

NORMAN WEBSTER



Taylor's actions will bear watching.

## Humane outlook needed

IT WAS THE first question period in two months, and one of the flattest in memory. Stephen Lewis's questions were toothless. Stuart Smith was histrionic and ineffective. And believe it or not, on the day following the Government's throne speech for the new Legislature, not a single question was asked about its contents.

Now let's be charitable. Maybe the opposition MPPs were worried that criticism of the speech might give offence to Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon. It was, after all, only last year that a rising Tory backbencher, moving acceptance of that throne speech, lashed Robert Nixon for calling it bankrupt of ideas.

This was, said the Tory furiously, a direct insult to the Lieutenant-Governor—"sheer impudence." Apparently he thought Mrs. McGibbon had sat down and drafted the Government's program with her own quill pen. Maybe most of the MPPs still believe this. Maybe they think storks still bring babies.

### May be wiser

The Tory in question is probably wiser this year, though. For, no longer a backbencher, he has ascended to the Cabinet to become Minister of Community and Social Services. And in that exalted position he presumably had something to do with drafting this year's speech, including the one passage which leaps from a pretty bland and non-controversial document:

... those who have alternatives to (social) assistance must utilize them to contribute to their own wellbeing. People who have opportunities for employment, whether part-time, seasonal or full-time, will be required to take advantage of those options and, in fact, seek them."

On its own, that's not a bad principle. You don't have to be a rabid right-winger to believe that the taxpayer's hard-earned dollars shouldn't go to support layabouts. Able-bodied people shouldn't live on welfare if jobs are available. The state shouldn't be encouraging 16-year-olds to leave home and go on the dole.

These practices drain public funds. They create an unhealthy welfare dependency in the recipients. And they breed an immense resentment in the working population of our society, a resentment that is too often airily dismissed as "reactionary" or "hard hat."

Politicians must respond to this feeling. But they also have a twin responsibility not to feed it and not to crack down cruelly in a display of machismo against the weak.

### No welfare-bashing

In brief, they must deny themselves the luxury of welfare-bashing. And here both the minister, James Taylor, and his Government will bear watching. Tightening up on welfare makes sense, both financially and socially, but it's all too easy to get carried away.

Welfare budgets have to be watched; New York didn't do so and has spent itself into bankruptcy. But holding the provincial increase to municipal social service spending down to 5.5 per cent, as Mr. Taylor is doing, seems unnecessarily stringent in a year when inflation alone will reduce the value of a dollar by 10 per cent.

Changing regulations to get the able-bodied into the work force is a fine idea, but it has to be put into practice humanely. Mothers with small children may do society more good by staying home and raising them than by sticking them in a day-care centre and going off to work in a factory.

(And just what does the Government have in mind anyway? Premier Davis said on Tuesday that it wasn't the intention to push people who have children to look after. A few hours later Mr. Taylor was talking as if all but mothers with babes at the breast would have to get out on the production line.)

It's one thing for Mr. Davis to talk about the importance of the work ethic. It's another for Correctional Services Minister John Smith to bring the good ladies of the YWCA to their feet with a vicious attack on the "professional poor" who drink away their welfare money while good folk have to scrum and save.

That's welfare-bashing. The Government will definitely bear watching.

# Remedy for nuclear damage

The following are letters to the editor of The Globe and Mail.

Recent reports of radiation damage to people and property in Port Hope highlight a potential conflict of interest between the heavy federal financial investment in the Canadian nuclear industry and the clear federal responsibility to protect Canadians from the consequences of nuclear accidents. This conflict of interest may also be reflected in the fact that there is at present no statutory relief available to compensate the residents of Port Hope for their serious losses directly related to nuclear facility operations.

The Nuclear Liability Act is a federal statute, passed in 1969, but not yet proclaimed in force by the federal Government. Provisions of this act might provide a remedy to persons who suffer damage as a result of nuclear facility operations in Canada. Why has this act not been proclaimed?

This legislation has no effect at all until it is proclaimed in force by the federal Cabinet. As a result, the only legal recourse open to Port Hope residents or others who suffer property or personal damage as a result of nuclear facility operations is a complex, lengthy and prohibitively expensive court action.

If the Nuclear Liability Act were proclaimed, its provisions would greatly assist Canadians to obtain compensation for damage suffered as a direct result of Canadian nuclear facility operations. The act sets high safety standards for operators of nuclear facilities, requiring them to ensure that no injuries to any persons or property are caused by nuclear materials utilized in their operations. Other provisions of the act remove "Crown immunity", making the federal Government and provincial governments, as operators of nuclear facilities, potentially liable for damages resulting from nuclear accidents. In the case of particularly severe accidents, resulting in damages exceeding \$75-million, the act also contains provisions establishing commissions to deal with compensation claims.

James M. Mackenzie  
Barrister and Solicitor  
Executive Director  
West Coast Environmental Law Association  
Lille d'Easum  
Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility

British Columbia Branch  
Gary Gallon  
Executive Director  
Society for Pollution and Environmental Control  
Vancouver

### Bank rate

In a surprise move the Bank of Canada has pushed the bank rate to a record high—a time when our economy lies prostrate under the effects of Ottawa's previous ham-handed surgery. Surely the time has come to inquire what authorizes Gerald K. Bouey to continue this viciousness.

We are offered the usual gobbledygook about the need to keep the money supply down not to "accommodate" the price rise. But Mr. Bouey should be reminded that the very concept of "money supply" is vague and misleading since it completely ignores changes in the velocity of circulation.

It is, moreover, a gratuitous assumption that prices can be stabilized by refusing to "accommodate" higher prices with sufficient credit. Higher prices arise from some very different factors in our changing economy: one of these is the increase in public sector's services. To this category we must now add the new regiments of bureaucrats engaged to administer price and rent controls. No matter how much Mr. Bouey turns the credit screws, the impact upon

# Dancers draw defence



Karen Kain's dancing is often admired.

As a long-time subscriber to your paper, I used to look forward to reading the same and in particular the dance reviews. However, I now feel it is necessary to voice my very strong objections to the columns now being written by Lawrence O'Toole.

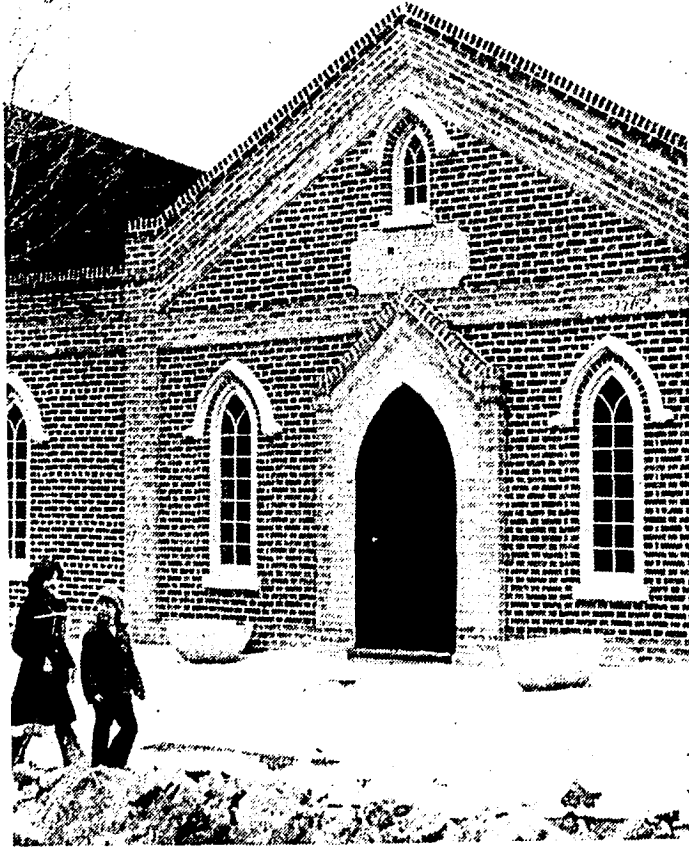
In particular I wish to call your attention to the column of March 2 wherein he reviewed La Sylphide. With reference to the dancing of Nadia Potts and Bujones... "her playfulness and her naturally youthful look coupled with Bujones' youth, had the effect at times of turning the ballet into Beach Blanket Bingo at Loch Lomond". Even the word "Bongo" is incorrectly typed, which may or may not be credited to Mr. O'Toole. Surely our dancers deserve to be reviewed on a more mature level. They do not deserve to be reviewed because they look too young for a part. Instead their dancing ability and interpretation are the important factors.

Do Nadia Potts and our guest artist need to apologize for their age and youthful appearance? What kind of constructive reviewing and criticism is that? I find his columns to be condescending and unworthy of The Globe and Mail. Mr. O'Toole asks if the moral of La Sylphide is "Be kind to old ladies or else." If Mr. O'Toole derives nothing more from Jacques Gorrisen's excellent portrayal of Madge it is his loss and not the audience at the O'Keefe Centre who found it very good indeed.

I refer you also to his description of Karen Kain as flitting around like a "fairy in heat". For a dancer as marvellous as Miss Kain and one of whom the City of Toronto should be very proud such unkindness is intolerable.

It is my opinion that Mr. O'Toole's knowledge of ballet comes from a Dictionary of Ballet Terms which no doubt he keeps beside him while trying to appear knowledgeable. It is quite apparent to me that he is no such thing.

Lorraine Fair  
Toronto



The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse combines architectural and historical merit.



The old house on Spadina Road which is slated to become a subway station.

# Scraping the bottom of the Toronto barrel?

There was a time when apathy in nearly all classes of Toronto society permitted the demolition of many buildings of architectural merit and some historical significance. Today, the pendulum seems to have swung the other way, and we, as citizens, are urged to recognize several hundred buildings as part of our heritage, and to accept as architectural treasures some with no architectural merit and no, or doubtful, history.

We made a deal with a developer to save the Paul Kane house, a house that never was his studio. No treasures will be shown there because of the fire hazard, and no one will be obliged to visit it. The expense of rehabilitation will be considerable.

It is not so with the house No. 85 on Spadina Road which will be a subway station, a house on which thousands will be spent and millions will use. Your paper, sir, was the first to describe our

early stations as belonging to the public lavatory school of thought, and the Toronto Transit Commission is to be commended for the cheerful title that has recently given color to several downtown stations. I made a pilgrimage to Spadina Road to see what the house looked like, and I was shocked. It surely is strangely inconsistent that the TTC would brighten up old stations and at the same time accept this dreary old house. Is it a symbol of their care for the aged in buildings as they have for senior citizens, a red-ticket house? Is mere age to be the criterion for preservation of old buildings? The house has no history, and must be at the bottom of the architectural domestic barrel in terms of taste in houses of its size between the Humber and the Don.

I would have preferred to see young architects given the design of subway buildings as several were with great success in Montreal, but, if we are to have

a house, presumably, with bedrooms for visiting transit visitors from abroad, however quaint the idea, why this one? It was designed, internally, in wood to stand the gait of adults and the pitter of little feet, but now it has to contend with a charging mechanical monster in its bowels. Can it be strengthened sufficiently to take the vibration, and at what cost?

I am concerned that more such errors in architectural judgment will be foisted on the city, and that there will not be adequate funds to deal with the great buildings that are left. The day will come when, to mention a few, the future of 10 Toronto St., 15 Wellington, the Bank of Montreal at Yonge and Front and St. Paul's Avenue Road will have to be faced.

The little Enoch Turner Schoolhouse on Trinity Street is a splendid example of a building combining architectural merit

and unquestionable history. In 1818, it was the first free school in Toronto. Yet, in spite of generous grants from the Province of Ontario, the city, foundations and money from friends and, even, strangers who saw its worth, the schoolhouse is still in debt to the bank in an amount that is embarrassing to the foundation, but infinitesimal compared with the reconstruction costs of the subway house or any of the great buildings I have mentioned as problems for the future.

As I see our architectural heritage, it lies in whole areas of Toronto like east of Yonge from Wellesley to Queen and the Annex. We must be on guard that from these healthy architectural areas the individual red-ticket houses are not extracted for some public use.

Eric Arthur  
Toronto

price of these added public services will not go away.

On the contrary, the new credit pinch will damage and ruin precisely such young, innovative industries that we need, and thus reduce the tax base that supports our increased load of public services. It will favor the more parasitic money lenders over the active risk-taking entrepreneur. It will push up mortgage interest, and the cost of our new energy plants for years to come. It will thus feed further price rise into our economy, and visit hardship on the most defenceless sections of our population.

Other countries have long ago learned to avoid such irresponsible shotgun policy that does not bother to track down specific causes and effects. Ottawa, however, is still bemused by the discredited academic models of a self-equilibrating economy. It is one of the advantages of this model that according to it you can achieve the same desired effect by applying a hawskaw to any part of the body economic, be it head, heart or big toe.

Mr. Bouey must be reminded that these elegant models are simply not supposed to have anything to do with the world of reality. The premises upon which they are founded—a "pure and perfect" market where no producer or consumer has any power to influence the market—rule that out in advance. Nor is the term "pure and

perfect" supposed to mean that it is a feasible goal for society; on the contrary the concept is not supposed to be normative. Without these premises the mathematics upon which these models of a self-balancing economy are founded simply do not make sense.

Surely it is high time that the more conscientious academic economists spoke up to explain the illiterate misconception that Mr. Bouey and Pierre Trudeau are operating under.

No matter how bored the general public may be by economic theory, we are all of us hostages to its errors. And those errors have become institutionalized into a vested interest of forbidding power. Set up as a harmless game of academic tiddlywinks not to have any relevance to reality, its models of a self-equilibrating economy grand on and feed a steady diet of counter-truths to our politicians and central bankers.

Thus it is a tenet of the reigning equilibrium theory that increased taxation by "syphoning off demand" helps keep prices down. That is one reason why governments in recent years competed in the amount of spending they were able to achieve—a trend that they are today in panic trying to reverse. It was only after much disaster did the public at large, by seat-of-the-pants deduction, learn to disregard the teaching of academic theory on the point and to recognize that growing taxation is an important factor in our price rise.

Our policy-makers still stick to the creed that higher interest rates lower price rather than contribute to their further climb. Yet for many years now at some of our newer universities—e.g. Waterloo, Concordia, Guelph and others—much interesting work has been done to show that credit restrictions can contribute to inflation. On the subject Professors John H. Holton, George Lerner and H. Habibagahi at the University of Waterloo reached this conclusion: "It is possible that we will ultimately conclude that the only good thing to be said for tight money and (anti-)inflationary tax hikes can also be said for hitting yourself on the head—it feels wonderful when you stop!" Our mandarins at Ottawa have sealed their ears to such heretical views.

Profits must be analyzed in terms of the socially useful functions performed by the entrepreneur—organization, innovation, risk-taking—as opposed to pure speculation and exploitation. Where society finds it in its interests to have private enterprise survive, it must study and respect its minimum needs for survival. That, of course, means trying to understand each branch of the economy, something that our price-control bureaucracy is not working too hard at.

Instead, we have come to resort to villain-hunts to steer an economy that we no longer understand. The danger, however, is that once we rely on villain hypotheses, we inevitably lapse into strategies of overkill. Anything that does the chosen villain dirt is by definition good. Mr. Bouey's latest caper inflicted upon a manhandled economy is in fact the sheerest overkill. And we shall not be long in waiting for the resulting body counts.

William Krehm  
Toronto

### Music criticism

John Kruglund's review of New Music Concerts was disappointing (Long Concert A Strain... March 1). By leaving in the middle of Steve Reich's Drumming, Mr. Kruglund missed the standing ovation given Reich and his musicians by an audience overwhelmed by one of the most exciting

modern works ever performed in Toronto. It is simplistic and naive to call Mr. Reich's music "hypnotic"—the simple processes of gradual change employed result in highly complex structures within which can be found moments as moving as they are unexpected. However, the perception of these moments is a task for an active, involved listener—not a bored or hypnotized reviewer concentrating on the mechanics of production rather than the music produced.

Clement Keat  
Leena Raudvee  
Toronto

### Constitution

On a CBC news broadcast Saturday morning Feb. 6, our Prime Minister is quoted as saying before a Quebec Liberal gathering that he would repatriate the Canadian Constitution, unilaterally if necessary, and that "... England would no longer be able to make laws for Canada."

This is an ignorant statement made as a sop to an ignorant anti-British segment of the people. England, more properly Great Britain, has not had the desire nor the right to legislate for Canada for a great many years, with one exception. The power to amend the British North America Act, upon request, has remained with the British Parliament solely because the provinces and the Dominion governments have been unable to agree upon the mechanics of transferring this legal act to a suitable legal body on this side of the Atlantic. Really, there is no good reason why our Senate and House of Commons in Ottawa should not have the authority to make any necessary changes without reference to Westminster, and without the legalistic hodge-podge with which our friends on the Potomac entangled themselves 200 years ago.

So it looks as if this man Trudeau with his back to the wall, fumbling ineptly with our economic problems, is searching for a smoke-screen to distract attention from the real issues at this critical time.

Hoss A. Short  
Paris, Ont.

### Canadian content

Curriculum content has indeed failed "to train Canadians to deal with uniquely Canadian problems in the sciences, professions and arts", and Canadians are almost a minority group on our faculties (Canadian Universities Indifferent to Canada—March 6). Can it possibly be sensible, then, for our Government to respond by reducing its support of research in Canadian universities? Surely the personnel to teach and the material to be taught must both emanate from academic pursuits, i.e. research.

Perhaps my own experience will illustrate the potential profound seriousness and consequences of the current freeze on contributions of the federal Government to research. I was born and grew up in Hamilton. After graduating from medical school (Western) in 1957 and completing two years of training in pediatrics in Vancouver, I applied to the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital for further training. At the last possible moment, my application was turned down and I accepted a position at the Children's Hospital Medical Centre in Boston.

Subsequently, with the generous support of the United States National Institutes of Health, I embarked on a career in medical research, with two years at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and one in London, England. It was 1964 by then and I attempted to return to Canada to the staff of my alma mater. The offer was a salary of \$10,000 and no visible means of support for my research. In Buffalo, N.Y., I accepted a position at

well over double that income, with a fully equipped laboratory and starter research funds until I could obtain my own grant. I spent 11 years there doing research, teaching at the medical school and caring for patients.

Now I am back in Hamilton with a similar position at McMaster University Medical Centre. Prior to my return, I spent two years as an external adviser to the Medical Research Council of Canada, Genetics Committee, and saw what I felt was increasing, albeit slowly, support for and interest in medical research in Canada. Faculty positions for individuals who were to devote most of their time to research had been established, substantial development grants were being awarded to initiate major research efforts in areas deemed to be important to the country (cancer, genetics, renal intensive care), graduate students and summer student positions in research were relatively plentiful, and even salaries for fulltime faculty became competitive with those in the United States.

What happened to me in 1959 and again five years later will happen to Canadians by the scores now. Lack of funds for research, for studentships and ultimately for faculty positions will either discourage our bright students from embarking on careers in science or divert them, as in the 1960s, to the United States. No wonder we have a lack of Canadians to fill our faculty positions and contribute to Canadian content in the curriculum.

Ronald G. Davidson, M.D.  
Professor of Pediatrics  
McMaster University Medical Centre  
Hamilton

### Aid to Indonesia

I was greatly distressed to read of the \$200-million aid package that Don Jamieson has negotiated with Indonesia. I doubt that the average Canadian taxpayer would approve of such use of Canadian money if he or she were aware of the consistent suppression of human rights in that country. To quote from the 1974-75 Annual Report of Amnesty International:

"More than 55,000 political prisoners, all detained without charge or trial since 1965, are now in their 10th year in prison. Their position is increasingly desperate because despite the passage of many years, the Government's policy toward them has remained essentially unchanged."

... several reliable observers put the total number of prisoners held at nearer 100,000. As more is known about the problem it has become evident that there are large numbers of political prisoners held outside recognized prison institutions. Throughout the many islands of the republic, in every town that serves as an administrative centre, political prisoners are to be found, often in very small prisons... or in military garrisons where the prisoners are used as unpaid labor in conditions that can be described as enforced serfdom."

I don't know Mr. Jamieson's rationale for such aid, but it would seem that if we are attempting to buy friends with our dollars, we are picking friends that most Canadians would not approve of.

P. T. Spencer  
Agincourt

### O dominus

Quo usque tandem abutere patientia nostra O dominus Pierre Elliot Trudeau? (After Cicero against Catiline).

How far will you abuse our tolerance, O Lord Pierre?  
Des Iszlay  
Scarborough