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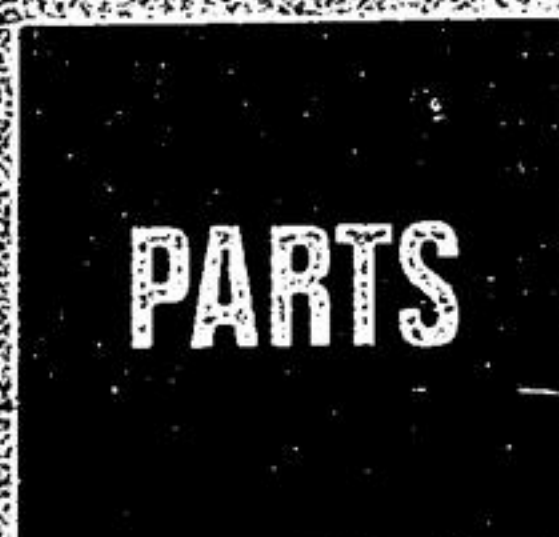
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Editor's Mail

Bid to stop Bill C69

Dear Editor,

The Canadian Council on Social Development, a national voluntary citizens' organization (formerly called the Canadian Welfare Council) has undertaken a campaign to acquaint the Canadian people with the terms of Bill C69, now before the Canadian Parliament.

The following is a brief summary of their statements. The Richmond Hill Social Planning Council and the Salvation Army are two of the many community groups supporting them in opposing Bill C69.

In 1966 the federal government set up agreements with each province to help them "provide adequate welfare and social services for people in need", and to share the costs on a 50/50 basis, with each province responsible for setting up and running their own services for mentally and physically disabled persons, the aged, children needing protection, the unemployed, low income workers, and others "in need". It was called the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP).

Before 1977 some costs for post-secondary education and health care were shared by the federal and provincial governments, essentially on a 50/50 basis under regulations set by the federal government. In 1977 the federal government changed the original payment scheme to "block funding" under which the federal government gave each province a set amount of money, based on its population and the amount each year of the Gross National Product (GNP). In 1986 the federal government started to reduce its own share, and under a variety of moves, it has been setting limits on funding for specified needs, leaving the provinces to try to fill the gaps. Bill C69 would reduce federal contributions still more, no matter how great the need, and if its proposals were carried through, and federal funds were frozen at the present rate, there would be no federal funds for medicare and universities in a few years, and for unemployment insurance. Maybe there would be

federal money only for military spending.

The federal government has already cut funds for affordable housing, co-op housing, and for municipal rental programs. A limit has been put on shared federal costs towards the Young Offenders Act program, Family Allowances and Old Age Security are not safe from the budget cutters, nor are many other programs, but have to be fought for individually.

One large and important group in favor of Bill C69 is the Business Council on National Issues - many of whose members did not pay income tax last year, though they did have to pay hefty club membership dues.

Tell the government how you feel about Bill C69 - write to your federal and provincial members for help in stopping it until the public has had a chance to discuss it fully.

Helen Coleman Thornhill

Music Mania thanked by Hospice

Dear Editor,

After the close of the wonderful show Hollywood Eh by Stouffville's Music Mania, Hospice Markham-Stouffville was presented with a generous contribution from the proceeds of the show.

We are very grateful to have received this and wish to thank all those involved and who attended our local production who have made this possible.

With this support, Hospice Markham-Stouffville will continue to help those in our communities with life threatening illnesses.

On behalf of Hospice Markham-Stouffville, I would like to thank you for a great evening.

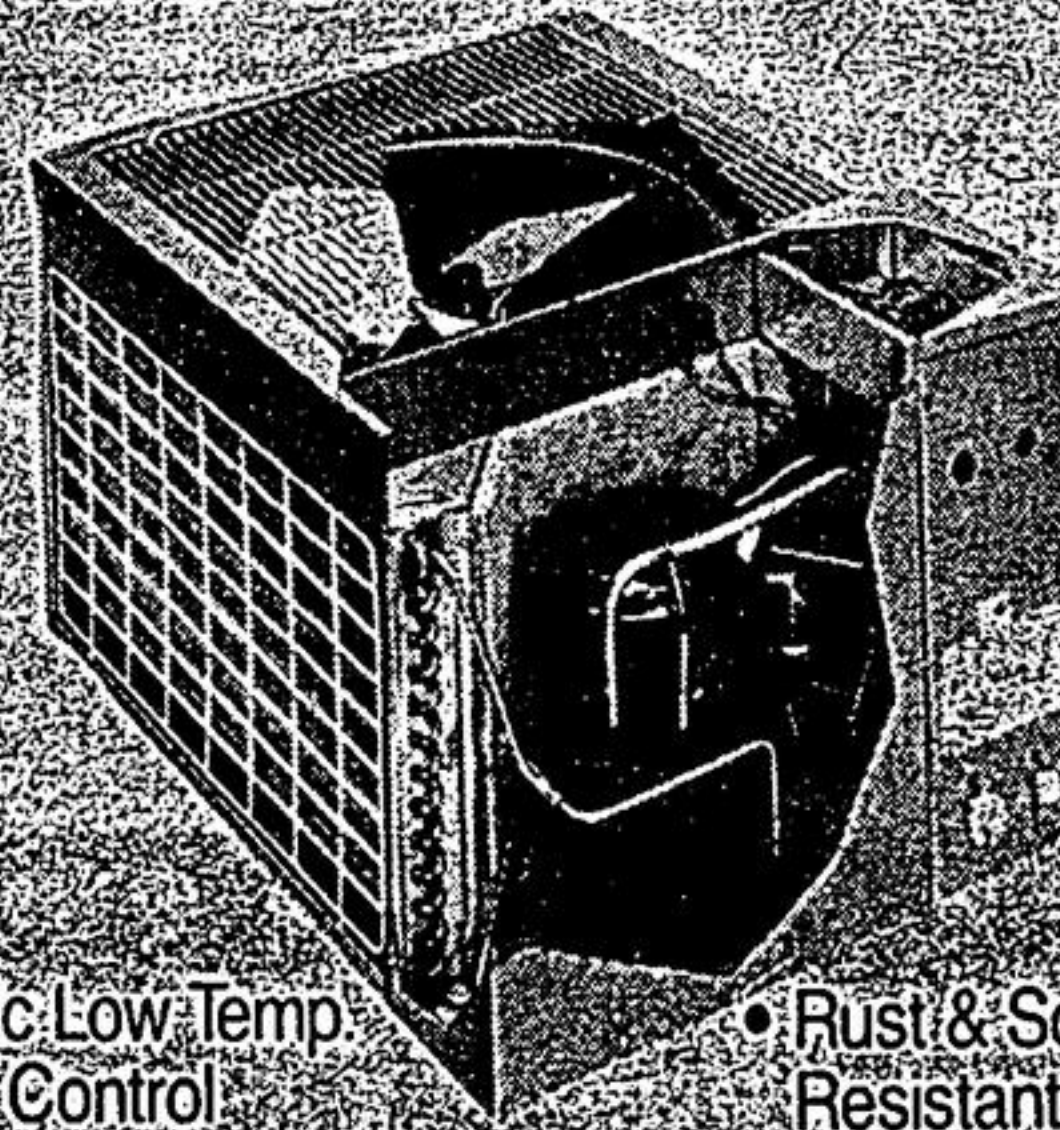
Rebecca Anthony Office Administrator Hospice Markham-Stouffville

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