

Local clergy fights new sex bill

By ROBERT DONNELLY
Is Ontario, like ancient Rome, sliding down the slippery path of moral decay?

Queen's Park's plan to enshrine legal rights based upon 'sexual orientation' in the Ontario Human Rights Code is being met with stiff opposition from local church leaders.

The new legislation — known as Bill 7 — will undermine the freedom of various denominations to practise their beliefs, said Pastor Dave Petrescue of the Unionville Alliance Church.

"No nation has ever survived the moral decline of its people," he admonished, "...and the same things are happening now."

Rev. Petrescue stated that 'sexual orientation' is a sufficiently ambiguous term that could mean anything from homosexuality to a sexual in-

terest in children (pedophilia) and animals (bestiality).

Some of his other concerns, echoed in a recent press release by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (to which his church is a member), include:

- Will social agencies, such as those which provide companionship for fatherless boys and girls, lose the right to set their own standards for screening volunteers?

- Should day care centres be forced to employ homosexuals and those whose "code of conduct" and "sexual orientation" is incompatible with their guidelines?

- Will churches and religious groups be required to hire staff members whose "life style" is inconsistent with their beliefs?

- Does the legislation jeopardize the traditional family and foreshadow the legalization of homosexual and lesbian marriages and the adoption of chil-

dren by these families?

- Is a homeowner compelled under the new legislation to rent out his house or a room to a homosexual or lesbian couple?

Rev. Petrescue pointed out that the Peterson government, by quietly introducing Bill 7 on April 22, has provided no opportunity for public forum or debate.

He is confident, however, that once church-goers are informed of the government's plans they will lobby against it.

"We (the church) tend to feel we have a sense of the pulse of the people," he said.

Gwen Herman, the pastor of Markham's Box Grove United Church, disagreed that there is widespread opposition to Bill 7, noting that their congregation is evenly split on the issue.

She pointed out that the United Church is currently deciding whether self-proclaimed

homosexuals should be ordained as ministers.

She also doubted that Bill 7 would have an impact on hiring practices.

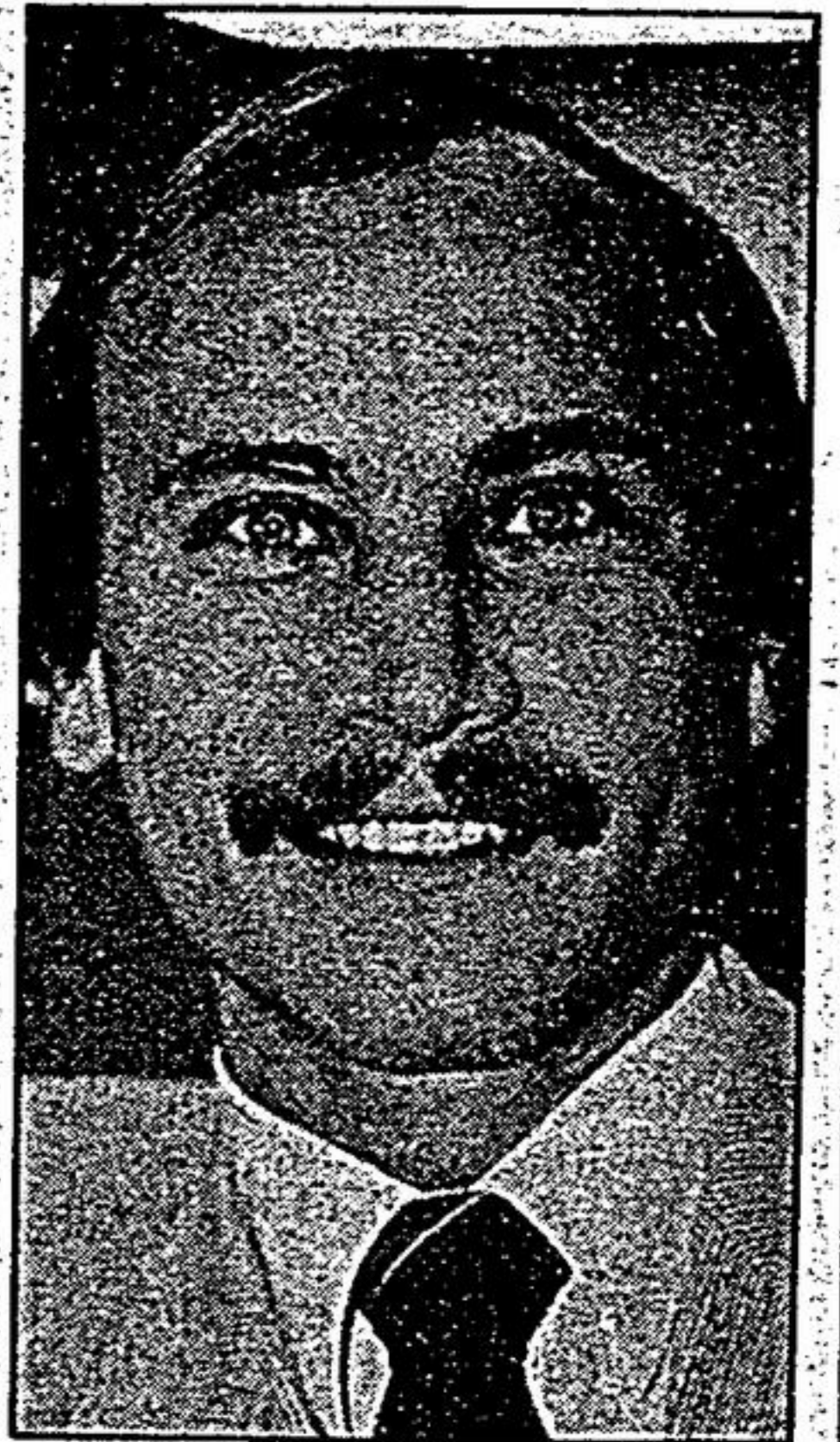
"At this time we are not allowed to ask a person about their sexual preference," she said, "but if a candidate says what it is, then that is something else."

Bill 7, due for its third and final reading, is expected to become law when the legislature reconvenes in September.

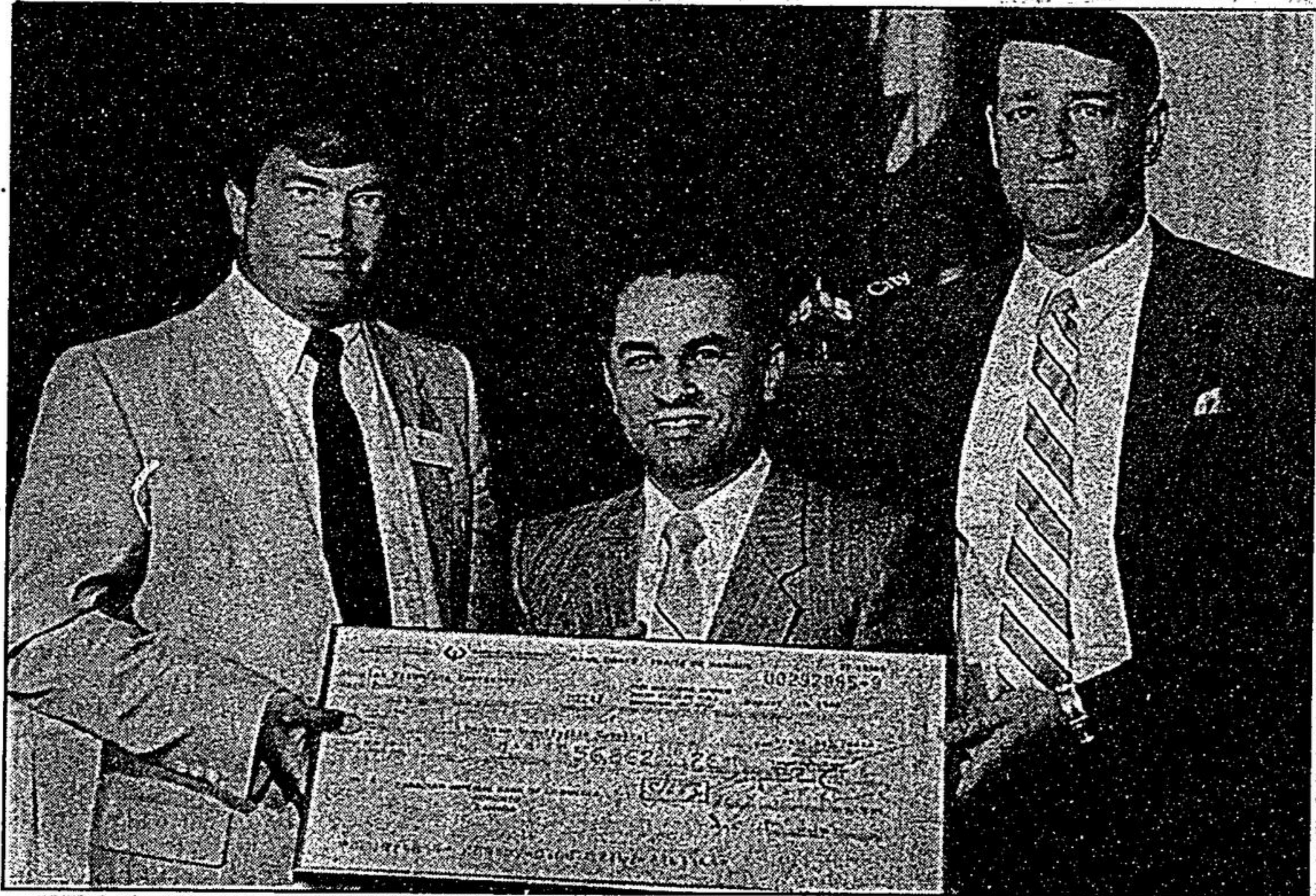
According to Pastor Harvey Peters of Centennial Baptist Church, the churches would then have no choice but to break the law and "suffer whatever consequences."

"The law would recognize three sexes: male, female, and homosexual," he said.

"I don't think that any right thinking person would accept this bill as a proper alternative," he added.



Pastor Dave Petrescue



Mac Cosburn, chairman of the Markham Stouffville Hospital Board, (left) accepts a \$56,000 donation from Markham businessman Sergio Croitoru (centre) and Bill Birgeneau, treasurer of the York Regional Police Association. The money was donated

from the Douglas Tribbling Memorial Fund in memory of slain York Regional Police officers Douglas Tribbling and William Grant. The funds will go towards the hospital's emergency ward. — Sjoerd Witteveen

Slain officers remembered

\$56,000 donated to hospital fund

By GREG COATES
Staff Reporter

They may be gone, but they're not forgotten.

The memory of York Regional Police officers Douglas Tribbling and William Grant — both killed while on duty in 1984 — lives on.

Both were honored Thursday when a Markham businessman and the York Region Police Association donated more than \$56,000 to the Markham Stouffville Hospital in memory of the slain officers.

Memorial fund

The funds came from the Douglas Tribbling Memorial Fund, established by Sergio Croitoru in September, 1984. Mr. Croitoru is the owner of Sergiu's Quality Printing on Don Park Rd. in Markham.

The monies will go towards the new hospital's trauma unit. A bronze plaque honoring Constables Tribbling and Grant will be placed in the emergency department.

At a press conference held Thursday at the Chimo Hotel, it was announced the funds will be allocated to three areas of the emergency department.

Included are a crisis/trauma room (containing two resuscita-

tion bays for treatment of critically ill and injured persons); a quiet room (for relatives of seriously ill and injured patients); and a police and ambulance room (for use of police officers and ambulance staff).

Unique facility

"These three areas are particularly appropriate as they are the areas where the members of the York Region Police Force will often be in attendance," stated a press release from the hospital board. "The Police and Ambulance Staff Room is a unique facility in that it will provide a private room for the use of police officers and ambulance staff to complete reports and speak with relatives and next of kin."

To further commemorate the deaths of Constables Tribbling and Grant, uniformed members of York Regional Police will wear, as part of their uniform, a black epaulette on their left shoulder during the weeks of Aug. 18 to 24 and Oct. 6 to 12.

Constable Tribbling died Aug. 21, 1984 after being shot while investigating a break-in at a Markham computer company.

Constable Grant was killed in a motor vehicle collision on Kennedy Rd. in Unionville Oct. 9, 1984.

Ed and Claudette

Coloring contest

The Weekender and Mattel are sponsoring a coloring contest for children that offers great prizes — while teaching them summer safety.

Starting with today's paper, a coloring cartoon will be provided with a safety message theme for the next six weeks.

The first twenty colored entries returned to our offices will receive My Child Summer Safety Coloring Books.

A weekly draw will also be made for a lucky contestant to receive a My Child doll with an estimated retail value of \$38.

All entries received will also qualify for \$200 in back-to-school cash in a draw at the end of the contest.

The contest allows children to have a half-hour of fun and a needed friendly reminder to think and play safely.

Mail all coloring entries to the Economist and Sun, 9 Heritage Rd. Markham, Ont. L3P 1M3.

See Page 13 of today's Weekender for the first safety coloring cartoon.



J. AIRD / 36

Don't worry Claudy, eat one of these diet pills before each meal and you're guaranteed to eat less.



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