

THE STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

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NOTES and COMMENTS

Automatic Income Tax Refunds

A curious disclosure in parliament recently was that, in the event of any overpayment of income tax, the only way for the taxpayer to secure a refund is to enter a formal claim for it.

If the payment actually made is less than it should be the department loses no time in notifying the taxpayer and demanding the money.

Why shouldn't this procedure-in-reverse apply to overpayment of income tax?

Making out an income tax return is a difficult problem for the average individual; and if there are some who take advantage of every pretext to reduce the amount of the tax, there are others who, in their over-anxiety to do the thing right, quite frequently pay too much.

The department, as a matter of routine, checks all returns very carefully and knows whether or not there has been overpayment.

It should not take advantage of the fact that some income taxpayers do not know that they have overpaid and are entitled to refunds.

The situation has its political possibilities.

Just picture the glow of satisfaction of the income taxpayer who gets a refund of even a few dollars.

Misreport on Church Donation Exemption

Owing to the large number of churches in town and in this immediate vicinity, a recent statement in parliament with respect to deductions from income for tax purposes is of interest. The statement was apparently misinterpreted as meaning that such donations were no longer an exemption. This is however, not the case, and the law permitting such exemptions has not been changed.

The point which was being made was that where there is no record of the contributions in church records, or where the claim is for services rendered to a church, and not a donation, the amount claimed may be rejected.

The National Revenue Office reports that an examination has been made of church records in order to ascertain to what extent the amounts claimed were recorded and where it was found amounts claimed given by a large number were not apparent on church records, the exemptions were disallowed. As a protection to contributors, church officials should make sure that donations are systematically recorded.

Some taxpayers have also the mistaken impression that the value of services contributed may be claimed as a donation for income tax purposes and this is not the case. But actual donations to churches, when supported by church records and receipts, are allowed now as they have always been.

Covering Councils (The Weekly Editor)

Resolutions passed recently by Simcoe town council and Norfolk county council give newspaper reporters permission to report discussions and deliberations in committee-of-the-whole sessions of both councils.

This action was taken following the presentation of a brief by Dick Pearce, news editor of The Simcoe Reformer, asking councils to open the way for complete coverage of meetings.

Quoting from an opinion of The Municipal World, he explained that the press had the right to report committee-of-the-whole which is "purely a device to have the mayor or other presiding officer leave the chair so that a committee chairman may preside and bylaws or committee reports may be dealt with in detail while the rules of debate are relaxed."

Also, he pointed out that much of the reasoning behind council decisions was advanced during committee-of-the-whole discussion but never made available to the ratepayers through the press because councils, by custom, barred the press from taking notes or reporting committee-of-the-whole. He felt that the public would be better served by a change in procedure granting permission for full coverage.

The majority of the members of Simcoe town council and Norfolk county council voted in favor of the news editor's suggestion, no dissenting opinions being expressed. Councillors asked only that the press use discretion when personalities became involved or when any council proposal, in the opinion of reporters, might be jeopardized by a premature report in the press.

Although still in the "try-out" stage, the new procedure has worked satisfactorily in the opinion of several councillors who were asked to comment on the changeover.

The danger of closed meetings being held, as authorized by the Municipal Act, seems remote at the present time. In addressing both councils, Mr. Pearce suggested that they continue with the old committee-of-the-whole system if they thought that closed meetings would result from the proposed new procedure.



For Parents Only

"WILL IT HURT?"

By Nancy Cleaver

"Will it hurt, Mum?" a small child asks eagerly with his eyes fixed on his mother's face. His parents know that for the sake of his future good health, they have planned an experience which will likely cause him pain. Possibly a visit to the dentist's office for a filling of a cavity or an extraction is a-heap of him. Perhaps it is an injection, inoculation, or a vaccination.

The child may have to have special treatment for a disease, or his adenoids, tonsils, or appendix removed, and he has never been away from home. Mother is dreading this separation. She suspects that the ache of homesickness may be as great as his physical discomfort. If she lives in the country, a long distance from the hospital, or if other home duties will make it difficult for her to visit her child frequently, she hesitates to reply. How is she going to answer her child's question?

In a situation like this, a mother is often perplexed. Gladly would she suffer in his place! Should she cloud his sunshine today by admitting there will be even a few clouds tomorrow? On the other hand, she values her child's faith in her. She has been trying to build in him a regard for the truth and a hatred for lies. Perhaps she remembers Mark Twain's advice, "When in doubt, tell the truth." No good comes from lying to anyone, particularly to a member of one's own family. If the experience ahead of him will be painful, she might as well admit it.

At the same time, it is important that mother's attitude should be not only loving but also re-assuring. Fear is very contagious and a child senses a mother's apprehension in a flash! If the child is old enough to grasp ideas, it is often wise to explain briefly and simply why the experience is necessary.

Perhaps Susan has been told what to look for when she is vaccinated. All the same she kicks up quite a fuss at the time! There is no use expecting perfection. Mother need not feel too humiliated. She will

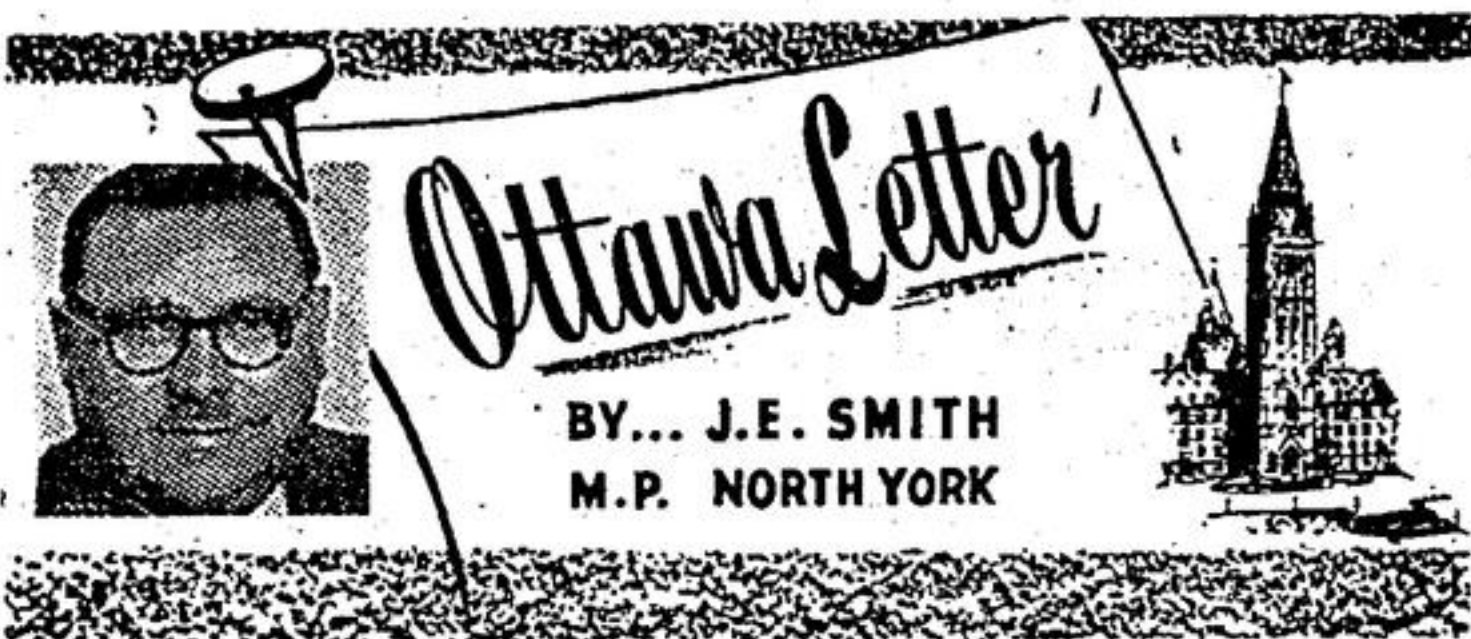
likely see her small daughter working out her resentment over suffering as she vigorously vaccinates her dolls in her play during the next few days and may even want to vaccinate her playmates too!

Johnny may have to have a hole in a tooth drilled and filled. But he will accept this more readily if he knows that this will save the tooth from further decay. He needs his teeth to chew his food properly. Mother can also tell him that although this may hurt a bit, it will be a lot more painful if he delays his visit several weeks and lets the cavity get much bigger.

Quite naturally children frequently want to know, "How long will the hurt last?" If mother can honestly predict that the duration will not be very long, this decreases the child's panic. She can tell him that he won't be hurt any longer than is absolutely necessary. If a child must have a series of injections, once he knows that his skin is just punctured and the pain is very fleeting, his fear subsides.

A child who knows what to expect is better prepared for a disagreeable experience and frequently this helps him come through it more easily and with less shock. Not long ago, research was done on a group of small patients who were prepared for a tonsil operation, compared with another group who did not know what to expect or that their throats would likely be a bit sore afterwards. The first group fared much better than the second in their rate of recovery.

Children have sometimes been described as "hard-headed little wretches." But tenderness is only born of experience. The Chinese have a saying "When your tooth aches you know how to sympathize with one who has a toothache." One small lad who had had a number of injections, confided to his little chum (who was quaking in his shoes, while he waited in the line-up at the medical clinic for his first shot): "Don't be afraid! Each time the doctor's needle gets smaller and smaller!"



BY... J.E. SMITH M.P. NORTH YORK

Parliament has prorogued and all is now quiet on Parliament Hill after a session which lasted from November to May. It was likely the last session before a general election which is expected to be called sometime before the snow flies. The world situation is still in a troubled state and there are some danger points which are causing quite some concern in official circles these days. In case of emergency Parliament, could be called on short notice.

I will be home in North York for some time now and will be available at my office in Richmond Hill for any who wish to see me. I trust that any having problems relating to federal administration will feel very free to contact me at any time. The address is J. E. Smith, M.P., Richmond Hill, and the telephone is TU-4-1261.

The Prime Minister and the official delegation are on their way overseas for the Coronation, and plan to return to Canada in early June. Canada will occupy an important place in the Coronation proceedings and our official delegation as well as our detachments of R.C.M.P. will, I am sure, make Army, Navy, and Air Force a favorable impression in London and in every way be a credit to Canada.

For example I am sure it will be a source of pride to all Canadians that when on June 15 off Spithead, England, one of history's greatest assemblages of ships sail past Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in the traditional Coronation Review of the Fleet. Canada will be well represented.

Proudly taking their stations in this array will be six ships of the Royal Canadian Navy, a cross-section of Canada's relatively small but expanding sea forces.

Canada's Coronation squadron will be headed by the aircraft carrier Magnificent. The cruisers Ontario and Quebec will be on hand. The destroyer Sioux, tested in the Korean war will be there. The frigates Swansea and La Hulloise will represent Canada's World War I naval construction effort that helped turn the tide in the Battle of the Atlantic.

Our country's peacetime skills will be on view too, in the Department of Transport's new ice-breaker D'Iberville, designed and built in Canada, and which in time of war could be used for defence purposes.

Canada's contingent may not loom large, numerically, in the

armada of 200 ships. But it will serve as a reminder that as our country moves up the scale of world powers she takes her place beside Britain and other freedom loving countries whose naval forces stand as a barrier against world enslavement.

History was made in the closing days of the session when the Prime Minister announced the appointment of Opposition Leader George Drew as a Member of the Privy Council of Canada. This is the first time in history such an appointment has been made and it was applauded as a gracious act by members in all sections of the House. Speakers of the House and the Senate similarly honored along with the Opposition Leader will be members of Canada's official delegation to the Coronation.

The government is not losing any time or sparing any effort in pushing the St. Lawrence seaway development. This great project which will mean so much to the future development of Canada and to the power supply of industrial Ontario has top priority here and there is real optimism that despite red tape and tardy co-operation from the U.S.A. that work will start on the big development this fall. Prime Minister St. Laurent and all members of the government are giving it full and all out support.

British Markets Canadian goods continue to sell heavily in the British market although in recent years there have been changes in the kind of goods sold.

Last year, 1952, Canada was the biggest supplier Britain had in the world. Britain took Canadian goods to the value of \$883 million, according to British figures.

That meant Canadian exports increased 22 per cent over 1951 and set a new peacetime record. The United States was Britain's second largest supplier and Australia came in third place. Canadian shipments amount to 9.3 per cent of all Britain's imports, compared to 8 per cent in 1951.

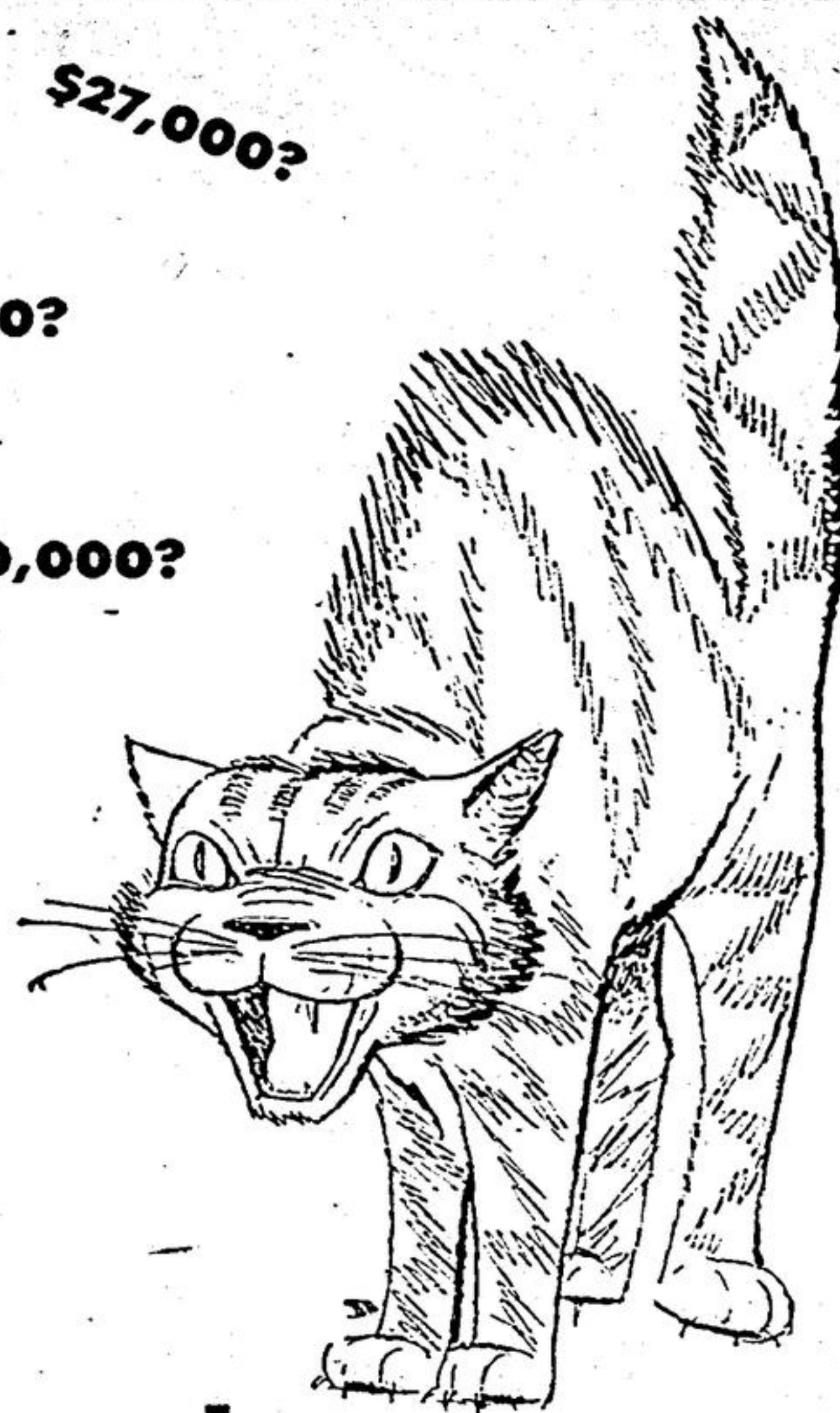
Commenting on the situation the magazine "Foreign Trade" says: "Obviously Canada is retaining her hold on this market."

Taxes and Spending During the session the House heard many complaints regarding high taxation and also heard from the opposition time and again suggestions which

\$27,000?

\$100,000?

\$1,600,000?



How much does a wildcat cost?

A "wildcat" is a well drilled in an area where oil has never been found. Drilling costs vary, but the average wildcat in western Canada runs to more than \$100,000. One well cost \$1,600,000—and found no oil!

Oil is making an increasingly important contribution to our standard of living. How many of these questions about it can you answer?

How many wildcat wells find a new oil field—
1 in 3? 1 in 7? 1 in 23?

The long-term average in western Canada is 1 in 23. Only 1 in 87 has found a field capable of producing as much as 2,000 barrels a day.

Since 1939 the cost of living index has risen by 85%. During that time has the price you pay for gasoline gone up by—
44%? 79%? 103%?

The average retail price of gasoline is only 44% higher than prewar, even with higher road taxes in all provinces.

A lot of oil has been discovered in the west since 1946. In that time have Canada's oil reserves increased—
4 times? 23 times? 37 times?

Reserves have increased 23-fold in the past six years. Canadian fields now supply all the prairies and part of B.C. and Ontario.

How many companies, would you say, are engaged in the oil business in Canada—
23? 174? 750?

About 750 companies in which the public has an investment interest, as well as several hundred private firms and partnerships. And this doesn't include the thousands of privately operated service stations and other retail and wholesale outlets for oil products.

Canada's growing oil industry means orders for many businesses, jobs for many Canadians. Last year Imperial's purchasing department bought equipment and supplies from Canadian firms amounting to—
\$12 millions? \$56 millions? \$110 millions?

\$56 millions. About 4,500 Canadian companies sold Imperial supplies ranging from heavy steel plates to paper clips.

IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED
oil makes a country strong



If adopted would have meant many more millions to be levied on taxpayers.

Reasonable and thinking people appreciate that it is not sensible to criticize the administration for the present level of taxation and in the next breath suggest increasing expenditures by many millions of dollars.

In this session the govern-

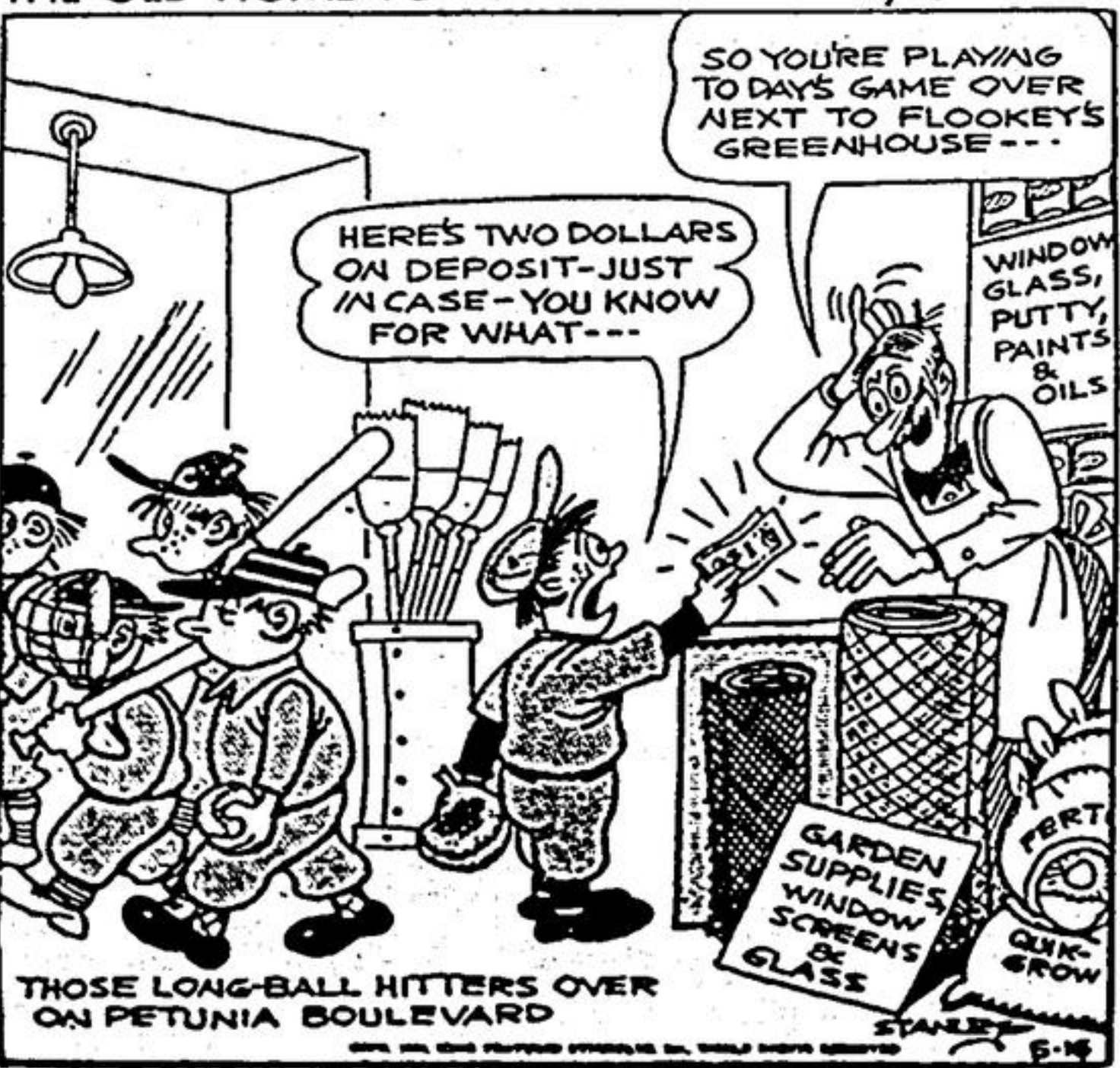
ment has listened to the opposition make suggestions which if adopted would have increased expenditures by some \$4 billion.

Your government's policy has been to extend social services in keeping with the economy of our country. We have ever kept in mind and endeavoured to strike a fair balance between the needs of the

people and the ability of the people to bear the resulting levy of taxation. Sometimes opposition members in an effort to make appeals to sections or groups seem to forget that the government's only source of revenue is taxation.

Smart people don't worry, and smarter ones don't worry other people.

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY



SO YOU'RE PLAYING TO DAY'S GAME OVER NEXT TO FLOOKEY'S GREENHOUSE---

HERE'S TWO DOLLARS ON DEPOSIT—JUST IN CASE—YOU KNOW FOR WHAT---

WINDOW GLASS, PUTTY, PAINTS, OILS.

GARDEN SUPPLIES, WINDOW SCREENS, GLASS, QUICK-GROW.

THOSE LONG-BALL HITTERS OVER ON PETUNIA BOULEVARD



FLORIDA

Land of Sunshine

\$189⁷⁷

A flying side trip to Havana where you spend two nights and one day sightseeing is a feature of this attractive tour. In Florida you visit St. Augustine, Silver Springs, Tampa and St. Petersburg. In Miami you enjoy a tour of Miami and Miami Beach—then the Scenic South Bay Cruise and a trip to Key West. And there's sightseeing all the way when you go by bus.

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