

# Rafters ring

STOUFFVILLE — "Never enjoyed myself so much. When are they going to have another of these and similar comments were heard around town following the double-feature Music Day in Latcham Hall, Nov. 24.

The event was sponsored by the Community Centre Board. The Master of Ceremonies was Lorne Boadway.

Every phase of the program was well received, including the Stouffville Dist. Secondary School band, under the direction of Ted Hawley; the pickin' and

singin' of the 'Nipissing County Boys'; the Folk & Rock Trio, called 'Whisperwind'; the 'barbershop' quartet named 'Moonlight Knights'; and the surprise ensemble of Cousin Zeke (Bob Hassard); Sad Sam (Ted Cadieux); and Professor Boadway himself.

Both shows were concluded by the 'Stouffville Stompers', a talented Dixieland type instrument chorus that included Cec Horton, Jerry Waite, Jim Devins, Bob Cudlip, Wally Lee, Ted Hawley and Lorne Boadway.



Not included on the Music Day program, Saturday, but very much a part of it, was this 'talented' trio (left to right) Lorne Boadway, Bob Hassard and Ted Cadieux. Their vocal (and facial) antics in Latcham Hall, Saturday, 'brought' down the house. — Jim Thomas.

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## Ottawa Report

# 'Real' earnings down

By Sinclair Stevens, M.P.

**YORK-SIMCOE** — The average worker has become a key victim of inflation, Sinclair Stevens, M.P., York Simcoe, said today.

Real average weekly earnings in September were \$2.38 or 1.4 per cent lower than a year earlier based on first estimate figures released by Statistics Canada yesterday. The September figure may show a more serious drop when revised figures are published.

Preliminary unad-

justed weekly earning figures for September are now given at \$163.33 while seasonally adjusted figures are \$162.39. To keep abreast with inflation the average worker needed in September \$165.71 per week to equal his September 1972 buying power. To stand still with inflation the average worker needed \$13.26 more in weekly pay in September this year compared to last year.

While the cost of living index rose 8.7 per cent the average wage rose only 7.1 per cent between September 1972 and September 1973. Most alarmingly, since April 1973, there has been a short fall every month in year to year wage increases in relation to inflation.

Real average hourly earning increases in manufacturing were virtually static in the past year, yesterday's release disclosed. Between June and September, such hourly earnings fell eight cents per hour almost two per cent loss — in buying power.

On a year to year basis, there has been a slight drop in real hourly wages — about 1/4 of one cent per hour.

The figures, released yesterday, included August figures whose release has been delayed since Oct. 26. August figures show a loss in buying power of \$2.49 in average weekly earnings

compared to a year earlier.

Last week, Mr. Stevens questioned the delay in releasing the August statistics and demanded their release forthwith.

In recent months, Statistics Canada have consistently revised their earning figures down.

For example in their October 2nd release they showed July average weekly earnings at \$161.36. The current revised figure for July is \$159.24, a \$2.12 drop.

In October, when the July figures were released, a Finance Department spokesman, Mr. Stevens said, "A real hourly earnings index in dollars is also necessary" necessary.

Canada must be required to publish real gross average weekly earnings of Canadians together with real spendable earnings after deductions for all payments including U.I.C. and Federal income taxes," Mr. Stevens said. "A real hourly earnings index in dollars is also necessary."

Today, based on the revised figures, the official would presumably have to admit the average weekly wage in July was about \$2.05 or 1.3 per cent lower than a year earlier.

Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Victoria Day on January 1, 1975.

## Minimum wage goes up Jan. 1

Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Victoria Day on January 1, 1975.

ONT. SOUTH — A minimum wage of \$2 an hour for employees in general industry will be effective Jan. 1, 1974, reveals Bill Newman, M.P., Ontario-South. The new rate will apply to all employees except students under the age of 18. The student rate will be \$1.65 per hour. The minimum wage for construction employees will increase to \$2.25.

Mr. Newman also explains other amendments to The Employment Standards Act. All employees will receive four statutory holidays with pay: Good Friday, Dominion Day, Labour Day and Christmas Day in 1974. This provision will be extended to include New

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