

Beer and ball

Grossman fields questions at North meet

The man with the bright blue warm-up jacket and the bright blue cap of the Toronto Blue Jays wanted very badly to ask Larry Grossman a question.

Jim Slayter had come to the Provincial North Progressive Conservative Riding Association meeting to ask the consumer and commercial relations minister about one specific issue: beer in the ballpark.

Like many other Mississaugans, Slayter has season tickets to the Blue Jays' games and he has chanted for beer at the park, a chant which goes up regularly whenever Grossman enters CNE stadium.

Following a rambling preamble in which he demanded a straight answer to his straight question, Slayter asked Grossman: "What's the hangup with beer in the ballpark?"

The minister told the Erindale Secondary School audience that "one of the reasons this province is a little different and a little better is because in the area of liquor legislation, we have gone slowly, carefully and deliberately."

Grossman said he recently talked to several Blue Jays after a game and found they like Toronto because they feel the streets are safe to walk at night. "If great big ball-players like that are afraid to walk the streets, how do you think the civilians feel?" asked Grossman.

"I'd rather that we were a little behind

rather than a little in front on this issue," he added, saying he didn't want to see problems associated with several American stadiums, where alcohol is served, develop in Canada.

Slayter countered that people sneak bottles into the park, feel they must drink the entire amount and then often throw the bottles. He felt plastic or styrofoam cups in which beer is usually sold at stadiums would eliminate that problem.

Grossman said his ministry is reconsidering the issue and later in the week announced that Metro Toronto would be given the responsibility for the decision. "We have an obligation to ensure that laws are sensible and appear to be sensible," the minister stated. "I'm not sure that that law (beer in the park) appears to be sensible to most people."

Slayter accused the provincial cabinet of bowing to minority opinion in banning beer.

Grossman replied that the cabinet did what it thought was right, even though it probably cost it more votes than it won in the last Ontario election.

"I think the public's probably divided 50-50 on that issue. In the area of liquor, it's hard to be on the right side, the way everyone feels so strongly about it."

Slayter said following the meeting that he thought Grossman answered his questions well.

Supply teachers won't boycott

By GREG SNOW
Times Staff Writer

Supply teachers in Peel are not planning any more boycotts of teaching assignments, even though the Peel Board of Education has reaffirmed its decision to cut first-day salaries for supply teachers, according to a spokesman for the teachers.

The board received a staff report which indicated that during the first day of teaching the supply teacher did not do the long-range planning, preparation of lessons, writing of report cards and other tasks that were part of a regular teacher's duty and that the cutback in salaries were necessary to stay within the 1978 budget.

As of May 1, supply teachers' salaries were cut by as much as 37 per cent for their first day on the job.

The rate for elementary supply teachers without a

degree was cut from \$48.50 to \$40; for elementary teachers with degree, from \$61.10 to \$40; for secondary school supply teachers, from \$63.56 to \$40. Rates for subsequent

days in the same classroom are close to the rates paid to teachers since January, 1977.

The board hopes to save \$100,000 as a result of the salary cutback.

"Because it's so close to the end of the year, it's unlikely that we'll be taking any action now," said Anne Russell, spokesman for the Peel Association of Supply Teachers. For two

weeks after the salary cuts were announced, some supply teachers refused work assignments.

She described the staff report as inadequate.

refinery reflections

THE REFINERY EXPLAINED

From a modest beginning in 1943 as a producer of wartime fuels, Gulf Canada's Clarkson plant has grown into a totally integrated oil refinery. In addition to producing gasoline, furnace oil, and other fuels, it manufactures such specialized products as asphalt, lubricants and industrial solvents.

Clarkson is one of a relatively few refineries in North America with facilities for producing, blending and packaging a full line of lubricating oils and greases. It manufactures all lubricant products sold by Gulf Canada service stations across Canada.

As a result, Clarkson is more complex than most refineries. To the outsider, it's a bewildering array of towers, pipes and tanks. But while the technology is highly sophisticated, the basic processes are not as complicated as you might think.

The operating refinery can best be considered in three sections: (1) Refining and preparation of gasolines, diesel fuels, home heating oils, heavy fuel oils, and residual oils for asphalt road surfacing and roofing products (2) the refining and preparation of lubricating oil base feedstocks and (3) the blending, compounding, and packaging of lubricants and greases. This column will outline the refining operations while future columns will deal with other operations.

Fractionation

The first stage of the refining process is the crude oil fractionation, which takes place in the atmospheric and vacuum distillation towers. Two main types of crude oil are processed at Clarkson refinery: bunker and asphaltic. Bunker crudes are processed in both the atmospheric and vacuum towers, while asphaltic crude is processed in the vacuum towers only.

These units, located in the southern portion of the refinery, distill crude oil by boiling it in heaters. Entering the atmospheric towers partially vaporized, the crude is then separated into various components such as raw gasoline, diesel fuel, furnace oil, gas oil, asphalt, and residual or "bunker" fuel, which is burned by industry. The lighter materials such as methane and butane rise to the top of the tower, while heavier elements such as asphalt and heavy gas oils are drawn off at the bottom as liquid streams.

The heavy streams from the bottom of the atmospheric tower are re-vaporized and sent to the vacuum towers. This process separates these "bottoms" into light and heavy gas oils and asphalt. The former are sent to the hydrotreater and made into base stocks for the manufacture of lubricating oils. The asphalt is processed in the propane desasphalter, which separates heavy gas oil for processing in the hydrotreater. The liquid asphalt is either blended with other types of asphalt or with industrial fuels.

Secondary Processing

Some oil fractions — diesel oils and home heating fuel, residual oil, and asphalt — can be used directly. However, the lighter components previously mentioned require secondary processing.

Among them is "gas oil," which goes to the "cat cracker" — short for catalytic cracking unit. One hundred and sixty-eight feet in height, the Clarkson cracker is one of the largest units in the refinery. Within it, oil molecules are heated and catalytically "cracked" to produce gasolines and domestic fuels. Essentially, it is like cracking big boulders into small pebbles. (A catalyst is a substance which accelerates a chemical reaction without being affected.)

The next unit, the catalytic reformer is important in the manufacture of high octane gasoline. In it, low octane materials are upgraded by the removal of hydrogen. In the manufacture of Gulf Canada gasolines, raw gasolines produced in several refinery units are blended with a number of additives designed to impart special qualities. These are varied with the seasons to ensure quick starts, good acceleration, clean engine operation, freedom from stalling in hot weather and gas-line freezing in winter.

The hydrogen recovered from the catalytic reformer is fed into the distillate desulphurizer where it is used to remove sulphur and other impurities from distillate fuels such as diesel and home heating fuel. Instead of being permitted to escape into the atmosphere, sulphur gases from the distillate desulphurizer are removed in the amine "scrubber." Later, they are converted to liquid elemental sulphur which is sold primarily to paper companies for use in pulp mills.

In both primary and secondary processing, gases such as methane, ethane, propane and butane are produced.

All are gathered by the refinery's gas recovery system and piped to a treating plant to have the sulphur removed — a process called "sweetening." Some of these gases are then sent to the alkylation unit, another unit which utilizes a catalyst. However, instead of splitting components, this unit catalytically combines the light gases to produce alkylate, another material used to manufacture high-octane gasolines.

Lubricating Oils

Construction of a new and modernized lubricating oil manufacturing facility is nearing completion just south of the refinery's main gate, adjacent to Southdown Road. When the project is in full operation this November, three separate units will be used to prepare lubricating oil base stocks for the manufacture of lubricants and greases. They are the hydrotreater, propane desasphalter and dewax units. The existing propane desasphalter and dewax units will be decommissioned when the new facilities go on stream.

The hydrotreater marks a new approach in lubricating oil processing in Canada which will enable Gulf Canada to manufacture its full line of improved lubricants from a wide variety of Canadian crude oils, reducing the refinery's dependence on availability of a particular type of crude oil with special lubricant properties.

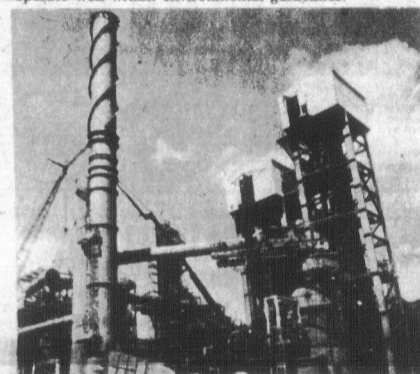
In the hydrotreater, sulphur is removed and the oil chemically changed by treating it with hydrogen. This technology, which proved itself at refineries in other countries, was developed by Gulf Research and Development Company, U.S. Gulf Canada will be the first manufacturer of hydrotreated lubricating oils in Canada. After the first stage of the hydrotreating process, the treated base stock oils are sent to the dewax unit. All lubricating oils contain wax, which must be removed if the oil is to flow freely. This is done by chilling the oil and mixing it with a solvent. Once the wax has been separated from the oil, it's collected by large rotary filters and sold to a wax company. The wax-free oil is then processed in a second-stage hydrotreater which improves stability and color.

The "brightened" oils are then held in storage, until blended into Gulf Canada's full line of more than 300 lubricating oils and greases.

Utility Systems

Supporting the process units are the utility systems, which provide power, air and water. The largest single utility installation in the refinery is the recently-built steam plant located near the 400-foot stack furthest from Lake Ontario. Its primary function is to provide heat and power for the new process units.

All the process units at Clarkson are designed to operate well within environmental guidelines.



Under construction adjacent to Southdown Road, the hydrotreater will permit Clarkson refinery to manufacture high-quality lubricants from a variety of Canadian crude oils, thus freeing Gulf Canada from reliance on scarce specialty crudes.



Ministry cuts fat, streamlines a bit

By JOHN STEWART
Times Staff Writer

The provincial Cemeteries Advisory Board is deceased.

Not only that, but the Liquor Advisory Commission and the Liquor Advisory Council are gone too. And the province's consumer and commercial relations minister, Larry Grossman, says that's just the beginning.

Grossman spoke to about 30 members of the Progressive Conservative Mississauga North Provincial Riding Association

last week about his ministry's program of de-liquoring.

Phasing out boards and commissions — which have long since fulfilled their roles — is just one of the reforms he promised. The Cemeteries Advisory Board last met in 1970. The elimination of the liquor boards, Grossman said, will result in 52 people losing provincial per diem rates paid for by the taxpayer.

ARC-LAMPS

The province licences movie projectionists because at one time there

was a fire hazard associated with arc-lamp projectors in theatres, Grossman related. "The only thing in there aren't any theatres left that use arc-lamp projectors, so we're getting out of that business."

Several reforms in the areas of inspection and filing forms have also been instituted. Grossman, a lawyer, said he is working on allowing over-the-counter incorporation of companies by lawyers to avoid weeks of mail correspondence.

Every boiler in the province is now inspected by the province. Grossman feels the insurance companies should take over that function, as is the case in the United States.

Instead of requiring quarterly liquor reports from licenced outlets, the ministry only requires reports when it requests them. Where licencing of employees, especially salesmen, is just a formality and does not provide any real consumer protection, it should be eliminated, argued the Toronto MPP.

Instead, compensation funds for the people who are "ripped off by the few bad apples" should be established, he claimed.

SAVINGS

Grossman said the improvements "are saving taxpayers a lot of money, while we remain loyal to our conservative principles."

He said one of the failings of the Conservative Party in Ontario is that "we've forgotten to tell the public about all of the good things we've done."

Mississauga North MPP Terry Jones said the provincial NDP is constantly guilty of asking for another committee or commission to be set up to study something.

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CVCA BRIEFS

More sewer data requested

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority executive committee needs more information before it considers approving an overflow for a sanitary sewer near the Milkwood Property on Creditview Road.

CVCA Chairman Grant Clarkson objected strongly last week to an application to have a 30-by-40 foot "saucer" arrangement as a sanitary overflow area without being sure it's necessary.

The overflow would be used to prevent the sewage from backing up into basements in the new single-family development east of Creditview Road.

The executive did not approve the request, but ask staff to provide further information.

Guides' project still alive

A Canada Works project to provide summer guides at the Rattray Marsh has been turned down, but the CVCA hopes to have some of its summer students carry on the project.

Last year The Meadowood-Rattray Residents' Association sponsored three students who gave out information and conducted tours of the marsh. Their application was rejected this year because the federal program will not subsidize the same program two years in a row.

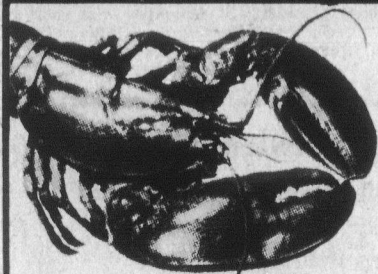
The conservation authority is going to contact the ratepayers group and suggest that some summer students hired through a provincial program be used for the tours.

Tender for annex awarded

The tender for construction of an office annex to the authority's administrative headquarters in the village of Meadowvale has been awarded to Regis Investments, the low bidder on revised tenders.

The annex will alleviate some of the overcrowding in existing offices where two staff members now have offices in hallways.

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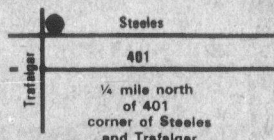
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BUSINESS TIP OF THE WEEK

Plan ahead for inflation

We live in a period of inflation. While no one can predict how much prices are going to rise, it's at least certain that they will do so. Your pre-planning for the business year ahead must, therefore, take into consideration the factor of ever-increasing costs. With inflation, you can't maintain last year's profit position simply by maintaining last year's sales level. And, in any case, if inflation continues, last year's profits may not be good enough. A \$20,000 profit next year simply won't buy you as much as a \$20,000 profit did this year.

If you are to keep profits moving up in the face of inflation, you must find ways either to reduce your costs, improve your margins or to increase your receipts — perhaps a combination of all three. Increased receipts — the more positive approach — may be generated by increased sales volume, by increased prices on the same volume, by the introduction of new products or services, or also by a combination of all three. Whatever action suits your particular business best, you will be wise to draw up a tentative plan and forecast for the year ahead. Unless your plans take inflation into account, your real profits cannot help but go down.

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