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YOU CAN MAKE A BIG CHRISTMAS CANDLE

You can make a big, long-burning candle to fit into your Christmas decorations if you have a number of odds and ends of partly burned candles around the house. Melt them and pour into cardboard containers and remold. Use ice cream cartons, oatmeal containers or others. Use plain cord for a wick. When the wax is beginning to set, tie the wick to a pencil and suspend it in the wax. Let set hard, remove carton and there is a nice candle for your table.

Insp. M. Hallman Suggests Co-Ordinating Principal

An important meeting was held of the Markham Township Trustees Association at Unionville recently, when School Inspector Maynard Hallman outlined a plan for the rural schools in Markham Township. The main feature of Mr. Hallman's address was his suggestion that the rural school boards meet to discuss the appointment of a Supervisory Principal to assist the 20 rural schools in the township.

Under Mr. Hallman's proposed co-ordinated administration, each board would continue to have a local corresponding secretary; while the combined boards would have the services of the supervisory principal who would also act as treasurer for the schools. The speaker pointed out that during the past year these 20 schools have spent over \$9,000 for school supplies, a figure which could be greatly reduced if the supplies were bought in larger quantities. Such a supervisory principal would be paid on a sliding scale according to the number of schools and class rooms under his control; this salary would be eligible for Department of Education grants. At present, approximately \$2,000 is spent annually on school administration.

Duties
 Mr. Hallman explained the three types of duties of a co-ordinating principal in looking after rural schools. One of the first duties would be the supervision of instruction in the schools. Mr. Hallman stated that nearly 35% of the teachers in Markham township have been hired since June and pointed out that a controlling principal could be of great assistance to these new teachers. In fact, the standard and the methods of teaching would be under his direction in order to bring about a continuity in the rural schools all over the township.

Secretary-Treasurer
 The second part of the position would entail serving as a general secretary-treasurer to

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all the boards. This co-ordination of the school administration will bring it up to maximum efficiency, a problem which often appears in school boards where the secretary or treasurer seldom has any background in the school administration and has only a few hours weekly to devote to the job.

Attendance Officer
 In addition, the person holding the position would serve as attendance officer for the township. In the past, the Township of Markham has appointed an attendance officer who receives a \$100 stipend and it would still be necessary for the township to make this appointment. At this meeting there were indications that, if the various school boards approve of the suggestion, Markham township would co-operate fully.

In presenting this suggestion to the Trustees' Association, Mr. Hallman stressed that school boards would be in no way surrendering any authority but that the plan would enable a Superintendent of Twp. Schools to carry out the policies determined by the boards both collectively and individually.

Report from Parliament

By Michael Starr, M.P.
 On Tuesday, December 1st, the Members of the House of Commons entered the Chamber to find bright yellow chrysanthemums on each desk, large ones for front-benchers of all parties, sprigs for back benchers. The mums were distributed by two Liberal Members who represent Hamilton Ridings, and these flowers were in honor of Hamilton Tiger Cats' Grey Cup victory over Winnipeg Blue Bombers last Saturday.

On a question asked the Finance Minister, Mr. Abbott, in the House of Commons as to when he expected to introduce the Bank Act, Mr. Abbott advised that, because of the Christmas Recess and his expected trip to Australia in January, at which time he will be attending a conference of Commonwealth Finance Ministers, the Bank Act will not be brought before Parliament until sometime in February.

In the speeches which have been delivered during the past week proposals have been made on various matters. One was for the establishment of a Federal Youth Department, to help young Canadians to develop their talents and potentialities. Consideration of a National Flag has again been urged. One member advocated easier mortgage payments, which would help more Canadians build homes and thereby stabilize their lives in Canada.

It has been suggested that the Government put a floor under its grants to universities to reduce inequalities among provinces. The university grant is paid to each province on the basis of fifty cents for each resident of the province, but some provinces, including Nova Scotia, have more universities than others. Newfoundland's grant equals \$459 per university student, while Nova Scotia's grant amounts to only \$95 per student.

Nearly 22,000 regular force service men who took part in the Korean war are eligible for benefits similar to those received by Second World War Veterans. The benefits, including university or vocational training, and settlement under the Veterans' Land Act, previously had been granted to the 5,000 specially recruited for Korea in 1950.

A Parliamentary Return indicates that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have cut the cigarette smuggling business almost by half in the last year.

On November 27th, a delegation representing the Canadian municipalities, met with Prime Minister St. Laurent and his Cabinet. On behalf of Canada's cities and towns, they appealed to the Federal Government to help ease financial burdens pressing on the municipalities, and their spokesman expressed confidence that the Government will make some concessions.

Councillor J. O. Asselin of Montreal, President of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, said that he believed the concessions will cover:

1. The demand by the Federation that the Government remove the 10% sales tax from municipal purchases of equipment and supplies.
2. The removal of the 4% assessment floor on grants to municipalities in lieu of taxes on Federal property serviced by municipal areas.

In a brief outline of the financial plight of the cities and towns, the delegation urged that a Federal-Provincial conference, with municipal representation, be called as soon as possible, to clarify the national role of municipalities, and set out ways in which they can get required revenues.

It proposed also that the Government institute a comprehensive national health plan, to offset soaring health costs; help pay for education costs, through arrangements with the provinces; make mortgage repayments easier; and boost Civil Defence contributions. But it observed that the heavy cost of administration, and providing services, are the biggest headaches of Canadian towns and cities.

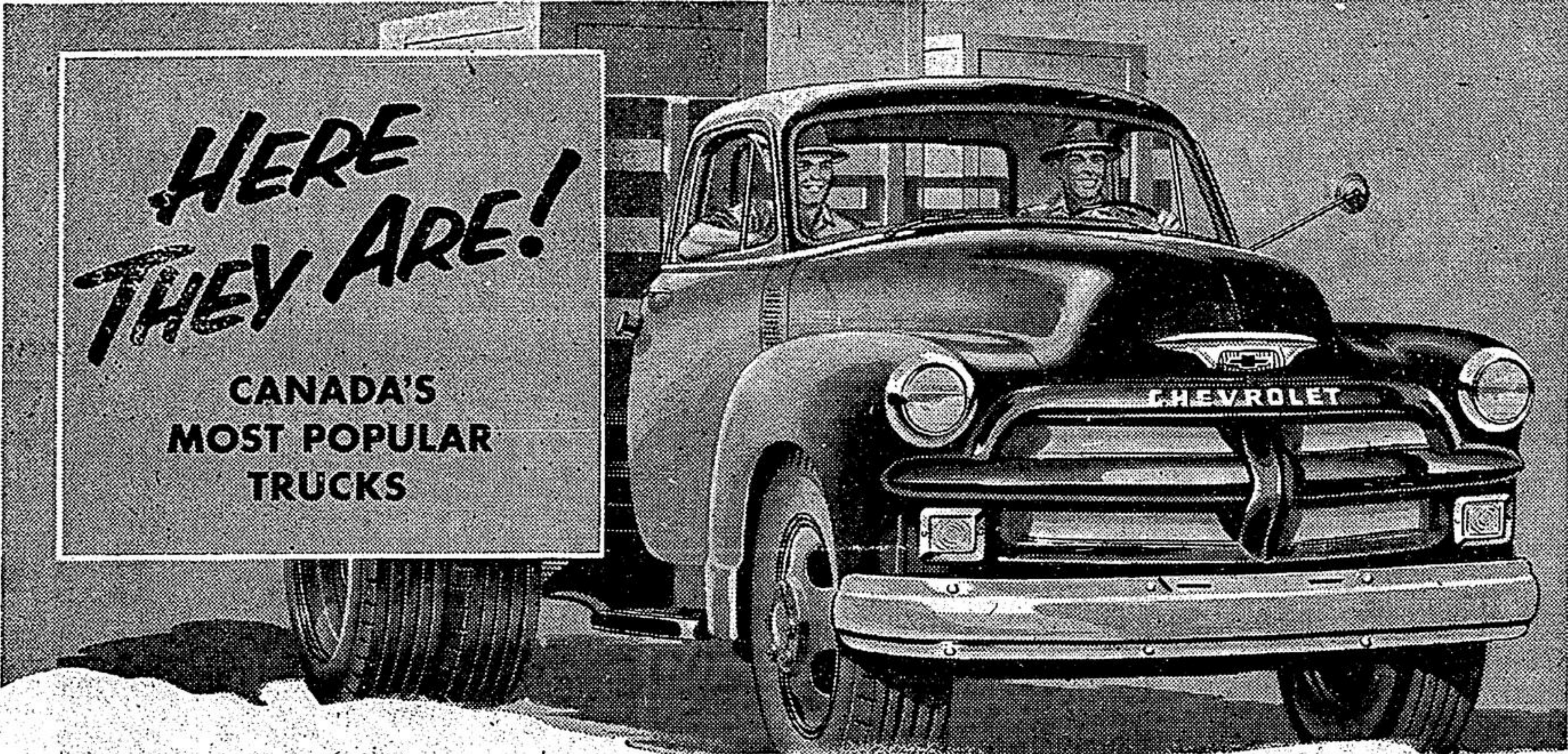
The representations, as made by this delegation are in line with my views, expressed in my maiden speech in the last session of the 21st Parliament.

Mr. Asselin, after the interview, reported that the delegation was very pleased with the manner in which the Prime Minister and his Ministers received their representations, although they did not know how far the Government proposed to go. In his statement Mr. Asselin said he felt that at least the Government will make some concessions on the two points, and that they will give earnest consideration to all the representations.

At the present the Government makes grants in lieu of taxes on Federal property in excess of 4% of the assessment value of local taxable and federal property combined. The Federation feels that taxes should be paid on all federal properties, because of the cost of providing municipal services to federal property, and that cost should be charged against the taxpayers of the nation, rather than against those in that particular municipality only.

The Federation claims that the elimination of the 10% sales tax on municipal purchases would have no serious impact on Government revenues, but it would go a long way to help the distressed municipalities.

I am most certainly in accord with these representations, and hope that the Government will see fit, when they bring down the Budget during this session, to give consideration to these matters, and thereby lessen the burden of the municipal taxpayer.

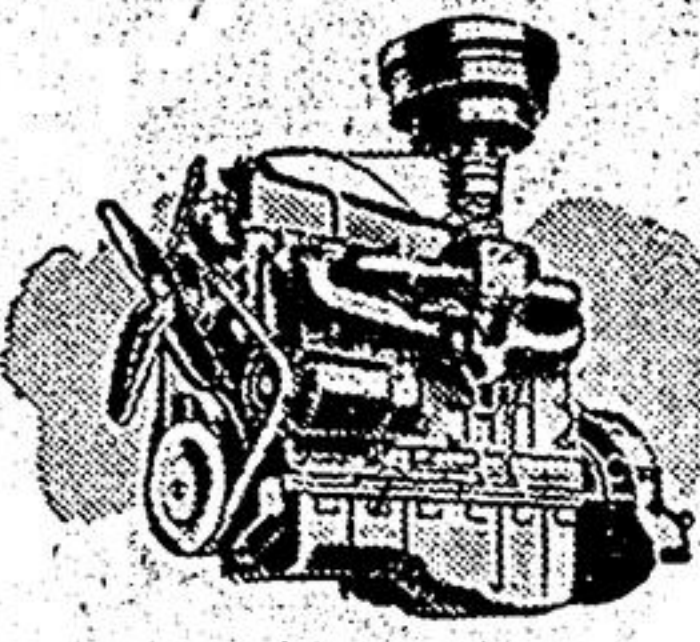


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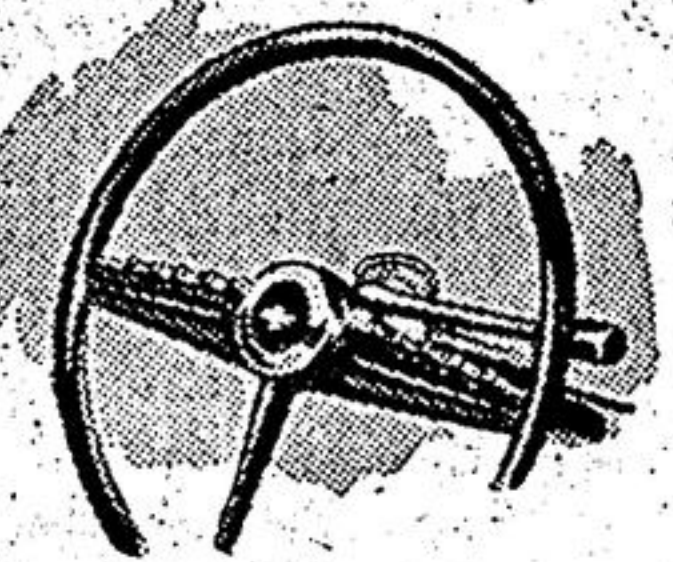
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