

THE FOURTH QUARTER

By LESLIE HOLBROOK

A full-time federal commission to identify senior needs and recommend remedies (mentioned in this column last week) is only one of a number of suggestions being considered by both government and we seniors.

It also has been suggested that a separate government ministry, devoted exclusively to the affairs and welfare of older folk, is the answer. Many would argue that we already have too many government departments - the need for some of them being in question - but I do not discard this suggestion out of hand. With a rapidly growing percentage of the population in the upper age groups a separate seniors' department might have merit.

During a trip to Atlantic Canada I found the idea of an ombudsman for seniors being discussed. It was even suggested that this "retired" writer take on the chore; but I believe I had better continue to help with these weekly pieces and by dealing with your mail - acting as an unofficial "ombudsman", if you will.

In any event don't be surprised if there is strong support for a resolution to establish the office of seniors' ombudsman at next month's annual convention (Vancouver) of the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation.

In Prince Edward Island, Steve Connelly, energetic co-ordinator of PEI seniors' clubs, considered it an important resolution for debate by the federation. Aims of the national body are to improve the standard of living (painfully low in too many cases) and the health and welfare of all Canadian seniors.

Incidentally, if seniors in all of Canada were as well organized as in the island province more progress might be made. Steve Connelly has spear-headed the formation of clubs in almost every area of the island - 49 clubs, at last count, all working together in the PEI Senior Citizens Federation, with Ruth MacLeod as president.

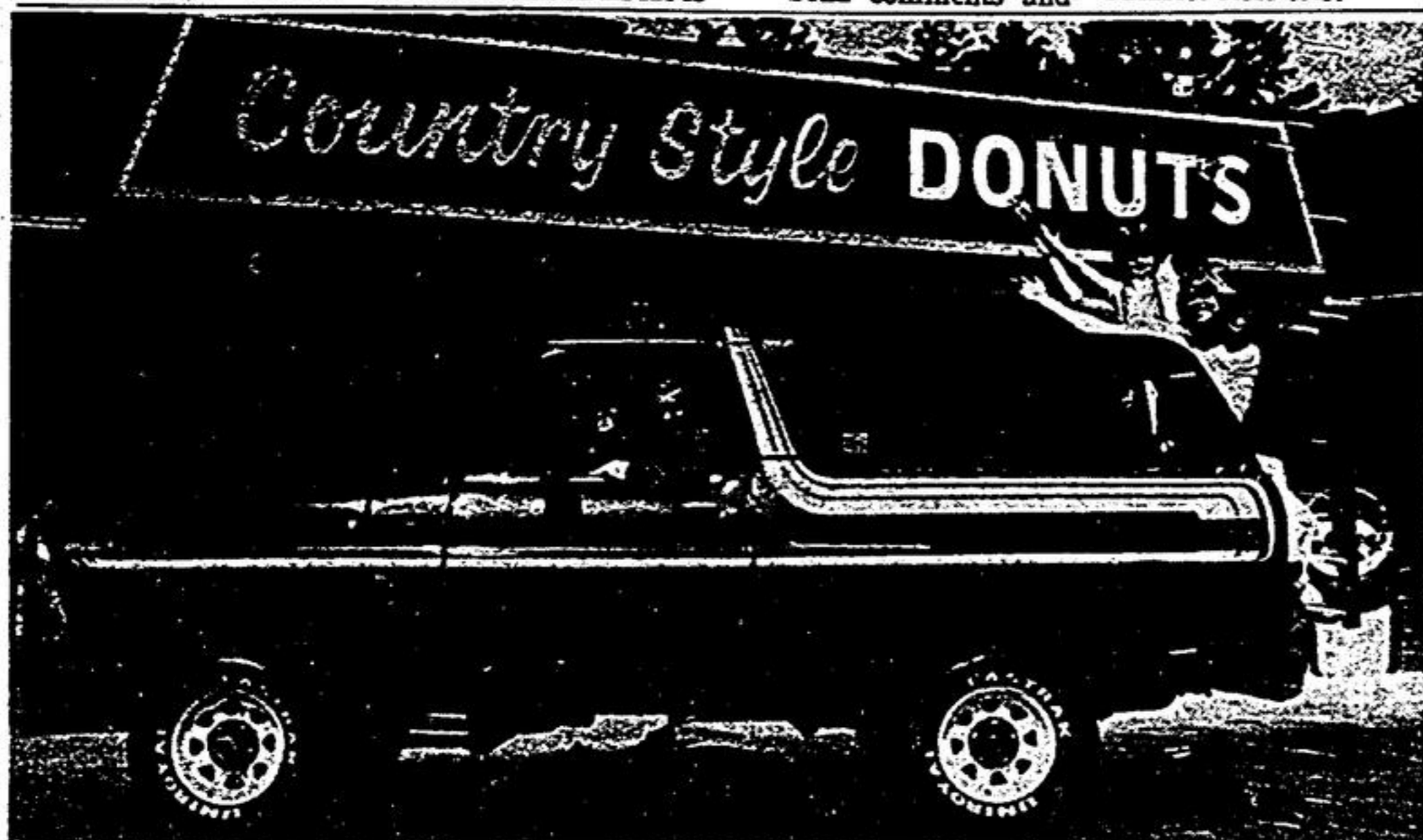
His voice will be a strong one at the national September sessions. In fact all of eastern Canada should be heard from in no uncertain terms. The Atlantic Provinces may have only one official at the national level (Bertha Frison, Cape Breton) but rank and file will be active too.

Robert Howie, New Brunswick MP, who proposed the full-time commission for seniors, urges the federal government to come to grips with the financial problems facing retired citizens who do not have rising wage rates to compensate for inflation.

He says the cost of essential items (food, clothing, shelter, energy and heat) rise faster than increases in the old age pension and the supplement. He calls for an immediate increase in OAS to \$200 per month with proportionate increases in the guaranteed income supplement for those in need.

Mr. Howie has other recommendations. He urges that financial assistance be made available, where necessary, to encourage seniors to remain in their own homes and that seniors be offered a 50 per cent reduction on all fares for Canadian travel.

Have you further suggestions for debate at the national convention? Send comments and questions (long, stamped, addressed envelope for reply) to The Tribune, c/o P.O. Box 1506, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6N9.



"Coffee and donuts, fresher by a country mile" proved the right recipe for Stouffville resident Barbara Hinton in May. The winning entry was drawn from over 113,000 in

Country Style Donuts' May "Win a 1978 Ford Bronco contest". There are two more Broncos valued at approximately \$10,000 to be won.

More mail

Prayer not enough for child

Dear Sir,
I read in The Tribune (dated Thursday, July 27/78) a letter from a Mrs. Mary Forsyth - Prayed for Safety.

In answer to this letter I believe a prayer is not enough to safely get a child across any roadway. Children are "carefree" and not "careless".

Any time and where I see a child, the elderly, blind or a lady with her children or baby carriage I stop STOP and assist these people across my path.

Just put the four way flashers on and help in anyway so they cross safely.

I have owned my own vehicle since I was 16 and I am now 64 years old.

I have driven many many thousands of miles in my time.

Next time Mrs. Mary Forsyth and all vehicle drivers try this little act on for size. You will be glad you did.

Keep praying for other things though.

Yours sincerely,
Roy Walker Smith
Sunderland

P.S. I often enjoy reading The Tribune while sitting on a bench on Main St., Uxbridge. A very fine paper indeed.

Most grateful

Dear Mr. Montgomery:

On behalf of the three sports organizations in town who are sponsoring the 'Monster Bingo', the Whitchurch Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, The Stouffville Figure Skating Club and the Whitchurch Stouffville Girls Hockey Association, I would like you to know that we really appreciate your interest in putting a notice in your August 3rd edition of the Tribune about our forthcoming 'Monster Bingo'.

As you must realize, the success of a venture like this depends, largely, on the amount of publicity it receives. We are most grateful for your support.

Sincerely,
Lyn Altilia,
Secretary,
'Monster Bingo'

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SALAD DRESSING
Kraft Miracle Whip
16 FL. OZ. JAR
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100% VEGETABLE OIL
Blue Bonnet Margarine 2-LB. CRTN.
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IGA CHOICE Dessert Pear Halves 14 FL. OZ. TIN
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IGA CHOICE Cream Style Corn 3 14 FL. OZ. TINS
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39¢

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99¢

MFG. & OFF LABEL Toastmaster Protein Bread 24 OZ. TUB
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7-Up 750-ml RETURNABLE BTL. **27¢**
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Carnation Coffee Mate 16-OZ. JAR **99¢**

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