



## Riding Report

Don Blenkarn, MP

Several weeks ago the Provincial Minister of Labour, Hon. Fern. Guindon announced that the Province of Ontario was on the verge of increasing the Ontario minimum wage.

I have felt for some time now the federal minimum wage should also be increased. After asking the Minister of Labour several times of his intentions in this area I was assured the matter was under consideration. This was months ago.

Accordingly, I made the following remarks in the House of Commons last week:

"We have in this country an inflation rate of 8 1/2 per cent. What was a year ago \$1.90 is \$1.74 today. We have many people working for wages that are pretty small because of the inflation factor, and we have had brought into this House provisions amending the Income Tax Act to provide for people who pay income tax the beneficial results of a reduction in taxes in accordance with the depreciation of the dollar.

"Recently measures were brought in dealing with increases in the old age pension and the veterans allowance, and on the order paper there is a bill to increase pensions under the Canada Pension Plan and to index these pensions.

"However, what I ask the minister tonight is a question about the working poor. What about the man who is trying to support a family on the kind of minimum wage that is set in this country? What happens to him? If he works for 40 hours a week — and that is the work week — he receives \$76. That is \$304 for a four-week month. He receives less than a man and his wife on the old age pension, because in October they will be getting \$341 a month.

"So we have the ridiculous situation that those receiving social assistance will receive more money than those who work. Indeed, in make-work projects sponsored by this government, such as LIP, the wages are \$100 a week. This is considered a wage. But the working poor, the people who do some of the jobs in this country that are not all very pleasant, are treated, collectively, darned poorly.

"It is a ridiculous situation when welfare payments made by provinces or welfare payments through various statutes and assistance programs sponsored by this government pay those on social assistance more than those who work. It may be said that the minimum wage does not apply to that many people in this country under federal jurisdiction, but it is up to the federal government to show leadership, and it is indeed a sad reflection on the leadership of this country when the province of British Columbia has a minimum wage of \$2.50 an hour, the province of Saskatchewan went up to \$2.50 an hour and the province of Ontario has the matter under active consideration while the province of Quebec is providing for a higher minimum wage. I even see that the Board of Trade in the province of New Brunswick is recommending considerably more than the minimum wage offered in this country. It is high time that we had leadership from the federal government, leadership which the nation requires. We cannot develop a work ethic and give people a sense of belonging to a society when we expect them to bend their efforts and their energies for less than we are prepared to pay people who are not required to work.

"What we need in this country is a basic minimum pay for those who are working, and it must be in excess of that received by persons on social assistance. It may be that the basic minimum represents more than the productivity of some people in industry. But what is productivity? Who values productivity? In our society it is valued on a competition basis. If we raise the minimum wage across the board, then that is the minimum of competition because they cannot go below it and we destroy the competitive problem. As a result, those who hire labour must pay more than the minimum or at least the minimum.

## 6 Months To Admit Seniors

# Councillors squawk about Villa red tape

County councillors complained Thursday that it shouldn't take six months to admit 246 residents to the Sheridan Villa Home for the Aged.

"There seems to be a lot of red tape here that somebody ought to be able to cut through," Mississauga Mayor Chic Murray said. Nineteen patients are

being admitted during the first week and about 10 a week will move into the Truscott Drive home after that.

Homes for the Aged administrator William Fair said each article of clothing of each resident has to be documented and registered when they are admitted. "It takes two or three hours just

to move one person in." The home physician has to find out what drugs and medication are required for each resident and order appropriate quantities, the administrator said.

In addition a complete physical examination has to be performed. Under the Homes for the Aged Act this has to be done by the home's

physician. X-rays must also be taken.

"Can't you arrange for a second or third temporary physician?" asked Mayor Murray. "It seems crazy not to be able to."

Deputy Reeve Ron Searle said that if the Board of Health needs temporary emergency help it hires people right away. "Surely there must be provision for emergency measures here," he said.

Port Credit Mayor Cy Saddington said there is a period of adjustment for new residents and this was a factor considered in the timing of admissions.

"The trauma of adjustment would be superior to the conditions some of these people live under now," replied Searle.

"A span of six months represents a big percentage of the time some of these people have left," he added.

Mayor Saddington said the possibility of temporary help would be checked with the province and "we'll see what can be done."



Diane Kavelman, 4, (right) chomps on hot dog held by sister Carol, 10, during Fantasy Fair '73 staged by South Peel Association for the Mentally Retarded Saturday at St. John's Anglican Church. Looking on are the girls' father Dr. Douglas Kavelman and brother Robert, 8. (Times photo by Ron Pozzer)

## Sheridan theatre program

Sheridan College's resident theatre program opens today and Thursday with the plays Mill Hill and The Lover.

The student-directed plays produced by Theatre Sheridan will start at 1 p.m. each day in room 122.

Mill Hill is a slapstick bedroom comedy about two rivals seeking the attentions of the same woman.

The Lover is a more subtle production centred around the games people play.

The presentations continue with The Informer and Red Carnations Nov. 6, 7 and 8.

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## LIP advisory group appointed

A constituency advisory group to review all Local Initiative Program applications has been named by Peel South MP Don Blenkarn in consultation with Minister of Manpower and Immigration Robert Andras.

Members are: From local government — Harold Kennedy, Bud Gregory, Hazel McCallion; from social and community services — Dorothy Ross, Rev. Paul Morrow, Ian Broderick; from previous LIP sponsors — Carol Krames, Shirley Gray; from the community at large — Dr. James Watkins, Rosemary McLay, Homer Marion, Margaret Campbell and Noella Dort.

Blenkarn estimates that only about 12 applications from Mississauga were received by the Oct. 15 deadline. Decisions on acceptable projects must be made by the end of November.

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