



Election racing blooms on rose

By Lynda Nykor

There may be reasons you haven't thought of yet for this provincial election campaign we're in the middle of.

One of them concerns the economic contretemps that may be just down the road.

Bill Davis may have to look for a majority mandate now, before the bloom is off the economic rose.

For a couple of years I've been hearing, from disparate quarters, heavy breathing about the PC government's overextension.

The kind of spending and down-payment that went on in the palmy pre-1975 days may well result in serious fiscal problems in the near future.

A recent study done by Statistics Canada tends to confirm the gloom and doom.

Baby boom

The post-war baby boom, according to the study, is currently dumping 200,000 young, well-educated people into a labor market that can't begin to absorb them.

The present high youth (age 15-24) unemployment rate of nearly 15 per cent is going to grow.

The situation is going to get worse, and stay that way for 15 to 20 years.

Problems posed by Quebec are soon going to begin to be felt in English Canada, too.

U.S. money markets are getting very, very nervous about the whole Canadian scene.

The cost of borrowing money is going to be higher for both "Anglo-phones" and "Franco-phones".

That, in turn, is going to shut down credit, cause business to retrench, and unemployment to go even higher.

Prospects bad

Not a pretty picture.

And the Davis government must surely choose to be tarred with the brush of boom (what's left of it) rather than bust, even though some of these problems are not of its making.

I'm not even sure the PC's can really be charged with irresponsibility for its free-spending of past years.

After all, recession and inflation have international causes, not national, and certainly not provincial ones.

And didn't we all take on debts and mortgages we could only afford if things either stayed the same or got better?

I'm not sure any of the three parties could do anything about a vicarious economy.

In any event, I don't think the election will bring any change in the standings.

PCs to stay

Come June 10, Davis will be open for business at the same old stand, and may — probably will — get his majority.

The NDP, in spite of charges of galloping socialism and of playing footsy with the PQ, will still form the opposition.

The Liberals, who seem to have gotten off to a slow and confused start, will bring up the rear.

And the way some of their members are deserting the sinking ship (I won't complete the analogy) we may find our very own Alf Stong in the position of elder statesman of the party.

It's strange

With such a favored position in the world as the only western industrialized nation that is relatively self-sufficient in oil, it is difficult to understand why we should have the highest level of unemployment, one of the lowest levels of productivity gain and one of the highest levels of inflation.

It is to be hoped the government will shift their emphasis in the coming months from their obsession with the redistribution of income to the creation of income including jobs for Canadians.

Village squares new area need

Stop! Mary and John Q. Public. Look at your neighborhoods in Richmond Hill or Thornhill, from Maple to Oak Ridges and beyond.

There's not a single public square and fountain of flashing water from one end of the area to the other. No new village squares with benches and pigeons.

You're Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill town planners aren't doing their main job. They haven't been for years. They show no sign of doing it.

They're so busy with the petty things, the details of selfish, greedy, lonely little subdivisions. The race that's on is for the higher class, for the more luxurious, for larger floor

space homes, for what's richer.

Our town councils and their planning committees aren't building the real heart and soul of community.

What about the people's will to beauty, to the human place, to neighborhood character?

How about the joy of great common endeavor, the satisfaction of civic generosity for worthwhile goals?

Mayor Garnet Williams, Mayor Anthony Roman, Mayor David Schiller and your councils — how about a town square, or two, or three, or . . .

A fountain, a statue, or two, or three, or . . .



parliament hill

By Sinclair Stevens, MP (PC—York Simcoe)

Past weekend, leaders of the Magnificent Seven met in London to discuss their economic woes. It was agreed all should concentrate in getting their unemployment levels down.

This is certainly good news for

Economic facts hidden

Canada which on a per capita basis, has the highest unemployment level of any of the countries concerned.

Friday evening, the Bank of Canada took a further welcome step to loosen up our system by lowering their bank rate to 7½ per cent.

This was followed Monday morning by our major chartered banks lowering

their prime rate to 8¼ per cent.

Historically this should mean a more vibrant economy and more jobs in Canada, which are certainly needed.

Statistics delayed

The government has postponed the tabling of their 1976 Annual Review. In

the United States however, the International Economic Report of the President was transmitted to the Congress last January.

This report gives international figures, including those for Canada, which are just not available here.

In 1976 our real growth was 4.8 per cent compared to 6.2 per cent in the United States.

Our consumer prices went up 7.8 per cent last year compared to 5.8 per cent in the United States, which has no controls.

As the smallest of the seven big industrialized nations attending the London Meeting, and the only one which is a net exporter of raw materials, one would expect Canada's position to be one of the best instead of one of the worst in the western world.

Poor Canada

Unfortunately, internationally we have been faring poorly.

Our current account trade balance was \$4.9 billion in deficit last year as it was the year before, compared to the United States which for the two years had a total surplus of \$10.7 billion.

Put another way, at \$9.8 billion, we lost almost as much in the two years as the United States gained.

Yet we are about one-tenth the size of the U.S. Even the United Kingdom had a deficit less than ours in the past two years.

The United States figures make it clear we are continuing to lose our productivity in relation to other countries. Trends in unit labor costs for manufacturing tell the story.

In 1976 our costs went up 11.7 per cent while in the United States, they fell one per cent. In fact, we are the only country of the seven to have an increase in such costs.

All of the other countries had a fall in costs. In West Germany for example, unit labor costs fell 12.8 per cent.

Big pay change

Last year in Canada we paid our

workers in manufacturing \$7.39 per hour while the United States paid \$6.90. Yet we had controls and of course the United States did not.

That is a difference of 49 cents per hour. The year before, 1975, there was a difference of only nine cents per hour.

In 1970 the rate in the United States was \$4.20 while we were at a level of \$3.46.

Then we were 74 cents below the average rate in the United States; now we are 49 cents above the United States wage level in manufacturing.

In textiles, our workers are now paid \$5.30 compared to the United States where they are paid \$4.55; in footwear our level is \$4.55 and the United States level is \$4.10.

Worst increase

Speaking generally, in the United States last year productivity went up 8.4 per cent while ours went up 3.5 per cent. Ours was one of the worst increases of any industrialized nation.

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of our relatively poor performance is that among the nations compared, we in Canada produce almost as much oil as we consume.

The United States on the other hand consumes 8.6 million barrels a day more than they produce.

Western Europe is a net consumer of 13 million barrels per day. Japan uses over 5 million barrels per day, as they have virtually no oil resources.

Letters

Bayview Fairways school 90 degrees

Dear editor:

I am writing as a concerned parent of two children that attend Bayview Fairways public school in Thornhill.

It has been over five years since this school was built.

Because of a lack of funds, the air conditioning unit that was supposed to be the ventilation system for this school was sacked!

Now and in every year since its opening, when the temperature rises, the school becomes stifling and I mean stifling.

Teachers over the year have kept records of days when it was much over 90 degrees in the school, making it quite impossible to work or learn.

Because air conditioning was the vital ventilation link, the windows cannot even be of use in cross ventilation because there are windows (that open very little) on only one side of the school.

Recently, we had a contractor come to the school to see what, if anything, could be done.

His professional analysis: the cheapest and most efficient way to ventilate Bayview Fairways was to install that original air conditioning unit as was called for in the plans.

His cost: \$6,100 for the total job. Certainly that's much below other industrial installations, as we recently found out.

We have approached our trustees with the matter but it seems to no avail. Even the public health department closes buildings that reach somewhere over the 78 degree limit.

We felt perhaps the only recourse was to seek publicity on this matter. Our taxes for education are sky-high.

If my children are unable to learn . . . shall I withhold my taxes?

I do know this . . . that in forthcoming elections of trustees, my vote and the others in the Bayview Fairways subdivision will be key to the election of these "helpful" souls.

(MRS) MARCIA PALANSKY, 15 Cyprus Point Ct., Thornhill, Ont.



Mrs. Marcia Palansky . . . no air machine

Leisure park to waste energy

Dear editor:

The following is a letter I've written to Ontario Energy Minister James Taylor, a letter which I wish to make public through the columns of The Liberal:

Last fall the week of Oct. 31-Nov. 6 was designated Energy Conservation Week. We welcomed this opportunity to take part in this program to stimulate public awareness of the need to conserve energy.

However, apparently some of our elected representatives at the local level are not yet aware of this need.

They are preparing to go ahead with a project which will result in the greatly increased use of energy, a project which is not only unnecessary but

downright harmful to our quality of life.

I am referring to the so-called Family Leisure Centre which has recently been approved in principle by Vaughan council by a vote of 5-2.

This misuse of 320 acres of good farm land near Highway 400 and Major Mackenzie Drive should not be permitted for many reasons. But one of the most important has to be the waste of energy.

Although the traffic problems (which will be considerable) have been discussed and played down by those in favor of the scheme, little thought has been given to the needless waste of gasoline which will be used by the patrons of this park.

During the holiday season this will also result in still more waste when thousands of motorists travelling to and from their cottages will be forced to creep along in low gear wasting precious fuel owing to the increased crowding in the vicinity of this park.

The maintenance of the roads and other services, the lighting and use of other energy-consuming equipment will cause a further drain on this scarce commodity.

It is difficult to justify such unnecessary waste of energy when private citizens are being urged to conserve it in their homes and cars.

This when important institutions such as hospitals, schools and other public buildings are having to cut back on energy use.

We would urge you to do all in your power to discourage the creation of this theme park with its passive, plastic and wasteful gimmickry.

It will merely drain dollars from this province to fill the coffers of the Taft Broadcasting Corporation and at the same time aggravate our own energy crisis.

GEORGE DENBEIGH, 5 Malaren Rd., Maple, Ont.

Article too sensational

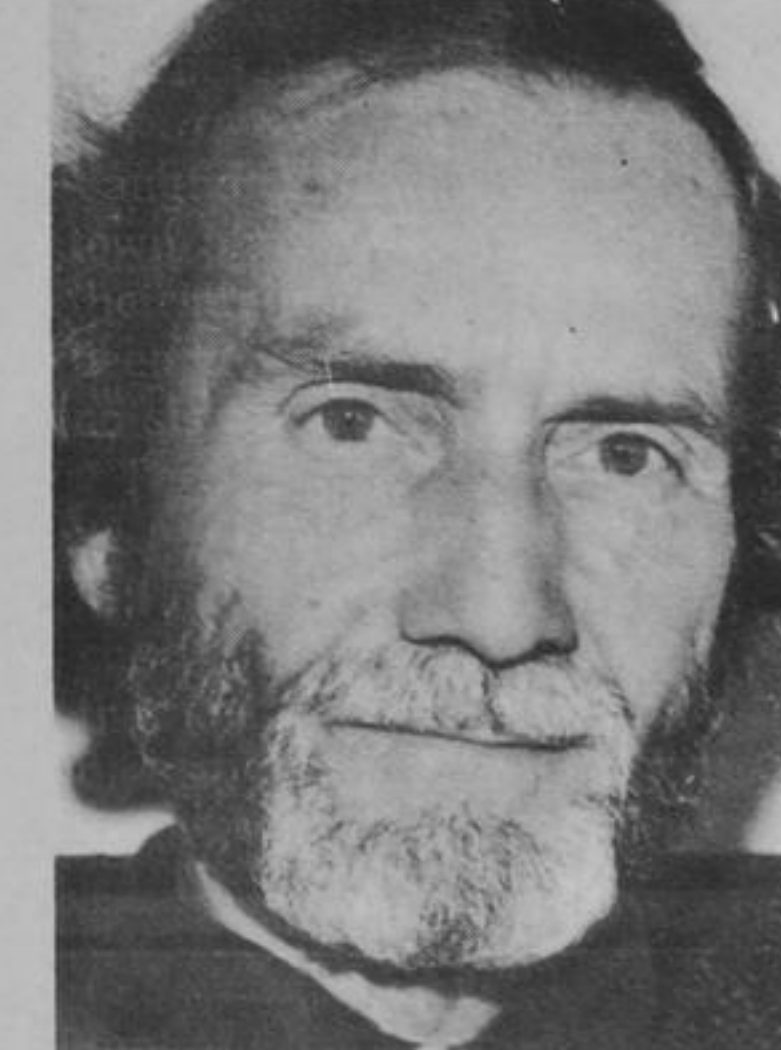
Dear editor:

It is too bad The Liberal doesn't do more research before publishing an article such as that appearing on the front page of the May 4 issue entitled Hospital Emergency Improvement Needed.

If reporter Tom Gale had been paying attention he would have known York Central Hospital was absolved of blame for Mrs. Paxton's death "before" The Liberal went to press.

It was unnecessary for this article to be sensationalized this way and strikes us as being irresponsible and unprofessional.

(MRS.) DOROTHY TURNER, JOHN TURNER, 330 Sugar Maple Lane, Richmond Hill, Ont.



George Denbeigh . . . time to think

letters...

Letters to the editor are welcome and should be addressed to The Editor, The Liberal, PO Box 390, Richmond Hill, Ont., L4C 4Y6. The writer's full name and address must be included, and telephone number if it is unlisted. Unsigned letters cannot be considered for publication. The Liberal reserves the right to edit all contributions.



regional viewpoint

By Jim Irving

Every so often you read where someone has been released from prison, or an insane asylum, and immediately wants back in after viewing the outside world again.

And it's not surprising: wars, television, Idi Amin; it's just too hard to take for one who has led a regulated life over the years.

Now the latest absurdity, which will no doubt be supported by a lot of earnest people in much the same way that art shows with empty frames on the wall and electronic "music" groups with hysterical "musicians" trying to break the decibel count merit learned reviews from the critics, has appeared on the scene.

And that is the move by a group of women to receive a monthly cheque from the government—\$1,000 after taxes, was the amount suggested by a 28-year-old Toronto woman — for being housewives.

That's for me

For that kind of money, I'd become one myself.

However, if the women are successful, then there's no reason why people in other walks of life can't make similar demands and have them met by trembling governments only too eager to dip into the public change purse to resolve the latest the-world-owes-me-a-living dilemma.

For example: how about a weekly

Stop the world and let me off

bonus of \$100 for all husbands, who go out to work each day. By doing that, they save the government from having to pay them unemployment insurance, as well as keeping their \$1,000-a-month housewives from asking for more.

And what about single working people? Perhaps a weekly stipend of \$75 for men and \$50 for the women — no sense changing the pattern at this stage of the game.

The bonuses would be presented for staying single, thus saving the government \$900 a month. It would also give the women "libbers" a new plank in their platform, and perhaps a new slogan: "Equal rights for doing nothing."

There could be varying amounts, too, for the old man for trimming the hedges, mowing the lawns, repairing the fences and doing other general repairs around the house.

Because, if he didn't help to keep up outside appearances, it would spoil the over-all look of the neighborhood. That, in turn would discourage tourism, with a resultant loss of millions to the government each year, and subsequently more taxes on gas and oil, candy bars and neighborhood bars, rye and sodas, licence plates and dental plates and other leering evils of our society.

That way, non-smokers should then be given their share; make it \$365 a

year, based on a little more than a packet a day. The rationale, as they say in the jargon of the day—the word, reason, apparently not carrying enough authority—being that, by not smoking they were saving the government money in pollution devices, as well as keeping the price of fish from getting too high in the market place.

For school walkers

And how about a small payment to young children, who walk to and from school each day?

That would not only cut down on transportation costs, but would also soothe the temperaments of impatient motorists, who would no longer have to sit snarling in both directions in their idling cars while the school buses discharged their passengers.

Or how about a few bucks for those denizens of the underworld, who hire their own lawyers, thus eliminating the need for legal aid counsellors, resulting in yet another big saving for the taxpayers.

And working press

And if there's any money left over, perhaps a slight remembrance for all members of the working press. If it wasn't for them, how else would you hear about schemes, such as that presented by the housewives?

In what other way would you be able to keep a constant check on your sanity?