

# Relic to be demolished by progress Union Station —lost?

By BRENDA GRAY

Sometimes progress is frightening. Metro Center Developments wants to tear down Union Station and build a billion dollar development project stretched over 15 years. The 187 acre site covers an area bounded by Front, Bathurst and Yonge Streets and the Gardiner Expressway. It will include a transportation complex, a communications and broadcasting centre and a commercial and residential area. And Union Station's nine acres stand in the way.

MCD is owned by Marathon Realty Co. Ltd., (a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific Investments Ltd.) and by Canadian National Realities Ltd. They feel the project will boost Toronto business and employment. The effect on community travel patterns, business enterprise and social impetus is overwhelming to consider but Metro Center will definitely lift Toronto into the 21st century benefiting both the immediate Toronto residents and Metro hinterland.

But not everybody sees progress the same way. The Save the Union Station Committee, and the Confederation of Residents and Ratepayers Association vehemently oppose the destruction of Union Station from historic and economic positions.

"To say the station has no historic interest is nonsense," says Alderman William Kilbourn. "The same thing would amount to tearing down the Statue of Liberty. Union Station is the first glimpse of Canada millions of immigrants have."

Construction began on the station in 1913 but was halted during World War I and continued in 1920. The Prince of Wales formally opened the station in 1927. It epitomized building in the Age of Steam. The barrel-vaulted ceiling laid with Gustavino tiles arches 88 feet above the 250 foot long concourse. The floor and stairways are made of Tennessee marble catching light from the four storey high end windows. The imposing neo-classic colonnade with its 40 foot columns will fall if Bud Andrew has his way.

The Union Station Committee, supported by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario suggested incorporation of the station in the Metro Center and reallocation of the office towers. The committee believes the station could be used as an air terminal and -or, a bus depot, GO train centre, operational museum, and civic centre in the event that another railway station is built.

"We believe it has the capacity to accommodate new modes of transportation and provide quick and convenient interchange among them," said John C. Smith vice-president of the Architectural Conservancy.

The new station will be located southwest of University Ave., and will service a decreased number of long distance tracks. The Metro Center planners have rejected the committee's suggestions. But provision for air or bus travel is still not evident in their transportation complex. Furthermore the TTC will not extend its subway system causing passengers to walk one-third of a mile to the new station. Needless in-

convenience, and destruction of tradition are part of the death of Union Station.

In spite of support of sympathizers like Douglas Crashly former chairman of the Toronto Planning Board, and John C. Parkin President of the Royal Canadian Academy for the station's preservation, Toronto politicians approved the Metro Center scheme Nov. 3. The public can only protest by attending public Planning Board meetings to make their representations known. It is a fact that these meetings do not enjoy the most extensive publicity. It is also a fact that the second meeting dealing with the Central Harbor was delayed from Sept. 14 to Nov. 3. There are five more scheduled meetings but perhaps they will be delayed until the 1973 election when the fate of Union Station will be sealed by 1971 contracts.

The Toronto Council is deaf to pleas for saving the station on aesthetic and planning bases. The speed with which the entire Metro Center concept is being bulldozed through without public knowledge of the proceedings is disturbing. In a memo to the Union Station Committee Smith says the Council's premature approval of the land swap is causing the pressure on the Planning Board for ratification of the Council's action. The mayor and five councillors sit on the board although Ontario Municipal Board chairman J.A. Kennedy says "members of council should not be on the planning board to join in deliberations and vote on what advice they should receive as councillors."

The committee asked Planning commissioner W. Wronski to consider an independent study of the financial pros and cons of retaining the station. Wronski replied that the centre's transportation aspects were studied since 1968 making him "not anxious to see any review that would simply repeat the process." Smith still wants a fiscal survey to be done as the transportation centre remains incomplete.

Union Station is nine acres of Toronto's past. Metro Center is 187 acres of Toronto's future. The Planning Board has squelched suggestions to continue practical use of the station. In giving CN and CP railways the freedom to destroy Union Station the Council has failed to understand the integration of past heroics with future ambitions.

Thirty thousand people are protesting this action. They don't want to stop progress. They also don't want an unexplained, inefficient replacement for one of the finest Beaux-Arts style buildings in Canada. They want an excellent building to continue being used as a combination of the old within the new in Metro Center. They want Council to stop politicking for a minute to walk beneath the vaulted ceiling of an old friend that doesn't deserve to be scrapped. Go down to Union Station. Tomorrow it might not be there.

Today at York, petition organizers are collecting signatures of all those opposed to tearing down the station.

## War Measures Act Hearings

By MARILYN SMITH

"It's been a year since the War Measures Act was implemented. In terms of the aftermath, have things gone unopposed?"

John Hanley Morgan, Unitarian minister and commissioner for the Citizens' Enquiry into the War Measures Act asked the question in last week's hearings in Toronto.

If attendance is any indication, there seems to be little reaction to the federal government's actions during the October crisis last year. Despite the liberal hearing hours, with morning, afternoon and evening sessions in Little Trinity Church, few people attended.

With fellow commissioner Laurier Lapierre, history professor at McGill University and former CBC broadcaster, Morgan heard some 25 briefs presented by individuals and various organizations. The curtailment of civil liberties, the resulting 400 arrests and 1000 raids and finally, the lack of tangible results or solutions were the main themes of the briefs.

Paul Hollow, of the Commission for the Defense of Political Rights in Quebec, spoke of the effect of the WMA on the university. Speaking specifically of a rally last spring at the University of Toronto with Quebec labor leader Michel Chartrand and FLQ lawyer Robert Lemieux, Hollow described how several members of the right-wing Edmund Burke Society disrupted the meeting with MACE bombs. Fighting broke out between Burkers and student marshalls.

"What you are saying then is that the WMA encouraged right-wing militance, a kind of opening of the door, where the leader's attitude creates a following," suggested Morgan.

Morgan likened the impact of the WMA on the university to a

creation of a certain social atmosphere. He gave the McCarthy era in the U.S. as a comparison.

Abraham Rothstein, managing editor of Canadian Forum magazine, talked about the "if you had been there" rationale for such wide-spread acceptance of the WMA. He said many succumbed to the emotional logic of this phrase in saying it was important and necessary to act. The sense of a symbolic threat to the state, to order and authority were seen to be in jeopardy, so that the government's action seemed a promise to abolish terrorism in one grand sweep, he said.

And yet, he argued, the underlying lack of equilibrium continues. No real solutions were achieved by implementing the act, because the basic political forces and ideology that created the October crisis were ignored.

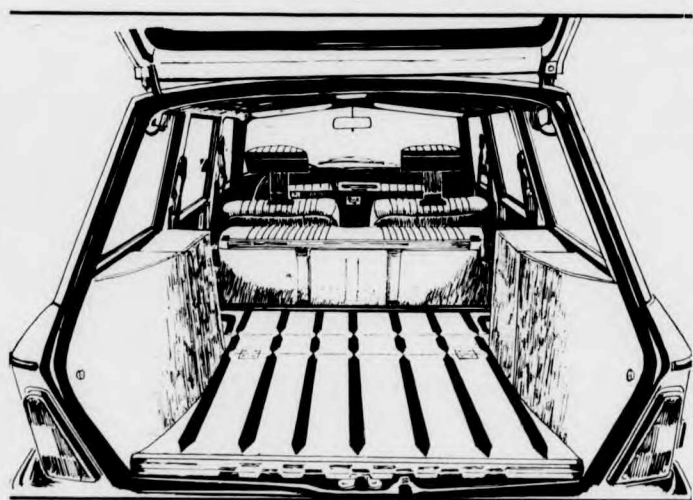
Rothstein said the actions of the government were actually actions of prime minister Trudeau and his own ideology of battling nationalist forces in Quebec. This ideology, he claimed, is seen in the actions and articles of Trudeau over the past twenty years.

John Foster, speaking for the United Church, said the WMA should be repealed, given the secrecy, the lack of time and the small body of men involved in implementing the act. He said the social crisis in Quebec is not unique to Quebec, but common to all minorities.

"The act is the most obvious, but the most obviously wrong tool the government can take up in the face of social revolution," he stated.

The hearings of the Citizens' Commission will continue across Canada. They began in Montreal the anniversary week of the WMA. The commission is now making its way across the country.

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