

Danson dismayed by anti-Quebeckers

By Lynda Nykor

RICHMOND HILL — Barney Danson threw away his prepared speech Saturday at a meeting of the York North Liberal Association to express his dismay and anger at a paid advertisement in The Toronto Globe and Mail.

The ad, signed by the Voice of Canada League, suggested the government is

placing the cultural needs of a few Quebec air traffic controllers ahead of the safety of millions of Canadians.

This kind of anti-French outcry "hits to the very root of our confederation," Mr. Danson said.

"What is now at stake is the bilingual policy of the government, which was supported by all parties in the House of Commons, and which is fundamental to

Canadian unity."

The ad accused the federal government of being "racist and arrogant," because of its insistence on the two-language requirement for Quebec air traffic controllers.

Catalyst for crack-pots

Danson said he had never heard of an organization calling itself the Voice of Canada League, and said that such

groups act as "a catalyst for crackpot groups, for bigots, and for those who are anti-government."

He indicated he has little respect for people who disagree with government policies but refuse to sign their names to complaints.

He urged all Canadians to put themselves in the place of French-speaking citizens, who, until recently, could not deal with their own federal

government in their own language.

He added he is disturbed by public reaction to the proposal to institute bilingualism among Quebec air controllers.

"If I were a Quebecker right now, and wavering, I would become a separatist."

Opportunity

He said English-speaking Canadians are treating as a problem what should

be an opportunity. The ability to communicate in two languages would, he said, broaden horizons.

Danson's riding office in Thornhill reported that reaction to his hard-hitting attack on The Globe and Mail ad has been swift.

An unprecedented number of telephone calls have been received, many of them anonymous and abusive, a spokesman said.



Door prize draw

Florence Hornby draws winning ticket for the door prize at York Central Hospital's Strawberry Tea, June 23. Holding the basket is Marilyn Mitchell of the Riverdale Branch of the hospital auxiliary and registered nurse Vera Howard looks on. Winner of the door prize, a quilt, was Ruth Benzummin of 49 Oak Avenue.

Transit integration proposal considered

RICHMOND HILL — Integration of GO Transit and TTC Transit along Yonge Street, north of Metro Toronto, has been proposed by the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority (TATO). The proposal, outlined in a letter to Richmond Hill council last week, suggests:

— TATO is prepared to assume Yonge Street TTC contract service and relieve the municipalities (Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan) of any deficit on this route for five years.

— Fares would be the same as "currently advertised" but would be adjusted to the level of local municipal transit fare.

— Changes in schedules or fares would be reviewed with the

municipalities before implementation. — TATO would supply its regular air-conditioned GO-type vehicles and replace single-door coaches with double-door buses.

— Service provided would be at least equal to the demand.

The TATO letter says the integration of services would be "the most cost effective solution to all parties concerned."

The Yonge Street bus service between Richmond Hill and Steeles Avenue is currently operated by TTC under contract to Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan municipalities.

Richmond Hill council is arranging a special meeting to discuss the TATO proposal.

Resolution on energy finds wide support

RICHMOND HILL — A town resolution urging more research into alternative energy sources has been endorsed by 116 Ontario municipalities.

The resolution, passed by council last April, urges the federal government to begin further exploration of potential power sources such as wind, solar and tidal energy.

It also calls for careful study of atomic energy problems, noting that "atomic pollution could become a worse alternative to running out of oil or coal."

The resolution's author, Councillor Mike Burnie, said he is "very pleased with the response from so many other municipalities."

"It suggests that this council is not crying out in the wilderness."

The federal government itself responded to the resolution by sending council a lengthy statement of its energy policies.

Burnie, however, said the documents "simply bear out the fact that not nearly enough is being done. It's just more propaganda."

By the year 2,000, Burnie said, the

Region councillor to run for Markham mayoralty

MARKHAM — Markham Regional Councillor Bob Adams announced Friday he will run as a candidate for mayor in the town's next municipal election.

The election is scheduled for December.

Mr. Adams, who has served as a councillor since Jan. 1971, is an executive with Bell Canada.

"We're in a difficult period now," he said. "We're going to have to watch the dollars we spend."

Adams said he plans to re-open the

fairgrounds issue "to investigate all methods to re-purchase the Markham fairground property as a park for the centre of town."

"I'm also concerned about the rate of growth in the town. An 8 per cent growth per year is too much."

Adams said he would like to see Markham's regional government representation increased.

"We contribute 33 per cent of the revenue, but have only 16 per cent representation on the regional council," he said.

Teachers reject 6.4% pay raise

AURORA — Elementary teachers in York region have rejected an offer of an average 6.46 per cent salary increase.

The 1,284 elementary teachers with York County Board of Education, who voted on the offer over the weekend, felt the salary increase was too little and also were dissatisfied with the board's failure to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio.

Dean Bodkin, chief negotiator for the teachers, said he expected an increase of at least 8 per cent along with some reduction in the pupil-teacher ratio.

The board's proposed 21.31 to 1 ratio is the same as during the past year.

Money budgeted

Bodkin, however, said the board had budgeted enough money to allow for a reduction of one pupil in the ratio.

If implemented, this would mean the addition of 60 teaching positions in the region.

The elementary teachers are seeking the same salary levels as those of secondary school teachers in cases where the level of training and education is the same.

Earlier this month, the school board and secondary teachers agreed on an 8.24 per cent increase.

\$12,000 minimum

This will raise the salary for minimum experience teachers to \$12,000 from \$11,800 and the maximum to \$25,300 from \$23,790.

Teachers who are qualified to teach at these levels in the secondary schools, but are in fact teaching elementary classes, currently earn \$11,054 minimum and \$22,764 maximum.

The new contract for secondary teachers was approved by an overwhelming majority of 391 to 55.

commission chairman Judge William Lyon to request regional council to restore a \$200,000 budget cut.

Crawford told Rowe he hadn't received notice of any such action from personnel and didn't think there would be.

Following the meeting, however, he would not make any comment as to his own views on the federal hanging ban,

even though he put forward the resolution by Ontario police chiefs at their annual meeting, calling for the

government to resign. The resolution, passed 140 to 3 by the chiefs, was as follows:

"We condemn in the strongest possible manner the government of Canada for its undemocratic manner in determining the issue of capital punishment."

"We also demand that the government resign immediately in order that the people of Canada may have the opportunity of electing to parliament representatives who will govern the country in accordance with the democratic system and in accordance with the wishes of the people."

Earlier this year, a newspaper survey conducted by the 5,000-member association showed that 87.6 per cent of the more than 68,000 people who answered, asked that capital punishment be retained.

The bill states that life sentences will not be reviewed before 15 years after conviction.

The executive meeting of the police association earlier passed another resolution calling for a campaign at the next general election against those who voted for abolition.



Chief Bruce Crawford disgruntled with parliament

Current show is the last for renowned Hill artist

By Denise Romberg

RICHMOND HILL — He says this is his last one-man show, but no one should let him get away with that.

Richmond Hill artist Otto Grebze, who has been working in Ontario for almost 30 years, has produced a massive collection of more than 3,000 paintings and sketches.

One of the paintings, entitled "Hazy Day, Kleinburg," was presented by the people of Richmond Hill to Premier John Robarts in 1967.

Three others are on display in the Richmond Hill town office and public library.

His studio at 47 Stockdale Crescent is filled with 67 of his latest paintings, now on exhibit through Sunday.

This is his 65th one-man show. That makes one show for every year of his life.

It is usually a unique experience to view a collection, in the company of the artist. He waits to see how you react. He provides the stories that go with the pictures.

He uses words like mood and feeling and when perhaps you look a little confused, he removes two or three paintings from their hanging place and lines them up side by side in front of you.

"Essentially in content, they're similar," Grebze concedes, referring to three wheatfield landscapes.

"But side by side, you can see that the moment is different." According to Grebze, that's what his work is all about.

"I try to capture a moment of nature on my canvas."

Ontario Hydro, commissioned his service in 1947, to capture and record on canvas, moments in the development of the hydro-electric system in the province. They also gave him the freedom to choose the natural landscapes that he wanted to paint.

"When I began to paint for Ontario Hydro, that was the happiest day of my life," Grebze says. "It was an artist's dream come true."

Panoramic views

Some of his most distinguished works for Hydro are the panoramic views of the St. Lawrence development, measuring 18 feet by 24 feet, and of the Niagara area, an eight by 12-foot painting.

The St. Lawrence development painting illustrates the 47 miles of this gigantic project and it was exhibited for three years at the Canadian National Exhibition.

In the last 30 years, Grebze has produced more than 1,000 paintings for Hydro, and about 100 of them are displayed in the company's head office in Toronto.

Occasionally, Grebze has been commissioned by Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company to record, on canvas, work at their plants in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba. Twenty-three of his paintings can be found in the Toronto head office of Abitibi.

Fled native land

Grebze, born in Latvia and educated there at the Academy of Art in Riga, fled the country after Soviet occupation. He went first to Germany and then to western Europe.

He pursued his artistic career after 1945 and many of his early drawings and paintings were acquired by public and private collections in Europe.

For the future, Grebze says he'll probably continue as he does now, taking a drive in the country and looking for sights to sketch.

"At times I've spent all day looking for the right kind of setting, rugged primitive areas, which I may not find until I've decided to head home," he says.

"Then it's just a matter of setting up my easel and capturing the moment."



His 65th show

Artist Otto Grebze discusses one of his paintings with friends attending the opening of his 65th one-man show. Pictured with Grebze are T. E. Kronbergs of Willowdale, president of the Latvian Federation in Canada, and Gunars Bracs of

Sydney, Australia, a member of the Free World Latvian Council. More than 100 guests attended the opening of the exhibit which continues until Sunday.

Regional yuk



Sorry, too busy

Inside The Liberal

Local pilots speak out

While York North Liberal MP Barney Danson is urging sympathy for the bilingual air traffic control proposals (see top story), his Tory colleague in York Simcoe maintains the pilots know best. In this issue, Sinclair Stevens reports the views of local pilots with whom he's discussed the issue. Page A-4.

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