PUBLISHER J.G. VAN KAMPEN

The Liberal is published every Wednesday by Metrospan Community Newspapers Limited - North Division, which also publishes The Banner in Aurora- Newmarket, The Woodbridge Valighan News, and The Bolton Enterprise

## 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.

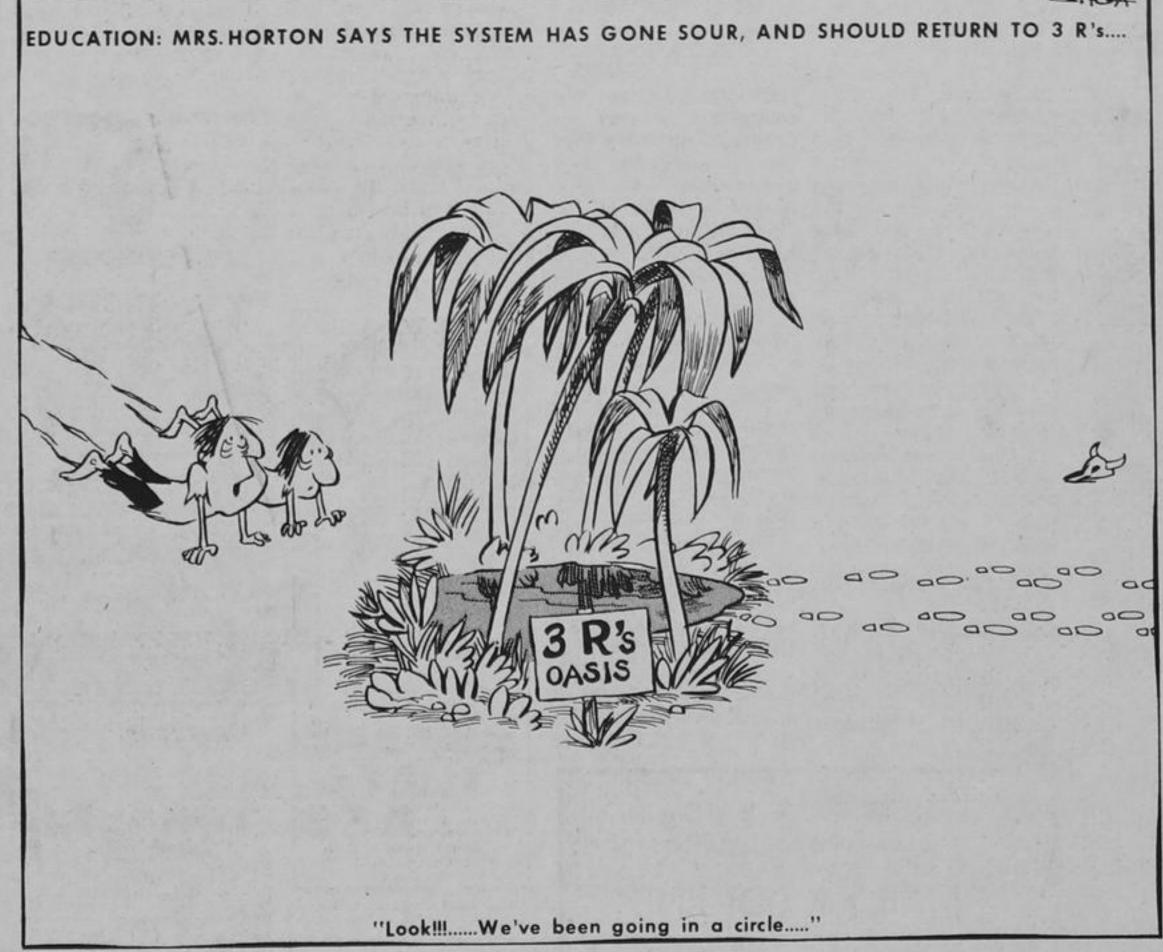
Where did they get the information upon which to base their complaints?

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.



#### **Viewpoint from** the regional desk



## Making it to the top

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

"What do you do for a living?" I

"I drive cab. That's a nothing job."

"Why?" "Well, it is."

"Why do it, then?"

"I'm just in it for the bread."

50 cents cash. Hell with him."

"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

"Are you planning or 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

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.

## minority regime working?

Is House

queen's

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 between 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 caucas 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 amend-

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 eminate 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

schools outside their own areas. However, only four trustees, other than planning and building committee

School, it would have been a real eye For myself, I have spent 436 hours travelling over 3,427 miles on board

committee. About half of this has been at my own

business since mid-November, mostly

on behalf of the planning and building

expense. As you mentioned, I have visited 53

schools, some more than once.

Dear editor:

cent required).

unanimously by council.

in the total project.

early January newsletter reaffirms his

stand that the petition method of ob-

taining approval is the way it will be

committee. The report indicated

In early March a 1976 capital budget

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

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

The administrative staff have known my thoughts on this school since my

visit in February. schools were included in my first round

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

of inspections in December. Second, the capital expenditure

German Mills and Reesor Park

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, Stouffville, Ont.

#### Council pushing Richvale sewers

committee Dec. 4 recommended to council that the (south Richvale area) early March. sanitary sewers should be financed by members of the South Richvale way of local improvement, if a petition

The Richmond Hill engineering sewer area.

ratepayers was successful (66.6 per any approximate figures on costs. The recommendation was approved David Schiller, Councillor Burnie and of the sewers. others reversed their previously made Ward 6 Councillor Mike Burnie in an commitments.

They said this was due to the time over one month. factor, to a request from town staff and because regional council required information on sewer allotments up to Nov. 25 the commissioner of works the end of 1976. This wasn't necessarily submitted a report to engineering so.

This important meeting received there were approximately 100,000 feet very little publicity for one which involved such an important decision. We suspect time is short, as council

have been presented earlier was All this information was available in delayed so council could push through the scheme for undertaking con-Yet despite repeated requests, struction of sanitary sewers. From all appearances the council

At the May 3 council meeting Mayor tried to obtain information on the costs Now the town is attempting to push through the whole project in a little

> 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.

## Olympics wow!

By John Stephens School trustee

MONTREAL — I have been to the Mountain and have come away a believer!

The 70,000-seat Olympic Stadium will be (if ever completed) one of the continent's landmarks - truly an architectural triumph and a fitting modern companion to the city's many beautiful churches and buildings.

However, the stadium, which resembles somewhat the household mixed uses in east end Montreal.

Inside, however, there's no question that it's huge. becoming a predominant feature in and Quebec workers for "saving" the east end are the pyramid-shaped the Olympic Games. towers of Olympic Village which will house most Olympic athletes. Far

village which captures the eye. This past week the scaffolding Olympic ring symbol says "It's started coming down, revealing to ready" (On est pret). the public more and more of the controversial structures, and they are as magnificent as they were

supposed to be.

Won't be ready The huge tower over the stadium from which a coverlet was to billow over the stadium's open centre in the event of inclement weather, will not

to start next month. And that's too bad for one gets the There may never be another ocjust to see the cover billow into and the country's achievements.

From an original estimate for the games of \$350,000,000, the tab now is question of security is uppermost in up to \$1.5 billion dollars.

Montreal will be left with some advantage of the situation to bring pretty fantastic buildings and attention to their own particular facilities - but one can't help problems? wondering whether there will be a what happened to the money. To put it into perspective, the be in force.

interest alone on such a sum would

county board of education needs to finance a year's education for all the

children in the regional municipality of York. Putting it another way, the sum checks by customs officials. could provide about 1,200 fully equipped elementary schools or about 500 fully equipped high

Makes man cry

It's enough to make a grown man vouch. cry when one considers how hard it at Newmarket high school.

the Olympic Games coming to will be is a matter of conjecture Canada should not be dampened by because of the volume of traffic such thoughts, since the world will expected. focus on Canada during the twoweek period July 17 to August 1.



iron, seems from the outside Canada's inability to get the deceivingly small — built as it is on facilities completed in time, but sloped land and in a built-up area of what will be there will be marvelled

Last week the Quebec government started a \$400,000 campaign in the Towering over the stadium and public media congratulating itself

Proud and ready In La Presse an advertisement more than the stadium, it's the featuring the province's fleur-de-lis symbol over the five inter-laced

> "Yes, we're ready and really proud of what we've done and of our Quebec workers who have toiled on the world's biggest single project. Proud too that Quebec took up the challenge and gave the whole world

something to remember." "Best of luck to all athletes." For two weeks then, Canada will be ready for the Olympic Games due take pride in the attention paid to this country.

impression that one would like to casion again when so much attention stand outside the stadium, rather will be focussed on every aspect of than in, and pray for wet weather Canada, its people, the way of life, Security question

Since the Munich Games, the

people's minds. Will someone take

The Olympic Games in Montreal royal commission created to find out will not resemble an armed camp, but effective security measures will

This past week military personnel be twice as much money as the York have joined the RCMP at major international airports in Canada. Anyone using border crossing points lately already is aware of

delays caused by more careful

Moving people The roadways leading to the Olympic site are not exceptionally wide, as anyone who has travelled Sherbrooke Street and Pie IX will

The stadium's Olympic-prepared is to get capital funds for the much subway stop is huge, but how many needed repairs at Thornhill people can move in and out of the Secondary, and that dank girls' gym station before the next train pulls in and lets loose its passengers? How accessible the parking lots Nevertheless one's enthusiasm for

Best bet: Take the subway two hours early and leave the car away Everyone will remark on from the Olympic site area.

# the trustees to see the condition of the members, were able to take the trip. If they'd seen Holland Landing Public

....will still strive

164 Hawthorn Ave.,,

project was established to cover the says, because information that could

for the sewers by a majority of Ratepayer Association couldn't obtain and engineering department have continuously misled those who have