

# Legislature members face heavy workload as session opens

By ALF STONG  
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The Fall session of the Ontario Legislature opened this week but not without some significant occurrences.

The Premier called for a full-scale federal-provincial conference on economic recovery, and disclosed the latest bad news on the provincial economy.

Ontario's projected cash deficit has worsened during the past month and is now \$1.45 billion for the current fiscal year — an increase of \$375 million or 34 per cent since the April budget.

There was an angry exchange in the

Legislature between the Provincial Treasurer and Opposition Finance critics.

David Peterson M.P.P. and his NDP counterpart accused the Treasurer, D'Arcy McKeough of deliberately painting a falsely optimistic picture of the Province's financial situation in his April budget, for purely political purposes in view of the then-anticipated provincial election.

McKeough denied that he had deliberately over-estimated anticipated revenues.

However, in September — less than half way through the financial year, he admitted that his

revenue projections had been over-estimated by some \$309 million.

In response to a question from David Peterson, the Treasurer stated that Ontario does not make its own forecasts of income tax collected on its behalf by the federal government.

Earlier he had announced a reduction of \$350 million in this revenue, which would contribute significantly to the provincial debt.

The Treasurer also had to back track on his original plans concerning the inclusion of Langstaff in the Parkway Belt West Plan.

Through his Ministry he



queen's park

announced that part of the Towns of Markham and Richmond Hill originally included would be exempted.

This change of plans results directly from the efforts of that community in organizing itself, attending at the Legislature when I debated the issue with D'Arcy McKeough and subsequently making representations to the commission set up to

study the problem.

I am confident that the result was favourable because of the existence in Ontario of minority government, and I congratulate the people of Langstaff for their success in bringing an otherwise inflexible minister around to their point of view.

The Government's program for the fall session includes: a bill

allowing municipalities to limit removal of topsoil from good farmland; reforms of family law, including provision for support and sharing of assets upon marriage breakdown; regulation of body-rub parlours, comprehensive occupational health and safety legislation; postponement for yet another year of the controversial province-wide property re-assessment; and possible introduction of a bill to prevent Ontario companies from refusing to deal with Jewish companies in order to comply with an Arab boycott.

During this past week I

also introduced two private member's bills into the Legislature.

The first is my amendment to the Education Act which would guarantee a right to an education to every child in Ontario and require school boards, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, to set up facilities to instruct adequately those children who suffer from learning disabilities. I hope to have the bill debated before the house recesses at Christmas.

I also introduced on behalf of the hospital pharmacists in Ontario, a bill which would

recognize them as a professional bargaining unit separate from other hospital workers in their dealings with the Ministry of Health.

Despite election promises made during the recent May-June provincial campaign by James Taylor, the Minister of Energy, plans for a program to make available up to \$100 million in low interest loans for home insulation and weather-proofing have been abandoned by the Ontario Government.

In this connection, Liberal Energy critic Julian Reid has accused the government of flying directly in the face of its

own financial restraint policies by scrapping the program, because there is conclusive proof that it is infinitely cheaper to lend money for home insulation than to capitalize new generating capacity to meet excessive demands.

A number of U.S. utilities have themselves made loans to customers for home insulation because this is more profitable than building additional generators.

The week concluded with an emergency debate in the House involving the layoff of more than 2800 workers by Inco from its Sudbury plant.

The positions taken by the three parties were relatively clear. The NDP wanted the government to take steps to nationalize Inco. The Labour Minister, on the other hand, arguing that there was no market for the Sudbury nickel, would request financial assistance from the Federal government in order to accomplish the relocation of the dislocated workers.

Stuart Smith, presenting the Liberal position, stated that government legislation ought to be changed so that Inco could compete on foreign markets by being allowed to export partially refined nickel.

He argued that Inco be required to suspend its activities in Indonesia and Guatemala for at least the time being thereby guaranteeing 2100 jobs in Sudbury as Inco could serve the world market by providing and marketing low grade nickel to Japan and European markets.

Also the Liberal Opposition in Ontario achieved a milestone in assisting Ontario's economy this week when Liberal member, John Eakin's Small Business Act, which would assist small business in terms of expansion, government contract tendering, research and development, received second reading in the House.

It has been hailed and fully supported by the Canadian Federation of Independent Businessmen.

Your minority government then, has returned to legislating with many more interesting things to come.

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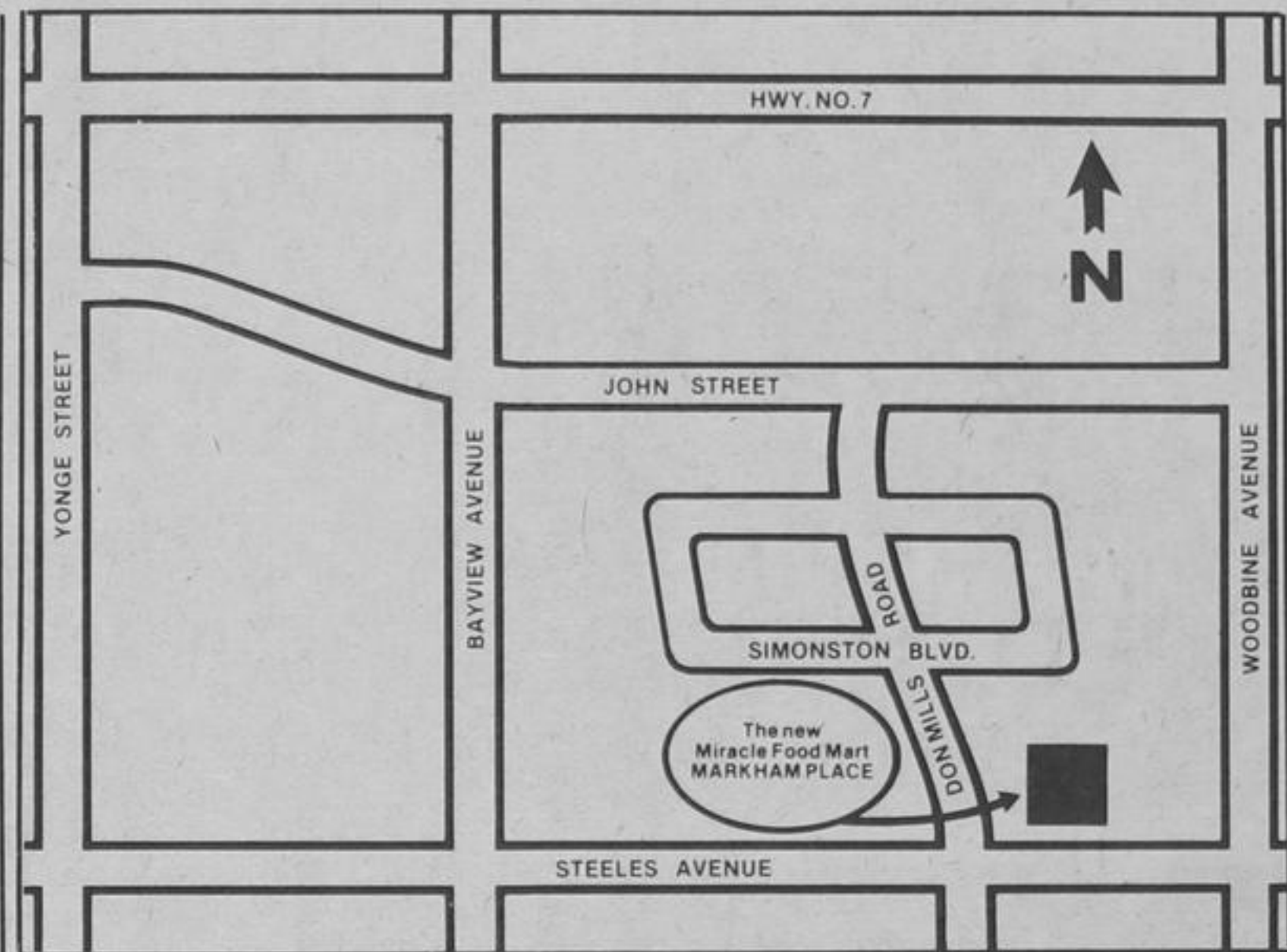
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Fillet end <b>PORK LOIN ROASTS</b> 3-1/2 lb. avg. size Fresh Canadian Pork <b>1.18</b> LB.	Eviscerated Grade B <b>FRESH BOILING FOWL</b> 2-3 lb. avg. size <b>39¢</b> LB.	Beef <b>SHOULDER STEAKS</b> Cut from Canada "GRADE A" Beef <b>89¢</b> LB.	Empire or Pioneer <b>SIDE BACON</b> 1 lb. pkg. sliced <b>1.09</b>
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