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## Editorials

# New method is needed for picking chairman

It seems that several members of regional council have belatedly discovered that York Regional Chairman Garfield Wright is unable to perform his duties competently. Mayors Evelyn Buck of Aurora, Bob Forhan of Newmarket and Marg Britnell of King were all quoted in last week's Aurora Banner as making remarks to the effect that Mr. Wright is ineffective and should not be appointed for another term.

Mayor Buck went so far as to call for his immediate resignation. Mayor Gordon Ratcliff, when contacted by The Tribune, was less than enthusiastic about Mr. Wright but he fell short of calling for his resignation.

This stand is very surprising as Mr. Wright was voted in last term by acclamation by those very members who are now so eager to be rid of him.

This paper opposed Mr. Wright, and among the area press his handling of meetings has long been an open joke.

The root of the problem, in our opinion, is that the new council has to elect the chairman. If a newly elected member of regional council accepts the chairman's position he must then turn around and resign his council seat, thus necessitating a municipal by-election.

A regional councillor who is interested in the job faces a dilemma because if he runs for municipal office and then abandons it for the chairman's position he will be very unpopular with the voters who will feel he was using the municipal position simply as a stepping stone to higher office.

On the other hand, the politician can't very well withdraw from the municipal election in the hope he will be elected to the chairmanship. If a great number of in-

cumbents are defeated the new council members may not have the faintest idea who he is and therefore would be unlikely to vote for him or her.

Mayors Buck and Forhan propose a system whereby the chairman would be elected by the outgoing council and we admit this would be an improvement but we feel the chairman should be responsible to the people, not the politicians.

A chairman who knows the members of council are going to have the say as to whether he will be re-elected is going to take pains not to step on any toes.

At no other level of government is the top position decided by the other politicians. At the local level it would be the same as saying that the members of council should elect the mayor.

We feel the chairman should be elected at large so that officials will be accountable to the people, not to the people's representatives.

Election of the chairman by council works against the smaller municipalities as well. Under this system a canny chairman is going to favor the large municipalities, because they have the votes to make or break him.

In a democratic system, that should be up to the electorate.

## Durham official plan helpful to region

Once upon a time there were no zoning by-laws, no site-plan agreements, no building permits, and no official plans. There was, in other words, no red tape.

Of course, without those regulations there was also uncontrolled, sprawling growth and a host of related problems.

Passage of the Durham Region official plan recently was another step in the direction of minimizing the problems of expanding development, or of heading them off before they occur.

While the restrictions may seem unnecessary for some individuals, the over-all benefit to the region should be substantial.

## 30 years ago this week

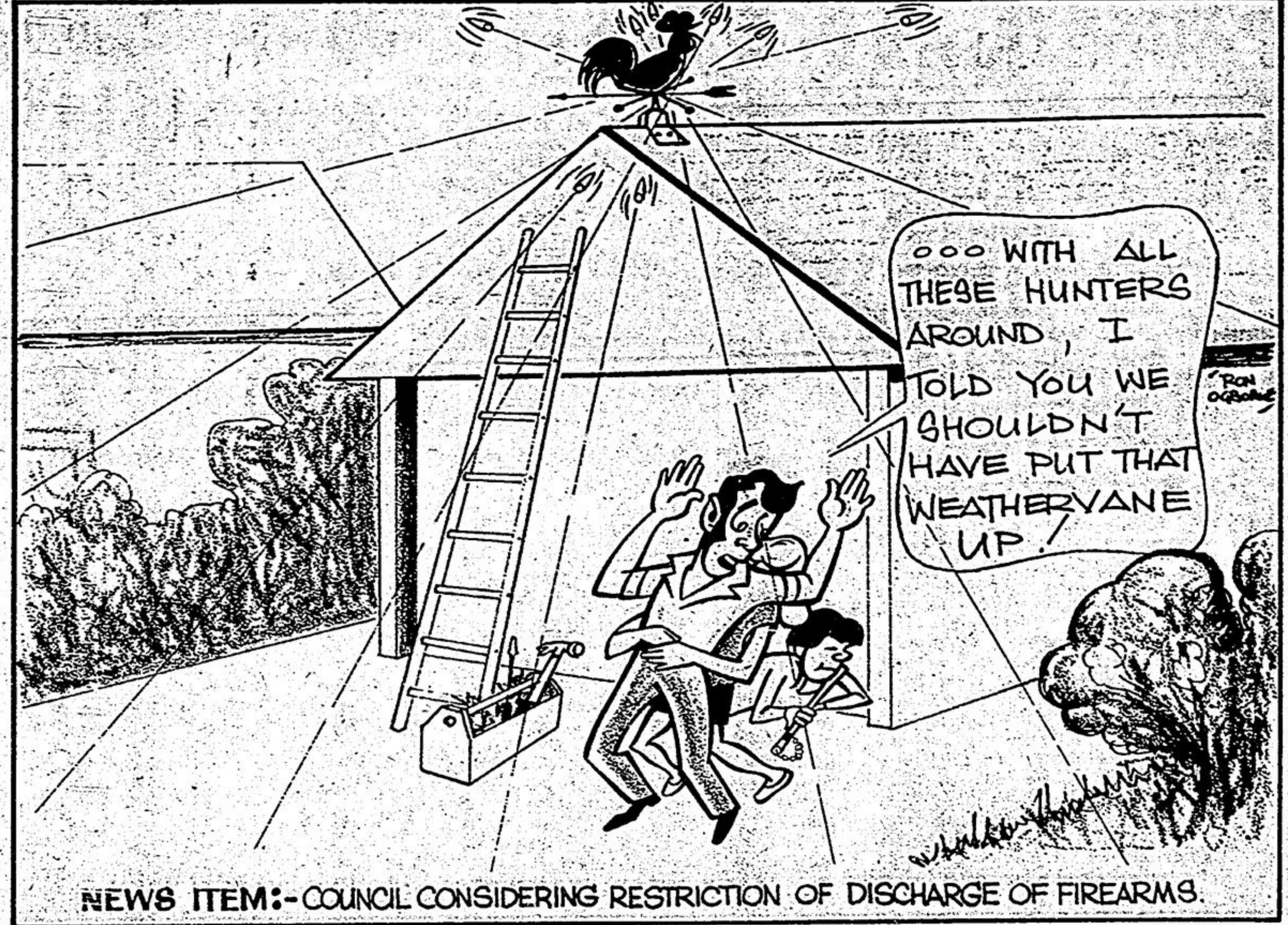
Excerpts from The Tribune from August 1, 1946.

### Incentive needed

We are not sure that a peace-time budget, instead of practically a full measure war-time budget again, would have done much to cure the unwillingness of people to work, for the tragic situation is that people, or many of them, do not want to work. Never was there a time when so many jobs were available and the plain fact is that the young man who stands around complaining that he cannot get a job, simply is not very keen on work. The Financial Post blames Mr. Isley for bringing down another wartime budget instead of relieving taxation, claiming that workers will not labor overtime when the government simply steps in and takes the money out of their pockets. The Post may be right, but that is only part of the trouble. There is a definite unwillingness for many young fellows to work unless they can get just the kind of job they think they would like.

### Motor cycle burns

Driving his motor cycle north on Tenth



NEWS ITEM:- COUNCIL CONSIDERING RESTRICTION OF DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS.

## SUGAR AND SPICE

# Are Canadians rednecks at heart?

By BILL SMILEY



It must be an uneasy time for members of parliament. First, they were forced to vote on a morai question, the abolishment of capital punishment, in what must have been an agonizing examination of conscience versus expedience, for many.

Despite the fact that the bill squeaked

through, most M.P.s must know that most Canadians are against it. And it's that same majority that elects those same M.P.s. Enough to make a politician lose a little sleep, eh?

Next they saw a comparatively small group of Canadians, the airline pilots, thumbing their noses at the government, and getting away with it. And once again, it was pretty obvious that a majority of Canadians was solidly behind the pilots.

There is little doubt that most M.P.s will be happy to get out of the pressure cooker Ottawa has turned out to be this year, and back to their own constituencies for a couple of months of fence-building, baby-kissing and all the other nefarious activities of a politician on his home grounds.

My heart is not exactly bleeding for our M.P.s, but I am more than a little disturbed by the two incidents that have contributed to their unease in the past few months.

On the first issue, capital punishment, it is readily apparent, from the closeness of the final tally, that the country is split right down the middle on the issue. And that's not good.

But I can live with it. The majority has spoken, in a supposedly free vote, and it's not going to wound this country to the vitals if a few murderers are hanged or kicked to death with a frozen boot, or otherwise executed in whatever cute manner is decided on.

It's the second issue that bothers me considerably. For behind the pilots' palaver about safety, and the government's obduracy, amounting almost to stupidity, concerning bilingualism at our airports, lies a much darker murk.

That is the obvious backlash of English-speaking Canadians to the government's chosen policy of bilingualism. This bitter backlash is not just bad, in my opinion, it is dangerous.

Again and again, we saw on television perfectly ordinary citizens who backed the

pilots' stand, even when personally inconvenienced by the strike that was not a strike, blurring things like: "I'm sick of having it (bilingualism) shoved down my throat."

This is not the voice of reason, but of bias, and I hate to see it in this country which I love so much.

For a couple of centuries, the French of Canada had English shoved down their throats, not by law, but by business, commerce, politics, education. Naturally, they resented it. Now, they're trying to achieve equality of opportunity, through bilingualism. The result is a strong and ugly racialism bouncing back at them from those English-speaking Canadians who are biased and bigoted.

As in most bigotry, the retorts are based on ignorance and fear. Civil servants too stupid or too lazy to learn French are afraid for their jobs. Protestants abhor the rise of Rome, even though most French-Canadians these days are more protestant than the Protestants. Conservatives fear any change in the comfortable pattern of Canadian life, in which, for generations, a Frenchman was a "Frog," to be looked down on.

Maybe I'm out of touch, but I haven't noticed anybody trying to shove French down my throat.

I hold no brief for the province of Quebec. I am sick of its whining and demands as the next guy. I think its politics are and have been, more corrupt than any of the other provinces, which isn't saying much. I don't even care that deeply about Quebec separating from the rest of Canada. Nations are not sacred.

But none of that has anything to do with the French language. I think Canadians were growing up, learning tolerance, becoming more sophisticated, more fair.

But the latest ugly developments make me wonder. Are we just a bunch of rednecks at heart?

## Getting a bit sensitive

Dear sir,

Mr. (Murray) Chusid appears to be getting a little sensitive to the public's reaction to the part he has been playing in the York Sanitation controversy.

Sincerely,

CLARION BAKER,  
R.R. 2, Stouffville



# Jobless benefits discourage working

By Sinclair Stevens MP

The Canadian economy, struggling to recover from its 1974-75 slump, is now faced with two government-created problems. We have an overly relaxed employment insurance scheme linked to an overly severe anti-inflation program.

Canadian unemployment insurance has become a major work disincentive and it has increased unemployment levels in the country.

In a booklet released this month entitled, "Unemployment in Canada: The Impact of Unemployment Insurance", the authors, Christopher Green and Jean-Michel Cousineau, conclude that the impact of unemployment insurance on the unemployment rate is not less than one percentage point and they believe it could be as much as 1.5 percentage points.

That represents, out of a total of 700,000 unemployed, 100,000 to 150,000 Canadians unemployed, not because they can't find a job but because they prefer a U.I.C. cheque. This latter group are encouraged not to seek work due in large measure to an overly relaxed, liberal unemployment insurance scheme.

The Green-Cousineau publication, sponsored by the Economic Council of Canada, makes it clear that the government's amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1971 contributed substantially to the present unsatisfactory dilemma.

It is pointed out, "During the two years following the passage of the UI Act of 1971, there was a large and unmistakable increase in the ratio of job vacancies to unemployed persons, for given rates of unemployment. The remnant shift in the unemployment

vacancy relation suggests a substantial worsening of labour market 'frictions' in 1972 and 1973, and is consistent with the hypothesis that a major liberalization in the benefit levels, coverage, and administration of the unemployment insurance program will tend to raise the rate of unemployment."

The second problem facing the nation as we try to regain our lost momentum is the government's current approach in regulating business and labor in the name of fighting inflation.

Labor spokesmen have complained that the program is inequitable.

Now businessmen, more and more, state that the margin rates being set for their activities, the introduction of retroactivity and the general confusion in the program will result in our industries being unable to generate the required cash needed to produce more jobs and business activity.

It appears that the proposed changes may well lead to postponed investment decisions and an increase in unemployment, thereby delaying economic recovery.

It is essential that the government moves as quickly as possible to remove this double-headed threat to our future prosperity. Faced with evidence that the unemployment insurance changes are in fact contributing to unemployment, it is necessary that the government correct these oversights without further delay.

Certainly, rather than press, as the government has been doing, for the early introduction of a guaranteed annual wage — which would be a further disincentive to work — it would be preferable for the government

to shelve that idea and spend their time making the unemployment insurance scheme more workable and above all a program that would come back to the original principle of insuring only those who cannot in fact find work.

Secondly, faced with legitimate criticism with respect to the anti-inflation program, it is important that the government responds to this criticism to insure that the economy is not needlessly impeded.

## Readers identify historical sketch

We would like to thank all the people who phoned or dropped in to identify the historical sketch which appeared in last week's issue of The Tribune.

As it, somewhat embarrassingly, turned out, the house is the one now owned by George Ross and which is used for his photography business. Of all the houses in Stouffville this is without a doubt the one most familiar to the editorial staff of The Tribune as George handles our processing and printing.

It could have been worse. The sketch could have been of the house which now houses The Tribune office. Now that would have been embarrassing.

We also learned the house was built by John Urquart who came to Stouffville in 1859 and the house was changed extensively by Ted Cadieux when he added the photography shop some years ago.



This otherworldly scarecrow guards the tomato plants in John Bartolic's garden. It just goes to show that there's more than one way to recycle a snowmobile suit. — Annetreg Lamure