

The "LITTLE" Budget.

After listening to the new Federal budget and hearing the moans and groans coming from all quarters, I was reminded of a British satirical show called "This is Not the Nine o'clock News." Perhaps Mr. MacEachen should have premised his budget with a similar phrase and then we could have all sat back and chuckled at its inadequacies. Enough said about that document, As an alternate I decided to draft the "Little" budget and it goes something like this:

1) All persons gainfully employed, paying their own way, (either buying, renting or owning their homes; paying OHIP, UIC, property taxes etc.) shall pay no more than 10 cents on the dollar in taxes. (Fed & Prov.)

RESULT- with all the extra spending money available to the consumer there will be a dramatic need for more goods and services, creating more jobs & reducing unemployment thus allowing more people to attain the #1 status.

2) Until project #1 brings about the desired results, those families who need two wages to maintain a basic level of food and shelter will be allowed to work on a time-sharing basis so that one parent will always be at home with their children.

RESULT- the family institution will not suffer further breakdown and there would be a massive reduction in the need for Day Care and other Social Agency services.

Single parents would have the right to work or stay with their children while being funded either by salary or grants.

3) Parents who, through philosophical or psychological need, wish to both work and lead their own lives, may have their children placed in "mothering/fathering" homes. This service will be paid for by the natural parents. For a small fee (for disruption of a family setting) the natural parents may rent their children for week-ends and holidays.

RESULT- the family orientation, rather than the institutional setting would have some impact on the social mores of the children. This system would also cut down on the use of Day Care, allowing it to be used for those single parents who need it.

4) Senior Citizens would have the right to retire or work and if they choose to work, their work day would be tailored to fit their needs and would not result in any reduction in their pension.

With-in their pension benefits would be an allowance for a trip (yrly) to distant family members and free phone calls and mail to family.

4) With business booming, (as a result of #1) special grants to industry publishers, sports and cultural organizations, could be stopped.

RESULT- a growth in free enterprise and an incentive for excellence would be achieved. Possibly, the public would then get what they want as opposed to what gets funded.

5) Believing that Canada can and should be able to feed her own, farmers would be given low interest loans (1/2 of the regular rate) to allow for expansion, continued operation and encouragement of young farmers. Overproduction in any area would be used as part of our support to Third World nations. (Expertise to these nations is covered in a later item.)

RESULT- no further farm bankruptcies, more young people staying on the family farm and a reduction in farm take-overs by conglomerates.

6) As students, participating in any form of post-secondary education, contribute only a small per cent of the total cost of their education, a conscription programme will be started.

On graduation, depending on the course and number of years they have used the system, they will serve the Canadian public in the area of their newly gained expertise. Postings would be to

areas needing help, no matter what the field. The graduate would receive minimum wage and money above this rate would be sent to the Institution from which he/she graduated. Foreign students, attending Canadian Universities would be expected to make a similar arrangement with their own governments.

RESULT- the Canadian tax payer, who foots the bill for the Institutions, would benefit from such a scheme and the Universities would be able to obtain funds more directly from those taking advantage of their facilities without, a) going back to the tax payer and b) without putting up their fees and creating hardship to the students.

REVENUE- With a reduction in taxes, a reduction in civil service employees in the "Infernal" Revenue dept. would save considerable dollars. Reduction in taxes to the level suggested would make it less profitable to look for "tax breaks."

To reduce the number of high level civil servants, and thus free more money from the government pay roll, only one "assistant to any-thing" would be allowed. Thus all "assistant to the assistant ad infinitum" would be made redundant.

Government advertising would be greatly reduced, likewise government publications. All material mailed by the various ministries would require adequate postage and be charged to that ministry's budget.

A fine of \$1,000.00 be imposed on any M.P. for exhibiting childish behavior, using ungrammatical English or using expletives. (Rude behavior would also be fined.) The billions raised through this programme would help pay for several items. (Media reporters would also have to be penalized for "ungentlemanly conduct!")

As M.P.s now receive adequate salaries for what they do, all tax exemptions would be removed. All perquisites, (free first class travel, mail service, cars etc.) would be discontinued. If the government is; "of the people, for the people," they had better learn how the people live.

All government conferences will be held in the Lodge now owned by the Ontario government. (Minaki Lodge,) By the time they find their way there and back, the citizens of Canada may have had time to turn this country round and make it into the great nation it can be.

With all the bad news flying around and everyone taking shots at some aspect of Canadian life, I hope the "Little" budget gave you a smile. I still believe that Canada is a great country and we can make it greater.

CHANGE of ADDRESS



**North Leeds Homemakers
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Red Cross

The monthly meeting of the North Leeds Unit of the Red Cross Home-maker Services was held Nov. 2. Present were, May LaHay, Dorothy Clark, Barb. Purdy, Ken Fuller, Ken Friday, Hubert Sly, Elsie & John Goodman, Sharon Stedman & Sue Cooper.

Minutes were read & approved. Ken Friday reported on the campaign fund; returns will be available soon.

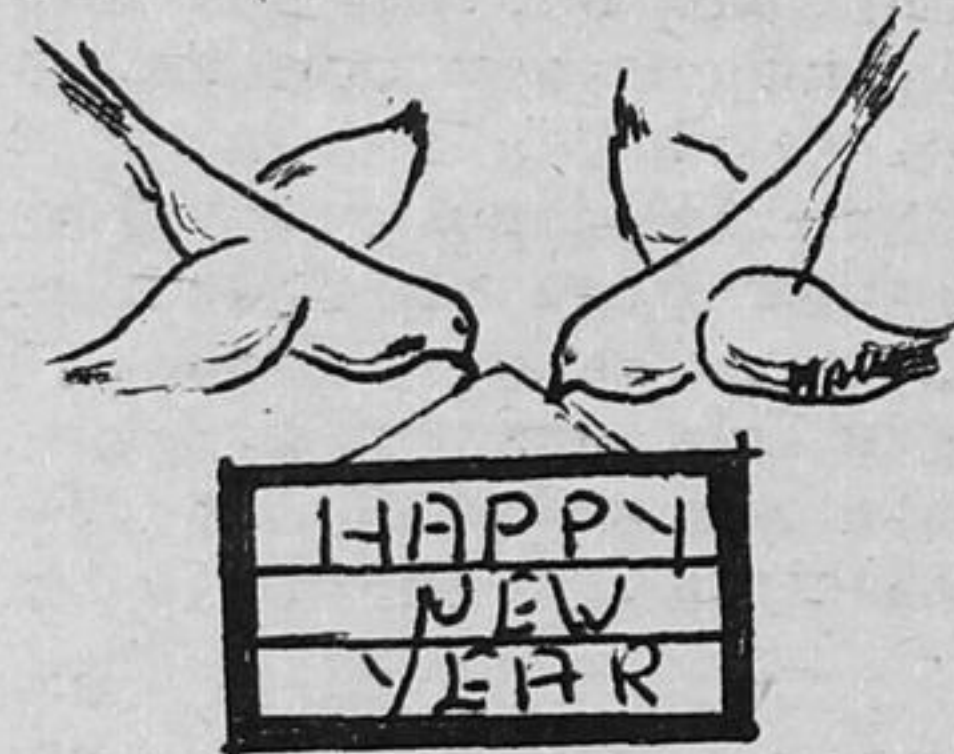
Loan Cupboard: Hubert Sly reported 4 pieces were loaned out in Oct. Sharon reported Services for Oct. as follows;

Total days of service	307.06
Active Home Care	20.37
Chronic Home Care	225.63
Social Service	5.13
Private	55.13
Cancer	00.00

Homemakers : 43

Sharon reported that the Red Cross Standard First Aid Course started Oct. 29, and everyone seems to be enjoying it.

Next meeting, Dec. 7, 1981 at 7:00p.m. at Elgin Community Centre.



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