

One-man campaign

Businessman resists

NEWMARKET — The York Regional Police's policy in filling out speeding tickets has come under scrutiny recently, largely because of the one-man campaign of a Newmarket businessman.

Peter Gorman of Newmarket, currently is deciding whether he will go to jail for three days as a matter of prin-

“absolute discretion” in filling out speeding tickets, and may decide in certain cases to give the motorist “a break.”

The exception to the policy, the chief said, is that officers are not to “give them (motorists) a break simply and for no other reason than to save the driver from losing points.”

According to Ontario's point system, a driver can lose his license after a series of offences amounting to more than 15 points. A speeding infraction will not result in points lost for a driver unless he exceeds the limit by more than ten miles an hour.

Occasionally, an officer will write a 10-mile excess on the ticket even though the driver was going faster, so the driver will not lose points.

Chief Crawford argues that a result of the crackdown on speeding drivers has been a 59.6 per cent reduction in traffic fatalities this year compared with the same period last year.

Mr. Gorman feels that York police speed traps serve more to harass than to protect the public and would like to have an independent inquiry into the traffic law enforcement policies of York Regional Police.

For his part, York police chief Bruce Crawford says that York police officers have



Martha Reesor, (right) accepts a cheque for \$100 from The Tribune advertising representative John Briery. It was first prize in the Christmas Shopping contest, sponsored by The Tribune. At left is Mrs. Victor Little with her prize of \$25. Second prize winner, Peter Daniels was not available for the photo but received his prize of \$50. — Don Bernard.

Ottawa Report

MP raise method unsatisfactory

By SINCLAIR STEVENS
Members of Parliament attempting to set their own salaries is

one of the most unsatisfactory procedures imaginable.

This is especially so when it is handled in a secretive, disorganized fashion without proper consultation.

The bill to raise Members' remuneration by 50 per cent, the salaries of certain officials of Parliament and the Cabinet by 66 per cent and the Prime Minister by 80 per cent, was introduced by the government on Monday last week with virtually no notice. Certainly, there was no detailed information supplied to any of the opposition parties to enable them to hold their respective caucuses so that meaningful positions could be taken.

Personally, I found the proposal and the demand that we act with an abbreviated debate, distasteful. On Tuesday last week, I indicated to

the press that I would not go along with the bill in the form submitted and hoped that I would be given an opportunity to vote against the measure.

On Wednesday, the Conservative caucus authorized Mr. Stanfield to approach the Government House Leader, Mr. Sharp, with a view to scaling down the proposed increases to something more in line with the actual cost-of-living increases since the present salary levels were first paid in October 1970.

Since that time (up to November 1974) there has been 33.6 per cent inflation in the country. As a result of Mr. Stanfield's discussions with Mr. Sharp and in turn Mr. Sharp's discussions with the other Party Leaders, Mr. Sharp announced last Thursday that the government would amend their original bill in committee

so that Members' salaries and expense allowances would be increased by 33 per cent rather than the original 50 per cent. This increase would carry forward to the end of 1975 at which time the 1976 salary levels would be determined by the upward or downward movement of the average Industrial Wage Composite Index in 1975 in relation to 1974.

At the present time a Member is paid \$18,000 per year plus a non-taxable expense allowance of \$8,000. The expense allowance is designed to cover a Member's out-of-pocket expenses. In any case, I have found that the current expense allowance is insufficient to meet my extra expenses including my living accommodation costs in Ottawa, subsidization of my constituency office and miscellaneous ex-

penses incurred in fulfilling my responsibilities within the Riding. Under the government's new proposal, Members will be paid \$24,000 plus an expense allowance of \$10,600. This will return the Members' buying power to roughly the same level as in October 1970.

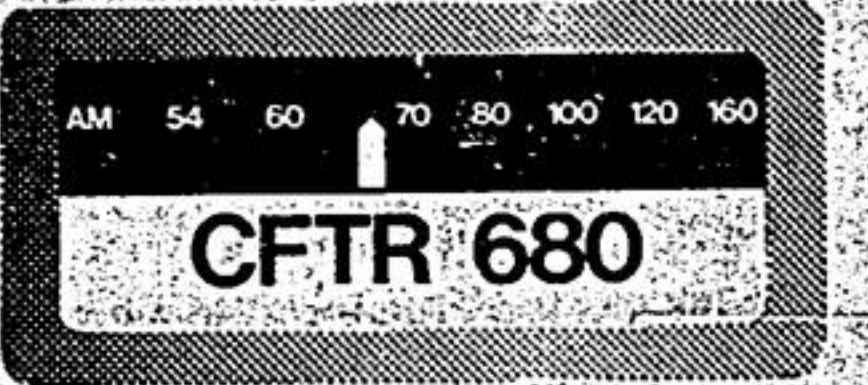
The government's current proposal is an improvement but there will be further revisions. For example, I am not satisfied that the Cabinet Ministers' salary increase of 66 per cent nor the Prime Minister's salary increase of 80 per cent, both of which have not been reduced, are justified. In each case it would seem more appropriate to set their salaries to compensate them for inflation, and no more, as in the case of the M.P.s.

I am pleased that this matter is not being finalized before the Christmas recess which will insure that the public will have time to respond before the matter is dealt with again.

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