority and thereby gave the rest of the legislators a chance to have some say.

It is completely irresponsible on the part of the NDP's Stephen Lewis to try to provoke an election on every issue as he is, and it would be a real slap in the face to the electorate for Premier Davis to go to Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon and say, "I can no longer govern, it is time for an election."

**Power balance** For the first time in 33 years the Liberal Party of Ontario holds the balance of power in the Legislature.

The Liberals are going through growing pains. More than half of the party's members are new to politics and the new leader is likewise new to politics.

Nevertheless the Toronto press has been very demanding.

For the first half of this session during the time of Bob Nixon's resignation as leader of the Liberal Party and Stuart Smith's election, we were leaderless.

Shortly after Stuart Smith's ascension to the leadership he took a stand on an election.

**People spoke** But the people told us they did not want a \$20 million expenditure at that time and so he changed his mind.

Since then the Toronto press has cast him in the role of one who flip flops and it refuses to view him differently.

As Stuart Smith and the Liberals begin to pull together, the strength and expertise of the Liberal caucus is beginning to emerge.

**Legislative record** Look at our legislative record for this past session. It was an amendment drafted by the Liberal Party of Ontario and accepted by the Conservative Party that made rent review flexible and workable.

Recently in Bill 55 it was as a result of the strong voice of the Liberal Party that the bill was amended, thereby leaving what little power the municipalities had over their own planning destinies to those municipalities.

I drafted an amendment to that act which would have given the municipalities more effective control over their own destinies, not by dismantling regional government, but by requiring the municipal and regional councils to plan together and zone by agreement with one another.

Both the Conservative and the NDP voted against my proposed amendment.

**Big precedent** Most recently, the Farm Income Stabilization Bill represents the first time in living memory that the government of Ontario has been told to take back a bill, reconsider it, re-draft it and re-present it to the House.

This was accomplished by an amendment of the Liberal party, accepted by the NDP and incorporated into its amendment.

The Liberals said the Farm Income Stabilization Bill must be a farm income protection plan based on participation by farmers on a voluntary and contributory basis and it must be presented as such to the Legislature before Oct. 30.

The Liberals in Ontario are a party to be reckoned with and in the House this week Robert Welch, Conservative house leader, publicly recognized the fact there has been good legislation emanate from this House in the present minority government situation.

**Meeting Thursday** In closing please remember the meeting Thursday at Thornhill Secondary School, 8 p.m., wherein a panel discussion will take place concerning spending your tax dollars between MP Barney Danson, myself as MPP, Regional Chairman Garfield Wright, Mayors Schiller, Roman and Williams, plus School Board Chairmen Doug Allen and John McDermott.

This panel will also be open to questions from the floor.

# Letters

## Stouffville trustee charges Schools story discrepancies

Dear editor: I believe I should correct some discrepancies in your June 16 article concerning school projects.

First, the bus trip was primarily for trustees other than members of the school board's planning committee.

The purpose of the trip was to allow the trustees to see the condition of the schools outside their own areas.

However, only four trustees, other than planning and building committee members, were able to take the trip.

If they'd seen Holland Landing Public School, it would have been a real eye opener.

For myself, I have spent 436 hours travelling over 3,427 miles on board business since mid-November, mostly on behalf of the planning and building committee.

About half of this has been at my own expense.

As you mentioned, I have visited 53 schools, more than once.

But I didn't travel by bus, as was reported, but in my own car.

Advance appointments were made with principals and in most cases I made a thorough inspection of the physical facilities, accompanied either by the principal or the head caretaker. Some of these visits, such as those to



Harry Bowes .... will still strive

Ross Doan, Holland Landing and Newmarket, were most revealing.

In this regard, I take full responsibility for the position of Ross Doan on the priority list.

The administrative staff have known my thoughts on this school since my visit in February.

German Mills and Reesor Park schools were included in my first round of inspections in December.

Second, the capital expenditure

forecast still has 19 names on the list.

But the recommendations we made were to be put at the top of the list because we were advised not to lie dormant even though the money was temporarily frozen.

This list is basically the same as that in the capital expenditure forecasts made by previous planning and building committees, and still contains names of projects which you mentioned were passed by.

Third, this project list was compiled with the aid of administrative staff who have expertise in this area, and with the aid of capital expenditure forecasts from the last four years.

It wasn't a hit and miss proposition.

I was elected trustee and later appointed to the planning and building committee to help carry out the Education Act of 1974.

This proclaims there should be equality of educational facilities.

To this end I will strive, unless the bubble of equality bursts and leaves a lot of people 'all wet'.

TRUSTEE HARRY BOWES, Whitchurch-Stouffville, York County Board of Education, 164 Hawthorn Ave., Stouffville, Ont.

## Council pushing Richvale sewers

Dear editor: The Richmond Hill engineering committee Dec. 4 recommended to council that the (south Richvale area) sanitary sewers should be financed by way of local improvement, if a petition for the sewers by a majority of ratepayers was successful (66.6 per cent required).

The recommendation was approved unanimously by council.

Ward 6 Councillor Mike Burnie in an early January newsletter reaffirms his stand that the petition method of obtaining approval is the way it will be done.

Nov. 25 the commissioner of works submitted a report to engineering committee. The report indicated there were approximately 100,000 feet in the total project.

In early March a 1976 capital budget

project was established to cover the sewer area.

All this information was available in early March.

Yet despite repeated requests, members of the South Richvale Ratepayer Association couldn't obtain any approximate figures on costs.

At the May 3 council meeting Mayor David Schiller, Councillor Burnie and others reversed their previously made commitments.

They said this was due to the time factor, to a request from town staff and because regional council required information on sewer allotments up to the end of 1976. This wasn't necessarily so.

This important meeting received very little publicity for one which involved such an important decision.

because information that could have been presented earlier was delayed so council could push through the scheme for undertaking construction of sanitary sewers.

From all appearances the council and engineering department have continuously misled those who have tried to obtain information on the costs of the sewers.

Now the town is attempting to push through the whole project in a little over one month.

One month within the holiday season gives ratepayers groups little opportunity to discuss the project and consider it in the context of the Official Plan of the town.

ROBERT MARQUIS, 46 Roosevelt Dr., Thornhill, Ont.