

Says doctors created own problems

An Open Letter, In Reply, To: D.W. Brodie, M.D., F.J. Button, M.D., G.A. Graham, M.D., Peter Izso, M.D., A.L. Patterson, M.D., D.J.R. Petrie, M.D., D.H. Smith, M.D., P.C.W. Wat, M.D.

With great interest, I have read the Statement of open letter from the above physicians in the March 19, 1986 Tribune.

As all of the above physicians were kind enough to request my response, I have decided to oblige them. I have chosen, however, to reply directly to the physicians rather than the politicians to which they suggested I address my reply.

I wish to address the issues as presented by the physicians:

(1) The physicians refer to Bill 94 as "iniquitous". Referring to my trusty dictionary, I find they are presumably trying to tell me the Bill is unrighteous, wicked and grossly unjust. They also tell me the bill is "oppressive". Once again, turning to my trusty dictionary, I believe they are trying to tell me the Bill is cruel, unjust, tyrannical and will inflict hardship, presumably on the doctors themselves. If they can pardon the pun, I think they have used a little "over kill" to express themselves. I cannot recall the doctors coming to the defence of postal workers, transit workers or teachers when their professional status was affected by legislation. The problem with the landfill site on Hwy. 48 was most certainly "iniquitous" and "oppressive". Where were the above physicians when we required their vocal and physical support on a matter that truly affected the health of every resident of Whitchurch-Stouffville?

(2) Speaking of the "PHONY ISSUE", let's get rid of the 1/2% referred to and talk real dollars. Is "1/2%" ten dollars, one hundred dollars, one thousand dollars, one hundred thousand dollars or none of the above? Talk to me in terms of real dollars and not meaningless percentages. If you want my help, give me the facts, not empty, meaningless units of measure. If there are "surely better ways" than Bill 94, then please suggest some, preferably to Messrs. Peterson, Elston and Sorbara. Why are you sitting back and waiting for others to solve your problems?

(3) By the doctors' own admission, extra-billing has existed as long as OHIP—some twenty plus years. Bill 94 does not yet technically exist. By the doctors' own admission, cancer institutes have become out-dated, hospital emergency wards have become crowded, facilities for the elderly and chronically ill have not improved, modern diagnostic technologies and medical research have suffered—all while extra-billing was taking place. It seems

Some streets poorly lit

Dear Editor:

On Page 1 of the March 12 Tribune, the heading "Town To Get Lights" caught my eye. I was disappointed, however, to read the first line of the story: "The Town Square will come to life."

I strongly feel the Town Square is not the area of Stouffville in need of improved lighting. I can think of several streets where better illumination is required—Park Drive North, Church Street and Elm Road to mention a few. I know of some senior citizens who find it difficult to walk the streets at night due to lack of lighting. There are lights on only every other pole and on just one side of the street.

I'd like to know why new subdivisions are fortunate to have lights on every pole on both sides of the street.

I say a little-used area like the Town Square will be too well lit. Why must the Stouffville Hydro Commission waste time and money in this area and leave the senior citizens in the dark?

Sincerely,
M. Bainbridge.

District oratorical finals

STOUFFVILLE — Sherry Yeates of Goodwood and Duffy Walls, O'Brien Avenue, Stouffville, have advanced to the District Finals of the Lions-sponsored Effective Speaking Program.

Sherry, a student attending Stouffville Christian School, placed first among the girls, March 24, while Duffy, enrolled at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, topped the boys.

The competition was held at Deer Park Inn.

In second place were Sonya Klein, Stouffville Dist. Secondary School and Tim Pugh, Stouffville Christian School. Other participants included Patti Goldman and Leanna Sanders, both students of S.D.S.S.

The District Finals will also be held at the Deer Park Inn, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. The Program chairman is Ivan Harris, Main Street West, Stouffville.

all of the money was taken out of the profession and none put back in. Why, for one brief moment, should we believe the prevention of extra-billing will worsen the situation? How about giving us some real facts, gentlemen, and not empty, meaningless rhetoric.

(4) I can only presume that David Peterson and Bob Rae feel as I do, that physicians who extra-bill have gone too far. Very recently, I had the total "thrill" of

taking my eight-year-old daughter to a specialist. This specialist had not been called out on emergency; (he operates only Tuesdays and Thursdays). My daughter and I waited 1 1/2 hours past the time of our appointment before the doctor saw us. For this privilege, I was not only extra-billed, I was billed for 100% of the cost, with only a portion being refunded by OHIP. Nobody apologized to my daughter or I and no

body offered to reimburse me for the time I was delayed solely because the doctor over-booked. I don't believe my experience is uncommon. I know it has happened to me more than once. Why should I pay extra for this kind of treatment? If a person or an organization wants to be treated professionally, then they should act accordingly.

(5) Regarding the politicians controlling the medical profes-

sion, you may be right—government intervention seldom works. The truth of the matter is, the medical profession has not left Queen's Park much option and the medical profession has brought Bill 94 down upon itself.

(6) Your Action: You are playing politics with my health. By your actions, you have become your "oppressors" peer.

It is quite possible that Bill 94 affects an entire profession be-

cause of the actions of a minority. If this is so, then the profession should bring the minority into line. If the medical profession is not willing to regulate itself, please do not be so bold as to solicit my help in stopping others from enforcing much needed regulations.

Sincerely,
Paul Richer,
Churchill Drive,
R.R. 2, Stouffville

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