

## The Mississauga News EDITORIALS

### Call It Showdown . . .

The plot is classic Western, with O. Henry overtones. Call it Showdown at Streetsville.

Here's the town; law-abiding, friendly . . . and living in the shadow of fear of the Cattlemen, whose headquarters is the Saloon on Main st.

Here's the Sheriff; decept, kindly, trying to do his best for the town without upsetting the Cattlemen. He's called together his Posse, because this is it. The townsfolk are up in arms about the Saloon; he's got to close it down. But nobody's ever faced the Cattlemen and lived to boast about it . . .

Easy, men. We'll flank 'em . . .

Bang! Crash! Smash!

Holy Bowling Greens! Run for your lives, boys!

Hold on! Who's this Stranger, riding his peaceful Clydesdale up Main st., heading right for the Saloon? Doesn't he know the Cattlemen are inside? Watch it, Stranger! Hey, Stranger! Omigosh! Quick, somebody! Run for Doc!

That poor Stranger! Pass the hat, boys. At least we'll give him a decent headstone . . .

WHAT? The whole bunch? Without a shot?

Drinks are on me, boys . . . and keep passing that hat.

No, stupid! Not a headstone . . . a cornerstone!

That's right. He's gonna tear down the Saloon and build a Bookshop!

### A Misnamed 'Revolt'

Amid the thunderings of rage, hand-wringing and shower of hasty promises which resulted from the so-called "admirals' revolt," a few vital points have been well obscured.

The first, and most important, is that the Government of Canada — the Opposition included — was apparently ready to let the Hellyer plan for service disintegration slip through unchallenged without even knowing its details. If political voices had been raised against the plan, they were remarkably inaudible until Admiral Landymore spoke up.

Secondly, this never was an "admirals' revolt." It was one man with guts speaking up on behalf of thousands of servicemen, in all the forces, who have been ruthlessly muzzled by Mr. Hellyer.

To justify his own obstinacy and hide the lack of any real concept of what he was doing, Mr. Hellyer has, with help, done a superb knife job on the admiral.

Admiral Landymore has been painted as a resentful member of a doomed naval officers' club; as a petulant little boy, angry because someone was stealing his boats; as a well-meaning but misguided man who should have waited until he retired to say what was on his mind; as a ringleader of a military junta which wants to tell Parliament how to do its job.

What utter claptrap! Who listens to the gripes of retired service officers? What egotist, however stupid, takes the chance of losing an excellent pension for the sake of shooting off his mouth? And what rightful say would our forces have had in their own future if Admiral Landymore had not spoken up now . . . before the Hellyer plan was an accomplished fact?

Mr. Hellyer talks of economy and efficiency. Admiral Landymore speaks of people. Mr. Hellyer talks of building a proud, new force . . . by stripping it of the individual identity in which pride and tradition grows.

Who is he kidding?

Mr. Hellyer's uniform may have meant nothing to him. It meant, and means, a great deal to a good many others. He could have found out by asking any serviceman . . . as Admiral Landymore did, and was fired for doing.

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LET'S COMPROMISE... YOU LET US BUILD THE LIBRARY HERE AND IN IT WE'LL PUT GREEN BROADLOOM, WALL-TO-WALL AND A LARGE SUPPLY OF ROUND BOOKS!



## THIS WEEK and NEXT Of Pensions And Politics

By RAY ARGYLE

The three most vital pieces of legislation confronting Canada today will not be acted on until the fall because of Parliament's determination to have an 11-week holiday.

The nation's 265 MPs, who are paid \$18,000 a year, met for only 117 days, and they won't be back in Ottawa until Oct. 5.

Voters would not have grumbled at a short recess, but the long break parliamentarians have taken has left the country more exasperated than ever.

The Pearson government's decision to close down the House of Commons at this time was particularly galling in view of the stalling on such important matters as the Medicare bill, the new supplementary pensions legislation and amendments to the Bank Act.

Along with the Munsinger caper, the George Victor Spencer tragedy and the Seven Days squabble, Parliament did give attention to such things as redistribution of House seats and plans to reorganize the federal bureaucracy.

As well, the House ap-

proved a \$50 million rural development fund, earmarked a similar sum for development in the Atlantic provinces, set up the Science Council of Canada, launched the Company of Young Canadians and adopted a policy of bilingualism for top civil service jobs.

Parliament also received the government's white paper on broadcasting, strengthening the Board of Broadcast Governors as the controlling body of Canadian radio and TV.

Then, it gave first reading to the Bank Act Medicare, and heard the government's plans for supplementary old age pensions before running for cover.

Delay on the Medicare bill is understandable in view of federal-provincial co-operation in this sphere. And recent elections — especially the defeat of the Liberals in Quebec — have further muddled the picture. Ottawa insists on universal, compulsory schemes. Alberta objects on principle, and the new Quebec regime says it can't possibly meet the Jan. 1 target date. A new confer-

ence of provincial health ministers will have to be held first.

There is less excuse — other than political expediency — for the delay in the Bank Act legislation. Finance Minister Sharp is determined to permit the banks to raise their basic interest rates from six to seven per cent, and later, remove the ceiling entirely. In the long run, so the Finance minister reasons, this will make money easier to obtain but both New Democrats and many Liberals oppose the idea.

The worse example of foot-dragging, however, came on supplementary pensions, stalled by procedural haggling during the last few days of the session.

Health Minister Allan MacEachen, to his credit, had been anxious to put the plan into the legislative hopper. He blamed delay on the Conservative opposition but the fact that many Liberals were lukewarm to the scheme also contributed to the delay.

For all that, the plan leaves much to be desired. It avoids a universal boost in the \$75 federal pension

for those over 69 (the age level drops to 68 next year) by offering assistance to those of the one million pensioners whose incomes are below \$105 a month. Presented as a guaranteed minimum annual income, it nevertheless preserves the odious means test which is not only demeaning to pensioners, but costly to administer.

The government's position is that this isn't really a means test; that it is stop-gap legislation to assist those too old to participate in the Canada Pension Plan; and that the minimum income aspect will keep down the cost. It will cost \$225 million next year but this will decline as more people come under the CPP.

While it is true that taxes are high and there is a limit to government spending, Canada can afford at this time an adequate pension for those older citizens whose working lives spanned the hard years when the country did not enjoy the private and government security programs available to today's workers.

## The Picketitis Outbreak

### OTHER VIEWS

Praise be unto Zion!

Three Presbyterian ministers of Peterborough, Rev. Alex J. Calder, St. Paul's; Rev. Allan M. Duncan, St. Giles'; Rev. Keith E. Wilcox, St. Stephen's, claim they "stand for freedom of religion and the freedom to be non-religious."

They did not support the picketing of a store which was open for business on Good Friday. Their summation of the situation was not concerned with the open store but with the pronouncement of the "open door." They said: "The

best way a Christian can express his feelings about Good Friday is to be in church."

But some of the clergy in the Liftlock City fell prone to the North American fad of picketing. Everyone is doing it, including even ten-year-olds who want to be

noticed.

Look for a cause. Organize a group. Buy some cardboard from the printer. Make a few signs. Carry them for the cause. It's the thing to do. In this affluent society you can afford to lose a day's pay and all that. Do your bit on the

picket line.

"Like all other fads," comments the Sudbury Star, "picketitis will last so long as it is the recipient of widespread publicity. Without the nourishment of publicity it would wither away."

One of these days we might run a solitary picket in front of the house of a man who last week wrote a personally abusive letter. The law informs us that we can carry this on our cardboard sign: "The man who lives in this house is unfair to editors."

It might be fun at that.  
Cobourg Sentinel-Star