

Procedural reform is urged by M.P.P. William Newman

Too much time is wasted

ONTARIO SOUTH — The following is a copy of the budget address delivered by M.P.P. William Newman of Ontario South Riding, before the Provincial Legislature, July 12. In it, Mr. Newman urges the adoption of procedural reform to improve the efficiency of Parliament. It reads as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote a few paragraphs from an editorial which appeared in 'The Financial Post' issue of July 6th, 1968. The editorial deals with the need for parliamentary reform in the federal parliament and I would like to quote the first paragraph which reads as follows:

"Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has good reason to put priority on the reform of House of Commons rules. In his haste to dissolve Parliament last April, he effectively scrubbed every improvement in the rules made during the past four years. The floor is now hideously open to gabble, wrangle and yap"

The editorial indicates that the improvement which have now been scraped vastly speeded up the process of legislation. It suggests that Canada should promptly adopt some of the British parliamentary rules, either outright or in changed form. Under these rules the British parliament is able to set up its business well in advance. The work load on the full House is decreased by delegating much of it to committees and MPs and ministers are freed from attending debates in the House when they are not needed.

The editorial concludes with this paragraph, and I quote:

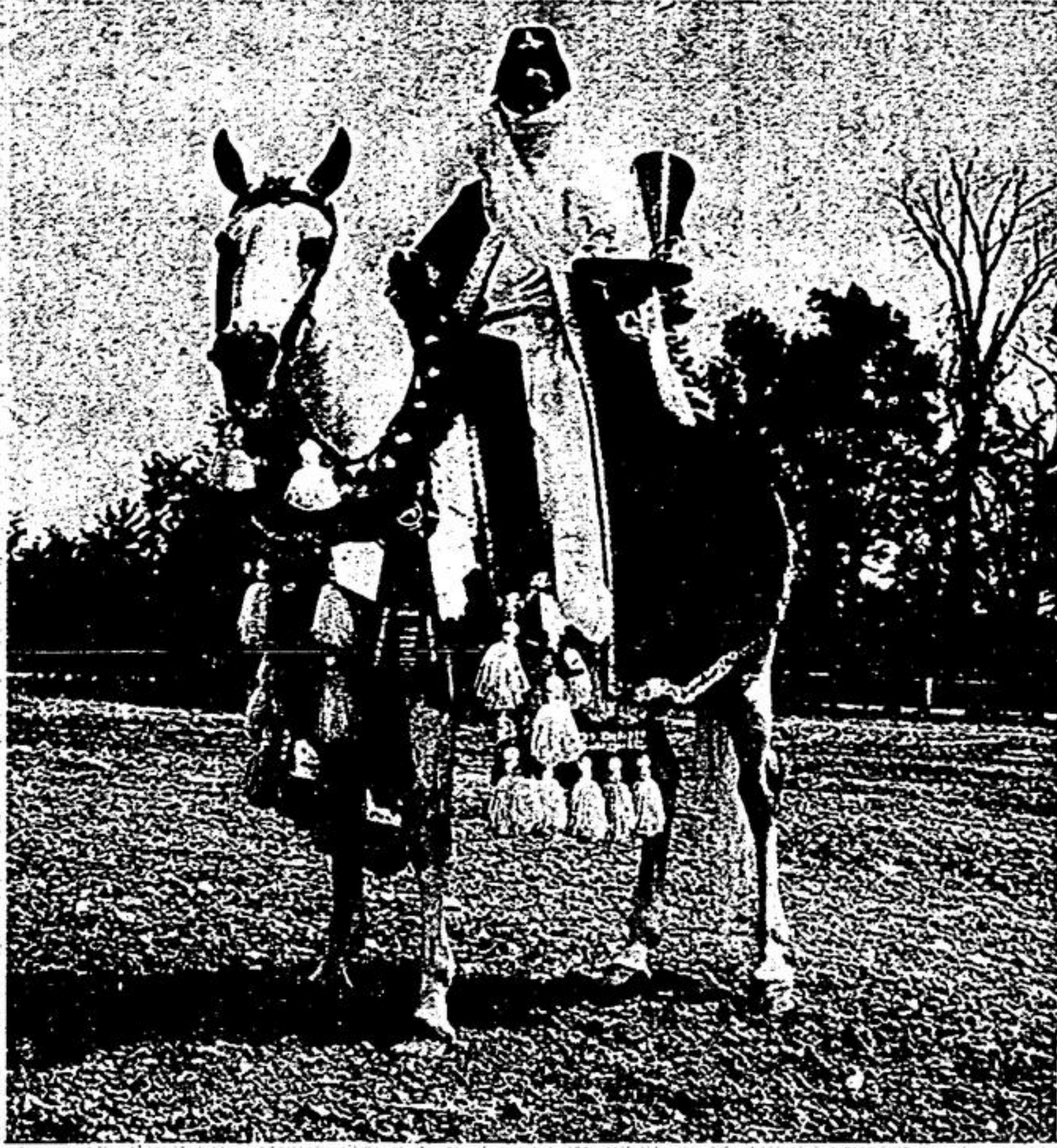
"New measures to control the Committee of the Whole, which at present can carry on talk-fests ad infinitum, are perhaps the most urgent matter. If, as Trudeau implies, future sittings are going to be limited to a number of months in the year, Parliament cannot afford to let any MP speak as long or as often as he likes."

As a newcomer to this House, I have been most surprised and disillusioned by the seemingly endless and pointless debates which have taken place in this chamber. I realize that this is the first session of a new parliament, and that there are over 40 new members anxious to get their views on the record and their names in the papers. In addition, our debates may have tended to be more artisan than normal because of the Federal Liberal Convention and more recently, the Federal General Election Campaign. And furthermore, the Government has presented a very heavy programme of legislation, some of which is still before us.

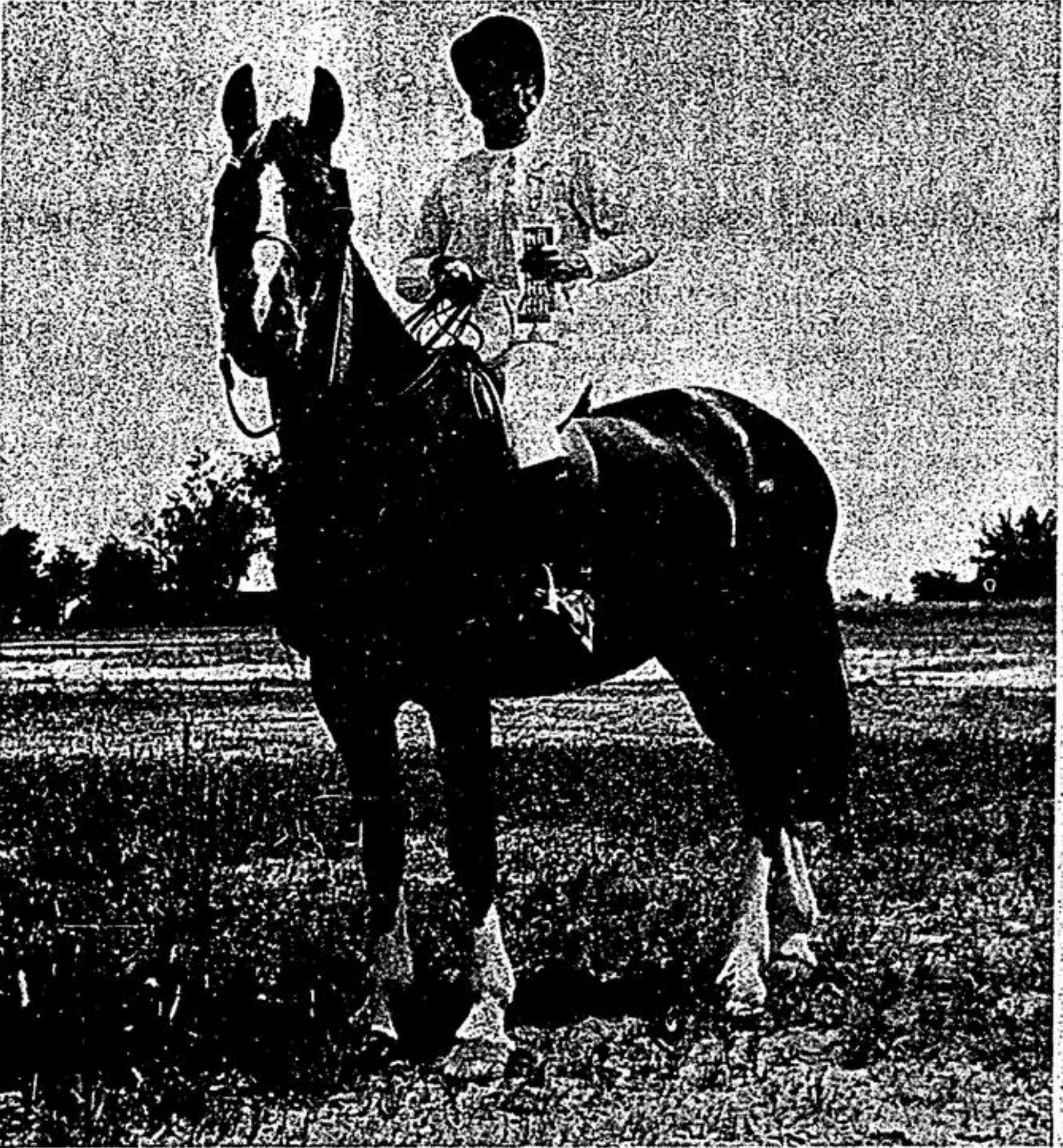
In spite of these special circumstances, I think most members would agree that we could have moved along much more quickly without, in any way, shirking or neglecting our responsibilities. In the words of the editorial, there has been too much gabble, wrangle and yap. I am no authority on parliamentary procedure and, because of this, I hesitate to raise this subject. Yet, I feel very strongly that one of our most urgent and important tasks is procedural reform. This reform should be designed to improve the efficiency of the Legislature and, at the same time, to reduce the length of our sessions.

I believe this can be done without prejudice to the increasingly important role which this Legislature is called upon to perform. As a first requirement, I must mention briefly the need for improved research and secretarial facilities for the private members of all parties. I commend the Government for the progress which has been made in this area in the recent past and feel certain that it will continue to receive the highest priority.

It is widely accepted, I believe, that the private member simply does not have the time, the energy or the money to get any serious research done on



Pam Cullen of Bridlewood Acres, R.R. 1, Unionville won the mounted native costume class at the 7th annual All-Arabian Horse Show at Markham, Saturday. —Staff Photo



Sixteen year old Chris Clark of R.R. 3, King, won several awards including the International Arabian Association Trophy, tops in the halfbred pleasure horse class. Her mount is Fran Frolicco. —Staff Photo

his own. The Progressive Conservative Party's student research assistant programme, begun this session, has been of value to several of our members. This is, however, a purely voluntary programme and is limited accordingly. If we are to effectively balance the great influence of the Civil Service on Government policy, it seems essential to provide the private members of all parties with adequate sources of fresh and informed thinking on the issue which confronts us.

I believe that most members would agree that a great deal of our time has been wasted in the lengthy question periods. Many questions have been presented to ministers which could have been answered by letter or by telephone without taking up the time of the House. I appreciate the value of the question period and the importance of continuing this procedure. Insofar as the estimates are concerned, I would like to mention some of the methods by which the allocation of time might be more effectively controlled.

If the estimates of all departments are to be dealt with in committee of the whole house, then surely it is time for our parties to agree upon time limit for the estimates of all departments, as has been done in Ottawa and Westminster. Within this overall period, time could be allotted to the expenditures of the various departments in relation to the sums involved if the opposition parties desired it. On the other hand, it might be advisable to have the committee on the whole house deal only with those estimates in excess of a certain amount, leaving the others to be examined by the appropriate standing committees.

Or, as I believe the Leader of the official opposition, proposed earlier this session, a standing committee might be appointed to examine all of the estimates and to report its findings to the House in the normal manner. I realize, Mr. Speaker, that there are advantages and disadvantages to each of these methods, and I am not competent to suggest which alternative should be adopted. I simply wish at this time to point out the need for reform of our present system. This session, for example, we spent 34 hours debating the estimates of the Department of Health involving the expenditure of approximately \$400,000,000. We spent only 20 hours on the estimates of the Department of Education and University Affairs, which together involve expenditures in excess of \$1.1 billion. I think it is also very significant that to date some 45% of the Legislature's time has been spent in discussing departmental estimates. This figure is, of course, increasing each day.

Locate bomb in lake

PORT PERRY — Two children, playing in the waters of Lake Scugog, recovered an 11½ pound aerial bomb near the shore. Shelley Liscombe, 9 and Patty Davidson, 10 of Caesarea, made the discovery. The bomb has been taken to the 11th Armored Regiment at Oshawa after the children notified their parents.

Major William Clarke said it was an aerial practice bomb that had been used by student pilots and bombardiers during the Second World War. The function of the bomb is to mark a target by igniting flash powder. The bomb was designed to explode upon hitting the ground. He said he was unsure how the bomb got at its location, but pointed out that during the war an elementary flying school had been located in Oshawa, and it was quite possible a gunnery range was located in the Lake Scugog area.

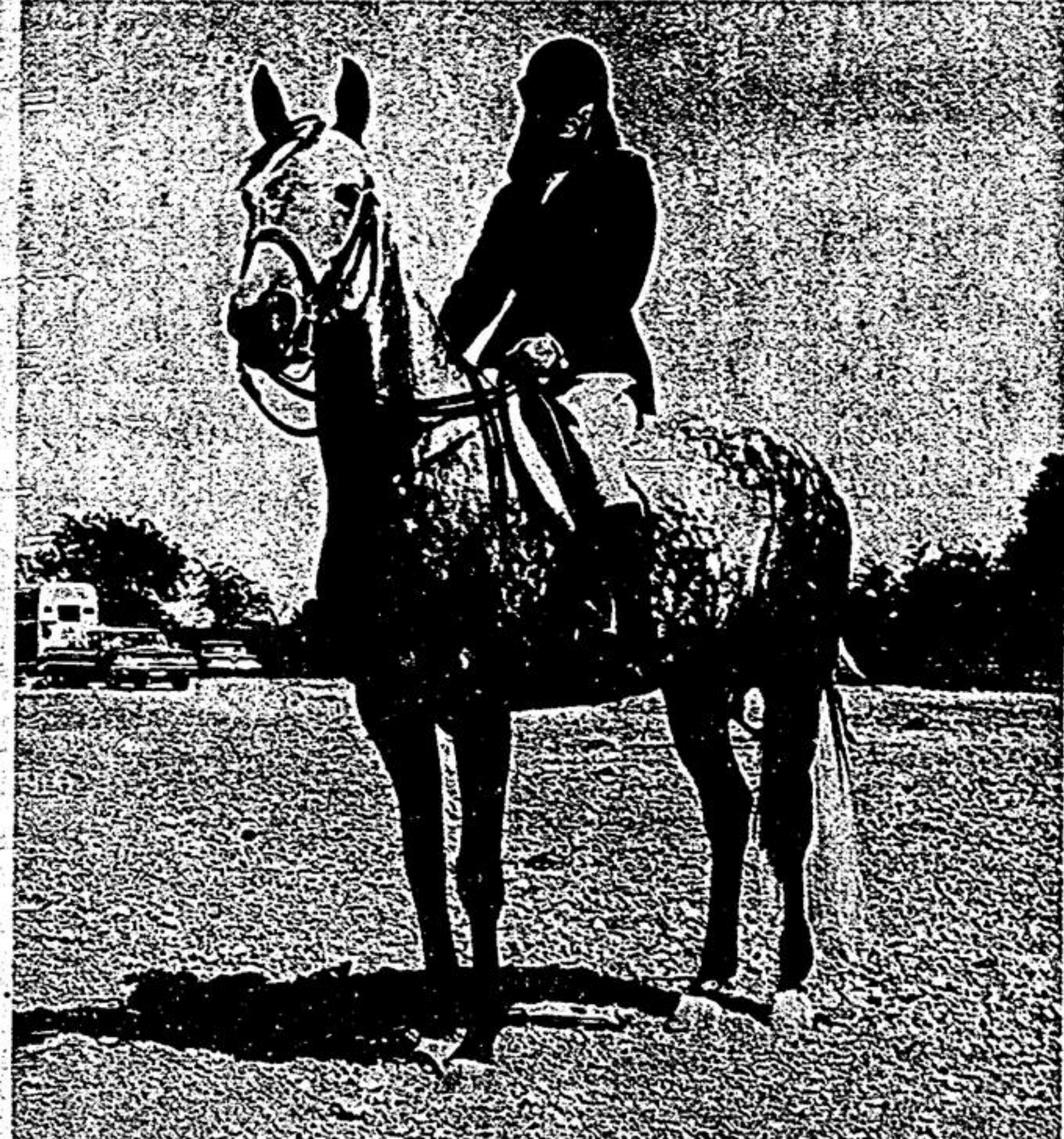
The bomb could have also been dropped through carelessness, said the Major. He explained such a bomb is capable of taking off a hand or killing a small child. But, in this instance, it didn't explode since the safety pin was still intact and corroded into the bomb. Major Clarke said the discovery of bombs pose a potential danger to everyone, especially children. He urged all citizens discovering one to immediately turn it in.



This girl and the one lower left, are the same, only in different dress. She's Chris Clark of R.R. 3, King, looking as cute as any Highland lassie. She was an entry in the halfbred costume class. —Staff Photo

Arabian horse show has 235 entries

MARKHAM — A pretty Unionville district girl on an equally attractive all-Arabian horse, captured the mounted native costume class in stiff competition at Markham, Saturday. Pam Cullen, on Al Marah Ibn Naharin of Bridlewood



For 14 year old Gerry Parker, Cherry Street, Whitchurch, it was her first entry in close competition. She rode Kanada-Annha, owned by Mrs. Eileen Spicer, Vivian Thoroughbred Farm. —Staff Photo

Acres, R.R. 1, Unionville, topped 11 other entries. In second place was Trotval Talisman, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ian McLean of Perth and third was G-Tyn, ridden by John R. Bilida of R.R. 1, Port Perry. In the halfbred costume

class, the winner was Judy McGregor on Goldie Amadriano from Richmond Hill. Mrs. Betty Reeve of Markham, one of the chief promoters of the successful show told the Tribune that the 235 entries, Saturday established a seven-year record. The exhibitors

were all from Canada, many travelling considerable distances from points in Ontario and Quebec. Mrs. Reeve noted that many young riders, still in their mid-teens were displaying a keen interest in Arabian horses.

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