

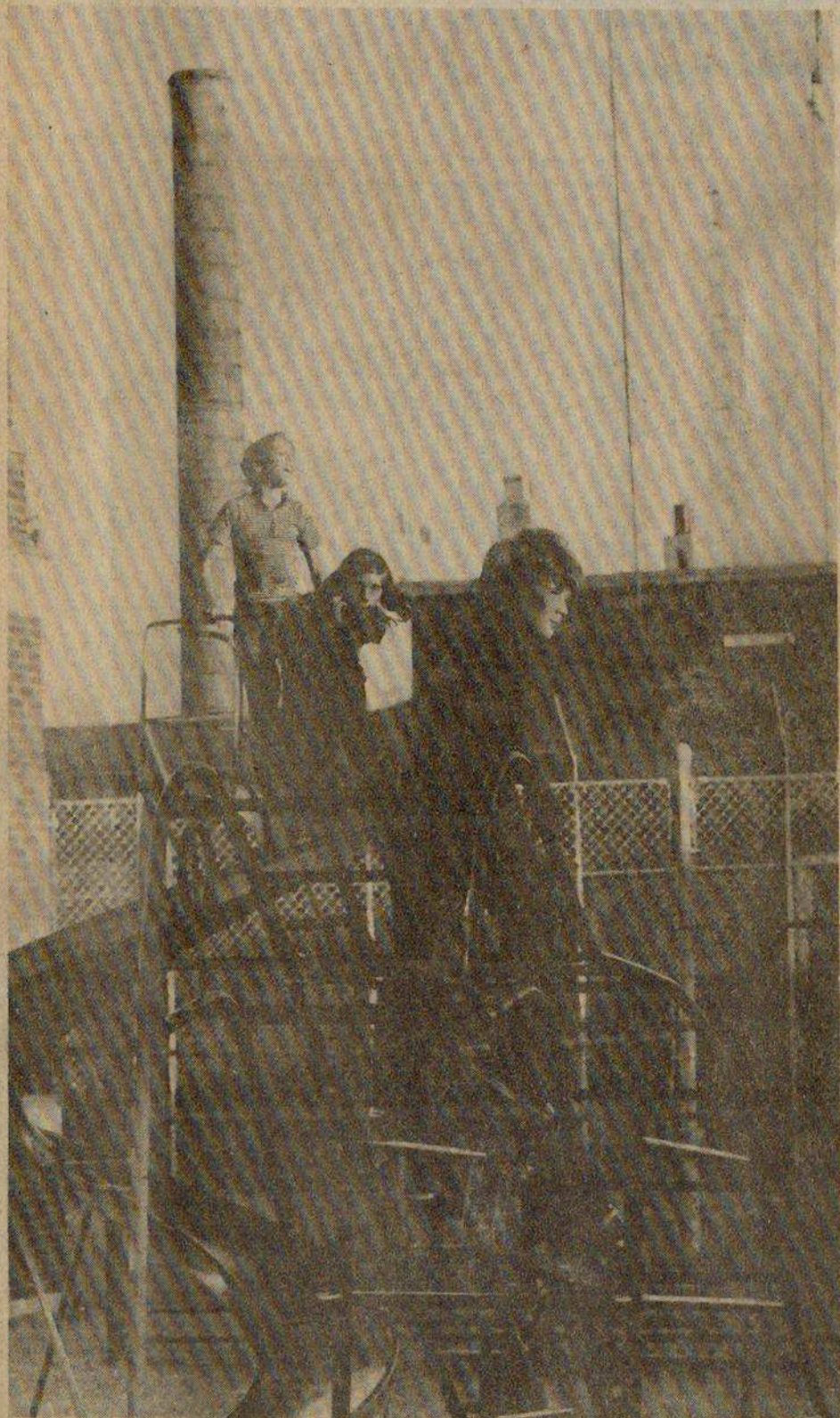
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SEPT. 14 — SEPT. 27, 1973

toronto citizen

MIDTOWN'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

25¢



**Lead menace:
playing in
the shadow of
Canada Metal**

—page 1

photo: Jack MacLeod

Lead poisoning risk near East-end plant

Copyright © Toronto Citizen 1973

by P. M. Mullings

Potentially dangerous amounts of lead are being released into the air in the neighborhood of the Canada Metal Co. Ltd. plant on Eastern Avenue.

The Citizen has received a copy of a still unpublished study which shows that the levels of lead

emissions from Canada Metals are similar to those in the area of the Toronto Refiners and Smelters where a number of children have been found to be suffering from lead poisoning.

It is believed that the Eastern Avenue matter will soon be raised at the Toronto Board of Education and the Board of Health because Bruce Junior School is located about 200 yards north of Canada Metals and a

public park is situated another 200 to 300 yards further north at Queen and Berkshire Streets.

The Eastern Avenue study was done by a research group from the Environmental Chemistry Department at the University of Toronto. It measured the amount of dustfall and its percentage of lead content at two locations north of Canada Metals. The company produces lead, aluminum and

bronze ingots and lead sheets. Measurements at a point 200 yards north of the smelter showed the equivalent of 44 tons of dustfall, with a lead content of 0.555 tons, was falling per square mile over a 30-day period. At a point 280 yards north of the smelter, the measurements were 54 tons with lead content of 0.505 tons.

These findings were about four times as heavy in dustfall and ten times as great in lead content as the results at two control locations selected by the researchers for their average atmospheric conditions. At 523 Euclid Avenue the figures were 12 tons with a lead content of 0.053 tons and at Lawrence and Bayview they were 18 tons with a lead content of 0.054.

Seventeen samplings taken in the area around Toronto Refiners during the same period had an average lead content of .407 per square mile.

The presence of lead in large quantities is a serious threat to anyone's health, particularly children. It settles in the blood and soon begins to accumulate in bone marrow, forming what are known as "lead lines", actual streaks of lead which easily show up on X-rays. Sufficient quantities of lead can lead

to severe abdominal pains, arthritis, cerebral edema, brain damage or death. One problem of lead poisoning is that its symptoms are often mistaken for those of other diseases causing the victim's condition to gradually deteriorate before the proper diagnosis is made.

Results of the Eastern Avenue study were given to members of the Ontario Ministry of Environment last week. The legal limit for total dustfall is 20 tons per square mile for 30 days, less than half the 44 and 54 tons recorded around Canada Metals.

Lead levels have been a controversial issue in Toronto for the past few years because of the Toronto Refiners' situation. Residents near the plant in the Niagara-Bathurst Streets region have been demanding that the company control the level of emissions or close the plant which crushes car batteries. Five cases of lead poisoning were detected in children living in the area by the Hospital for Sick Children in 1965, and blood tests taken this year turned up a number of children and adults with higher than acceptable lead levels.

No blood tests have been done in (continued, page 2)

toronto citizen

MIDTOWN'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Immigrant workers strike for the right to unionize

by Eric Mills

Out in Toronto's industrial "ghetto" of small manufacturing concerns, a small group of mostly immigrant workers are fighting for

the most basic working class right — to bargain collectively as a trade union. In a struggle reminiscent of the early days of organized labour, 120 employees of Artistic Woodwork

Company are on strike, not over wages, but in an attempt to win security from arbitrary management power.

The union, the Canadian Textile and Chemical Union, won little more in three months of negotiations than a 65 cent-hourly increase for the workers, who make wooden frames and moulding for frames. The company refuses to budge on the critical issues of seniority in hiring, firing and promotion, management's rights, and union security.

Like many other small plants in northwestern Toronto, Artistic Woodwork employs a large number of immigrants, including Italians, Greeks, Portugese and Latin Americans, who have language and other difficulties in organizing against exploitation. CTCU secretary-treasurer Madeleine Parent says the essential point in the strike is that immigrant workers are fighting for their rights against employers who want to use them as cheap labour.

"There are hundreds of thousands of unorganized workers in Toronto sweatshops," she says. "They need to be free from fear of discharge and other arbitrary actions; they need a decent union. If we succeed in this case, it will encourage other im-

(continued, page 7)

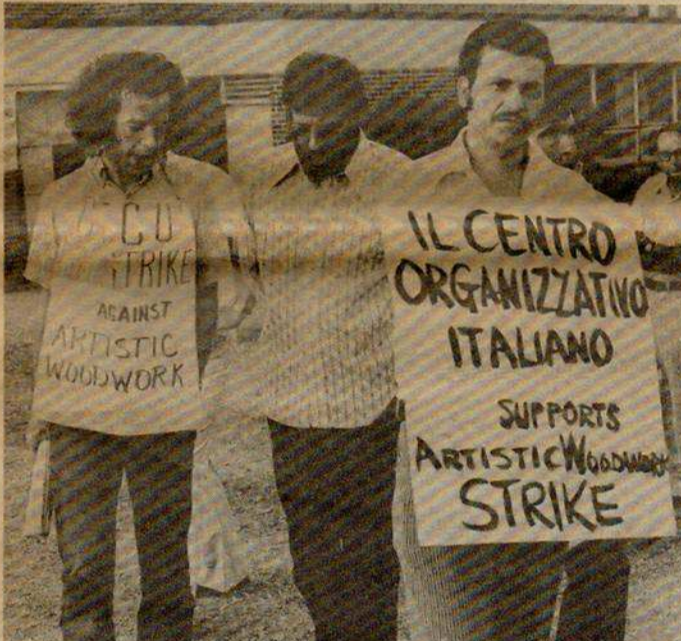


photo: David Grosskind

On the picket line at Artistic Woodwork: the workers are mostly "new Canadians" including Greeks, Italians and Portugese.

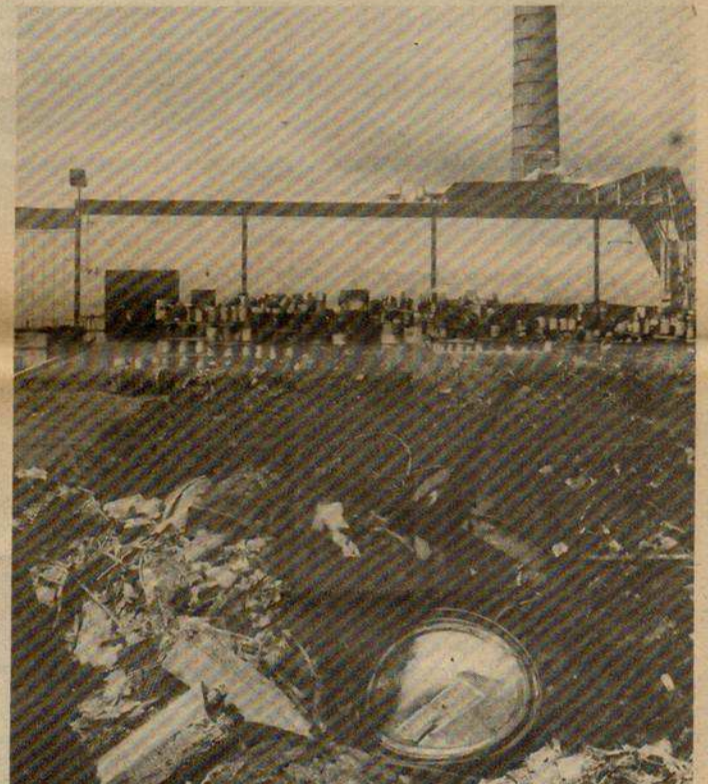


photo: Jack Macleod

The backyard of Canada Metal laden with refuse.

Horrible stories: Dog eats dog on Sussex

by Jon Caulfield

Middlemen who rent houses from property agents, holding companies and the like, and then rent flats and rooms in the houses to tenants, can make top dollar, as they say, in their little corner of the property industry. Geraldine Rodman, for example, rents 4 Sussex Street for \$250 monthly from the Crown Trust company which, in turn, manages the property for its owner, the University of Toronto. She has eight tenants — four in two flats and four in rooms — who pay a total monthly rental of \$645.

Since Rodman doesn't pay taxes or maintenance costs on the house — Crown Trust, for example, pays for paint — her only expenses are operating costs, including heat and hydro. She also has a few minor investments in accessories — a couple of fridges and stoves. If her yearly investment was \$870, her annual rate of profit on the house would be 100 percent. She says, however, that her costs are "very high", and so maybe her profit only runs to 80 or 90 percent.

But that is not our horrible story

here. Our horrible story is that Rodman rented five of the six units in the house earlier this month to students who were enrolling in the fall semester at the University when she knew perfectly well that later this autumn the house's owner, the University, wanted the place vacated so that it could be renovated and used for academic facilities. Crown Trust notified her of this by hand-delivered letter much earlier this summer, but she kept mum about it when renting to several students who clearly planned to live in the house until spring and told her so.

Rodman says that, while she did not tell her new tenants specifically that she knew they would have to vacate in the very near future, she did tell them that tenancy in the houses was insecure and that they should be prepared to vacate on short notice at any time. Only one of the tenants says that Rodman said anything remotely like this; the others deny they had any warning at all. They got the cheerful news that their stay in their new home would

be a short one from a couple of University staff who dropped in one afternoon to begin planning the renovations.

Rodman is legally okay. She doesn't have to give tenants any more than a month's notice since they pay by the month. If the University wants the building November 1, she doesn't have to tell them until October 1 when they pay their second month's rent — or on November 1 if the University wants the house December 1. There isn't any law which says that Rodman should have told her prospective tenants anything about what she knew. She says that the reason she didn't tell them about the University's plans was that, if she did, none of them would have moved in, and then she would have been stuck with an empty house for two or three months. She also says that tenants have moved out on her in the past without paying rent, and she told the Citizen that people ought to care about landlords' problems as well as tenants' problems. The basic tone of her remarks about the situation is

that it's dog eat dog in the house business, that people are constantly getting screwed from one direction or other.

If Rodman is legally okay on the issue of whether she should have told the tenants however, someone is not legally okay in the situation. There is, for example, a bylaw which says there must be a "primary tenant" in houses of this sort. According to Crown Trust, the "primary tenant" is Rodman. But while Rodman claims to be living both at 4 Sussex and at another address on St. George Street, her tenants say that she moved out of 4 Sussex in August, has not slept there since and does not live there. They say she moved all of her possessions and furnishings out; she claims much of her stuff is still at the house. Her mailing and address and telephone are now the St. George Street residence. Another bylaw covers the kind of lighting there must be in stairwells; 4 Sussex is in violation. The doorbell at 4 Sussex does not work. The third floor tenants say they have no fire escape. We imagine a City housing inspector told to get tough might have a field

day at 4 Sussex.

But none of this solves the tenants' problem — having to move again soon. It is dog eat dog in the housing business, and the tenant is a toothless, clawless dog in the melee. At the bottom of the heap, the tenant gets stuck with the bill when a middleman like Rodman finds herself with financial commitments she finds burdensome. The flat renter or roomer, on 30 days or a week's notice, is always the last to know when the renovators or wreckers are coming. The moral of this story is for tenants — don't get in until you know what you're getting into; get assurances in writing or, maybe, get a lease; research your new home to see how much money is being passed around and how many hands it's passing through.

And maybe, sad as it is to say it, don't trust anyone. "I thought it was only 40-year-old businessmen who screwed kids," commented a student living at 4 Sussex. Rodman is 24, and her occupational association is with a community school.

LEAD CONTENT IN SOIL NEAR PLANT 80 TIMES ABOVE NORMAL CITY RATE

(continued from page 1)

the area around Canada Metals which is located at 721 Eastern Avenue, a block west of Leslie Street and one block south of Queen Street. But the July findings of high lead levels are very similar to the results of a study completed in the area in 1970 by Professor Harry Warren, a University of British Columbia geophysicist. A copy of Warren's findings was sent to the provincial government in 1970, but it is not known if any action was taken on it.

The July test also uncovered abnormally high levels of lead content in vegetation and soil in the Canada Metals area. At a site 100 yards north of the plant, grass had a lead level of 610 parts per million, shrubbery had 918 and soil, between ground level and a depth of two inches, had 8,150. These compare with normal city values of 20 to 100 for grass, 20 to 100 for shrubbery and 100 to 200 for soil dug to the two inch depth.

At a site 150 yards northwest of the plant the findings were less startling but still high. Grass was 210 parts per million, shrubbery was 370 and soil was 7,700. At 200 yards north of Canada Metals, Maple leaves in the Bruce school yard measured at 110 parts per million compared with a normal city value of 50 to 100.

A scientist familiar with both the Niagara Street situation and the July study told the Citizen that soil contamination is about equal in the two areas with the overall lead menace more dangerous around Toronto Refineries. But he stressed



photo: Jack Macleod

Canada Metal Company's East-end plant which is responsible for high lead dust levels in a neighboring school yard.

that the Eastern Avenue lead levels are far above acceptable limits.

Canada Metals is located in Ward Eight, an essentially working class area of Toronto. The blocks immediately north of Canada Metals are filled with hundreds of small, well-kept houses. Bruce School fronts on Larchmont Street and the school yard is behind the building on Berkshire Street, almost directly north of the plant's main chimney.

Mrs. Harold Harrington who lives

at 7 Berkshire, at the corner of Eastern Avenue, told the Citizen that the chimney belches dusty smoke for much of every afternoon. She also complained about the smell coming from the A. R. Clarke tannery located next to Canada Metals. She said her neighbors are always complaining about the dust and the smell.

Enclosed plant

Canada Metals is a large enclosed plant with a 152-foot chimney stack. It uses an oxidation process to

produce its ingots and lead sheets and also reclaims lead from the plates and poles of scrap batteries.

Al Orr, environmental engineer at Canada Metals, told the Citizen in a telephone interview that the plant has not received any complaints from the neighborhood. He stressed that the plant's yard was paved in July to keep dust from being blown up by the wind. Another anti-pollution device the company uses is a filtering bag-house which filters the exhaust from the plant's melting kettles.

He stressed that the plant has undertaken all corrective measures asked for by the Ontario Ministry of Environment.

Orr's candid approach to questioning by the Citizen was ruined by the fact that, when this reporter was talking to another Canada Metals official about the subject, Orr broke into the phone line and ordered the other man off the phone. "This is an important call and you are not supposed to tell this guy anything," he said. Orr then personally concluded the interview.

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Letters

DOUBLING A PRESCRIPTION

Dear Sir:

I am prompted to write this letter after reading Mr. Olson's fine article "Pills, Pocketbooks and Profits" Citizen, August 31).

When a patient visits a doctor, the doctor, in many cases, prescribes medications. He may order one or several medications. He writes these on a small slip of paper which is called, and has always been called, a "prescription". So we have one patient, one doctor, one prescription. That is how it used to be. Now druggists call each item on this slip a prescription. Thus if the doctor orders two medications the pharmacist under Parcost in Ontario can charge \$2.20 for each item — two drugs \$4.40; 3 drugs \$6.60 and so on.

Nowhere in the Parcost literature issued to the public is this explained — they just talk about \$2.20 cost to fill a prescription. I have not found one person that realizes that they are being charged \$2.20 for each item on the prescription. Most of them that I have talked to have been quite shocked when they found this out.

The place of the druggist in our midst is highly over-rated today. There was a time when he had to make up the prescription but now most drugs come in pill or capsule

form and liquids are already in containers.

The big scare that the pharmacist feeds the public is safety — that you might get a wrong medication if a druggist did not count your pills into a bottle. Are druggists incapable of mistakes? As far as the patient is concerned, once a dangerous drug is placed in his hands, how can the druggist control what the patient does with it?

I would like to see you make it clear to your readers that it is \$2.20 for each item on the prescription and not \$2.20 for the whole prescription.

I note that the Star and Globe and also the Sun ignore this point although I have pointed this out to them. I suspect they fear the consequences, if they tell the truth, both from the industry and government. I am sure they do not want the public to clearly understand this.

Of course, under Parcost, the druggist is supposed to sell your drugs at cost and his only profit is supposed to be the \$2.20 but is the public in a position to judge whether they are paying costs only? Obviously, it is wide open for the druggist.

Incidentally, there are still many druggists not under Parcost and there is really no control over those who are. It is a strictly voluntary

gimmick and such schemes, when they involve profit, are doomed from the start.

Faithfully yours,
Raymond P. Brown

Lemon on Weiss on Godfrey

Dear Sir:

I disagree with Gary Weiss's evaluation of Paul Godfrey. Rather than being "two different animals" as North York controller and Metro Chairman, he is very much the same person. I attended the August 9 meeting on the subway alignment with the chairman.

It is clear, first, that Godfrey wants the Spadina and Scarborough expressways. He stated explicitly to us that Toronto needs the two. Although on September 6 he declared an open mind while the Scarborough is reviewed, make no mistake: he is a car man.

Second, he doesn't understand citizen participation. Despite an air of friendliness, he failed to grasp the need for direct ongoing (if not regular) consultation between citizen groups and the designers of the subway route. He (and even Ying Hope) said in effect not to worry: You can rely on Ying and me to convey your views.

The Chairman is a nice fellow and hardly the personification of evil. (And I agree with Ron Haggert that he worked harder for the Metro Chairmanship than Reid Scott.) But he possesses a quality of uncertainty under a rather innocent facade that bears watching.

Jim Lemon
Chairman, CORRA

Apologies

Apologies to A. E. LePage. They're bigger than a typographical error in our City Real Estate article last issue indicated. Their 1973 projected revenue is \$20-million, not \$2-million.

**toronto
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Height restriction proposed to 'save' St. George Street

The Toronto Planning staff is studying the possibility of a 38-foot height limit for new buildings on St. George Street in order to save the street's remaining houses from being demolished and replaced by apartment buildings.

The study follows neighbourhood concern about two stately old homes that are about to be torn down by LAZ Building Ltd. and Silverstone (St. George Apts.) Ltd. which intends to build an 11-storey apartment on the site at the southwest corner of St. George and Bernard Avenue.

(Research by the Citizen into the fate of St. George Street has disclosed that LAZ-Silverstone recently bought another house at 212 St. George with the apparent intention of tearing it down and building an apartment building.)

The two neighboring houses at Bernard, numbers 246 and 250 St. George, are on lots having a R-4 zoning classification which permits construction of apartment buildings. But the houses have considerable architectural and historical value. Through a typographical error they were omitted from a recent listing of 500 buildings which the Toronto Historical Board and City Council said should be protected from demolition. But even if they had been on the list, their demolition would have been delayed for 60 days but not prevented. The Ontario Legislature earlier this year refused to give the City power to do anything more than delay granting demolition permits for up to 60 days.

The study by the planning staff was requested by the Building and

Development Committee which was concerned that many of the remaining houses on St. George Street have historical importance and that their presence prevents the street from becoming a canyon of high rise apartment buildings.

In recent years many of St. George Street's finer houses have been destroyed. Two elegant homes near Bernard Avenue were demolished within the past year and replaced by a cold looking six-story box building which will be used as a nursing home.

Streets running off of St. George and those in other parts of the Annex are protected under a 38-foot height restriction passed by City Council earlier this year to stabilize and protect the residential nature of the area's streetscape. But main streets, such as St. George and Spadina Road where some apartments and institution buildings are located, were not included under the protective legislation. The height restriction by-law is being appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board by some developers, and a final ruling on its legality is expected this fall.

Although unable to stop demolition of the two houses at Bernard — both demolition and building permits for the apartment building are in the process of being granted — some local residents, backed by the Annex Ratepayers' Association, concluded a deal with LAZ-Silverstone to prevent the destruction of two trees on the property.

LAZ-Silverstone agreed to save or replace the two trees if they are damaged during construction of the apartment. In return the company

received tacit resident support for an application to be made to the Committee of Adjustment last month to provide five fewer underground parking spaces than the 47 it should have made available under the building regulations.

Meanwhile, the house at 212 St. George was transferred to control of LAZ-Silverstone on July 31 for a price of \$300,000. It's a large house sandwiched between two apartments just north of Lowther Avenue. It was owned for several years by the Sudan Interior Mission and was used as a transient home for missionaries on leave between postings in Africa.

The financial dealings concerning the purchase involve high finance. Although bought by LAZ-Silverstone for \$300,000, the property was immediately mortgaged for a total of \$575,000. The law firm of Saul B. Kelner and James S. Leibel hold one mortgage for \$500,000 at an interest rate of 12 per cent. Another \$75,000 mortgage is held by Kelner.

LAZ Building Ltd. and Silverstone (St. George Apts.) Ltd. are listed as equal 50 percent owners of the company which has bought the two houses at Bernard and the one at 212 St. George. The president of LAZ Building is listed as Dusan Lazarevich. Silverstone is owned by Ben Freedman and Sam Lazaroff.

The Silverstone company is believed to own one or more apartment buildings on St. George. LAZ Buildings owns a house on Huron Street which it has converted into bachelor apartments.

Lazarevich told the Citizen it was

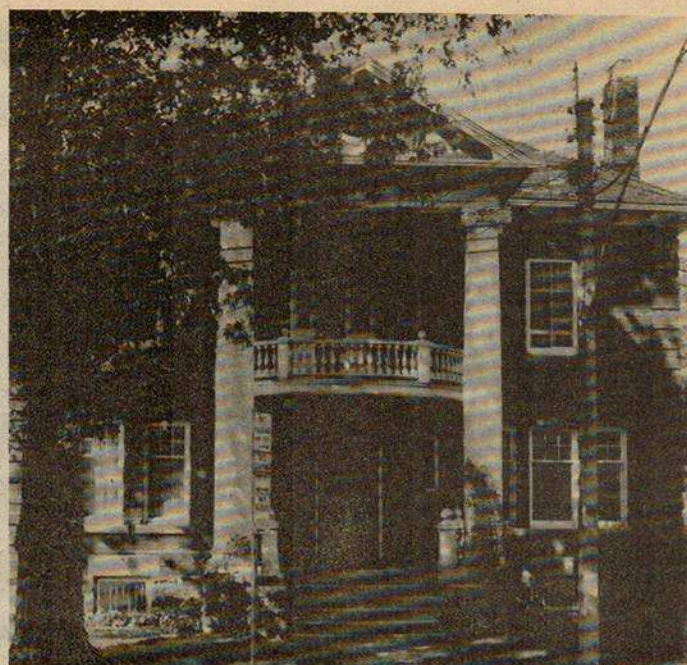


photo: David Grosskind

250 St. George Street is scheduled for wrecking to make way for a high rise. Neighborhood resident managed to negotiate with the developer to save the tree in left foreground.

not yet decided what would be done with 212 St. George Street. He suggested that it might be renovated and turned into bachelor apartments. But the house sits on two lots which are large enough for an apartment building, and the \$300,000 purchasing price and the size of the mortgage suggests that in order to get its money back, LAZ-Silverstone will eventually have to demolish the house and build an apartment.

Ward Five Alderman Ying Hope, who helped in the negotiations with LAZ-Silverstone to save the trees on

the St. George-Bernard lots, was surprised when told by the Citizen that the same company had just bought 212 St. George. He said that the information made it even more urgent for St. George Street to be protected by the 38-foot height restriction.

He also said that his research staff would immediately do a title search of all buildings on St. George, from Bloor Street to Bernard, so that the community would know the extent of the holdings of any developers it deals with in the future.

TORONTO SHORTS

Windlass proceeds

The Windlass plans proceeded this week to City Council for approval, and on October 22 it will go before the Ontario Municipal Board. After negotiating since last spring, both sides — the developer, Windlass Holdings Limited, and the community negotiators from the Grange Park Residents' Association and the Chinese Community Association — are mustering whatever weapons they have if something misfires. The Community groups have been assured of legal aid, if lawyers are required to fight the development before the Ontario Municipal Board. Windlass has alternate plans which require no by-law changes. The new design includes townhouses and buildings up to 12 storeys, as compared to the former scheme of three 29-storey buildings. There is also provision for 20 percent low rent units under the OHC rent-supplement program, although the community wanted the maximum of 25 percent possible under OHC provisions. The physical structure is more attractive, but as one resident observed, there was no discussion of money and profits in the negotiations, certainly the area where the community most needs information and control.

Campus co-op licensed

The Campus Community Co-op, a daycare centre on 12 Sussex Avenue, has finally been granted a license by the Toronto Day Nurseries office and will be eligible for municipal subsidies. Last March, the centre was denied a license for a number of reasons, but mainly because no staff members had the official credentials, although all had experience and were approved by the parents (Citizen, April 6). According to Julie Mathien, a spokesman for the Co-op, one volunteer had the appropriate certification and was taken on staff. Now the Co-op will get from Metro up to five dollars a day for each child providing parents pass a means test.

The Co-op, which is parent-run and controlled, has been plagued with difficulties for years. The branch of the Co-op for children over two years of age has claimed squatters' rights in what was a vacant university building on Devonshire Place for about a year and a half. The University of Toronto has agreed to provide space in a house beside the under-two centre, but the Co-op is still waiting for renovations to be made. About 60 percent of the children's parents are connected with the university, and about 40 percent come from the neighboring community.

Queen's Park run-around

Another development which has gone through the working committee process is a Y&R development on

the northwest corner of Yonge and Lawrence. Although the 35-foot height limitation bylaws have not been approved, this development is in an area which would be affected.

Several years ago, according to Jack Marshall of the Bedford Park Resident's Association, who has been negotiating with Y&R, the original scheme called for extensive commercial rezoning, the destruction of single family dwellings, new row housing and a height of about 20 storeys. There were various meetings with ratepayer groups after the first proposal, but Marshall says the plans were essentially the same. Y&R vice president, W. Murchison, says the company had decided on a low rise building last year, but discussion about the plans began in earnest after the height by-laws were proposed. A working committee was set up, the residents defined 22 points which they wished to discuss and hammered out compromises. The final plan, which will be presented at a public meeting, September 19 at Bedford Park School, calls for a five and six storey commercial and office building.

Although Y&R has reached agreement with the ratepayer associations, according to Murchison, if the height by-laws come into effect, the company would probably not buy the property because it is difficult to measure the risk involved. "We don't know what's going to be permitted or asked of us," and as a result it would be difficult to evaluate the property, he said. Y&R will oppose the heights by-laws at the Ontario Municipal Board.

McCarthy and McCarthy

No matter on what side of the development fence you sit, you can find a lawyer at McCarthy & McCarthy, a big law firm at the Toronto-Dominion Centre. There's Dennis Wood, fondly known as the "people's lawyer", who represents CORRA, St. James Tenants Community Action Project and others in the fight against the West St. Jamestown scheme at the Ontario Municipal Board. Or down the hall there's the more expensive J. J. Robinette, who for a large sum represented the City before the OMB in its fight against the Spadina Expressway. Or if you've really got what it takes, you might try George Finlayson, Gerhard Moog's lawyer, who's performing daily at the Queen's Park hydro hearings.

Summer limbo

West St. Jamestown has been in a summer limbo, according to lawyer Dennis Wood, who appeared before the OMB this spring. The Ontario Cabinet was petitioned last June, but when the Cabinet decision will be made is anyone's guess.

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TORONTO CITIZEN, Sept. 14-27—Page 3

RESIDENTS CHARGE PLANNING BOARD SLIGHTS LOCAL PARTICIPATION

by Gary Weiss

Toronto's "reform" Planning Board is reform in name only. That is what 60 angry Ward Three residents told surprised City Planning Board members at their regular meeting last week.

Led by the ward's senior alderman, Michael Goldrick, spokesmen from five community groups roasted the Board for nearly an hour for its failure to live up to promises of "full community participation" in several local planning decisions.

"The substance of transfer from a well-meaning elite hasn't taken place. People are impatient," said Goldrick.

The decisions under fire concerned the location of two neighborhood planning offices to be set up under the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) and the appointment of a community planner for the Dufferin - Davenport NIP site office. Most of the heat was generated over the second issue.

The immediate cause of the furor was a planning staff report which recommended the selection for the planning position of a candidate who was not approved by the neighborhood groups. According to spokesmen for the Dufferin - Davenport Resident's Association, which had been discussing with senior planning staff the qualifications of the four applicants suggested by the staff for the job, there was an "arrangement" by which the local groups' recommendation on hiring would be followed. The association said a tape recording had been made of the arrangement but had subsequently been found to be "bad". In addition,



Alderman Mike Goldrick

a brief presented by the association pointed to a City Council statement which said that "selection of staff (should) be carried out with the full participation of the community."

Interpretation disputed

The association's interpretation of "full participation" was promptly disputed by Robert Hewison, a planning staff member who had been present at the meetings in question. Hewison said that the staff recommendation on hiring accorded with staff selection policies adopted by the Board on June 12. Staff actions were also angrily defended by the City's Chief Planner, Dennis Barker, who was apparently astounded at this rough return to work following his summer vacation.

Caught between the desire to placate the community and the responsibility of backing its own staff, most Board members chose

the defensive course.

"Full participation is open to a number of interpretations," observed one member. And, referring to the alleged "arrangement", Board Chairman Juanne Hemsol repeatedly asked, "Where is it written?"

Ward Five alderman Colin Vaughan, the mayor's representative on the Board, brushed off the attacks at first. But later, warming up in a long speech on the issue, he condemned the Board for "unevenness", urged the official "chastisement" of the planning staff and branded Hewison "totally wrong" and his actions "totally vacuous".

Vaughan's outburst was greeted with sarcastic compliments for his oratory; and Planning Board member Reverend Derwyn Shea disassociated himself from the alderman's "chastisement" comment.

Although, in the closes session, the Board was divided, in the open meeting they voted 4-3 for turning down all applicants for the job and instead re-advertising the position. Selection of the applicant in the future, the Board directed, would require a unanimous decision of the City planning staff-community selection group. The Board also withdrew from consideration by the Executive Committee of City Council an office site selection opposed by the community groups; and the Board ordered that the staff and location of a Part II study office for the St. Clair - Dufferin area be selected with the participation of community groups and local adlermen.

Disregarded work

The Board's decision was criticised by community residents for having disregarded all their previous work. Some planners also said that the decision was bad and that their erring colleagues should have been reprimanded. The meaning of "full participation" is obvious, they said.

Goldrick and some resident group spokesmen conceded, however, that specific guidelines for planning staff would be helpful, though they really wouldn't be necessary if staff members were all truly sympathetic to community planning concepts.

Because no specific guidelines exist, there is a good possibility of further confusion over the meaning of "full participation" as it applies to community involvement in planning decisions, admitted a Planning Board member in an interview following the meeting. To avoid future conflicts, the Board member says it will have to refine its policies and come up with a fixed procedure; and to satisfy community preferences there may have to be more use of "contract basis" consultants who may suit the community but not the long-range needs of the permanent planning staff.

Like City Council, the Planning Board is widely considered "reform" minded, sympathetic to citizen participation. But as a somewhat startled Board found out last week, a media reputation is no protection from angry residents who feel they're not being dealt with fairly.

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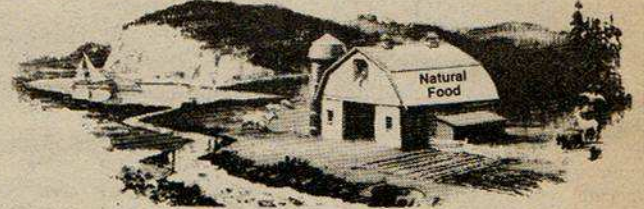
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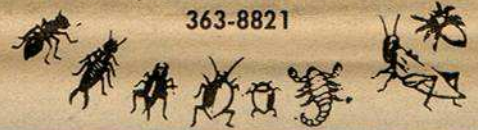
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Survival in the supermarket jungle

by Rodney Olson

There is an old military tactic based on confusion. The theory goes that if you can confuse your enemy enough he will be thrown off-balance, making his doom inevitable. Confusion now seems to be one of the main ingredients of Canada's shopping scene, especially as it pertains to the rapidly rising cost of food.

The public is bombarded daily from all sides as to what's causing the increases and what really determines which way the food industry turns. Supermarket chains blame the producers and processors, the federal government hesitates to frame a comprehensive policy to check food prices, the provincial government automatically blames the Trudeau administration, the farmers say they aren't making anything extra because of the higher prices, supermarkets say they won't raise prices on goods already in their stores but everyone knows that they do, and so on. Only the position of the consumers remain constant — they keep paying higher and higher prices.

Some of the confusion was lifted recently when Stephen Lewis, leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, disclosed the percentage of profit of 15 leading supermarket chains and dairy and meat producers. As Lewis summed it up, the overall situation is "clearly a greedy rip-off". In spite of claims that they make less than two cents profit on each dollar of sales, Lewis pointed out that in terms of real profit — the return on their investment — the large supermarket chains have been making about ten per cent profit during recent months.

It is clear that, even during the public outcry against rising costs, the food industry giants are making more money on their investment than General Motors and other industrial corporations normally associated with high profits and blue chip stocks. Lewis' figures (see page 6) show that, while corporate profits in the first half of 1973 generally

were up 34 per cent over last year, the food processing companies experienced an increase of 56 per cent during the same period. He also noted that the increasing monopolistic nature of the industry should not be overlooked. The five major food chains operate only 24 percent of the outlets but account for 85 percent of the total sales.

Consumers cringe

Reading Lewis' findings will probably make most consumers cringe. Although everybody knew that prices were too high, the confusion about who was making most of the money remained. The figures show where — and to what extent — everybody's food money is going. An increasing portion of most people's income is now going for food and shelter, and for all but the very rich, there is a need to know how best to play the supermarket game.

One shopping alternative may be to turn to surplus stores like Usher's whose operation is described on this page by Marilyn Linton, the Citizen's food expert. Another possibility is to shop in the few small co-op stores, like Karma Co-op at 344 Dupont Street (see Citizen, November 16, 1972). But for most people, shopping at a nearby supermarket is most convenient and an established part of their life pattern. Here are some key ways that supermarket shopping can be made less costly for the consumer.

1. Get serious about food shopping. In the course of a lifetime, all families spend more on food than they do on most other items. But because food is bought in small amounts many people do not shop properly, they just buy and buy. Do not shop when you are hungry because everything in the supermarket looks attractive. Try to make a list before going into a supermarket and try to stick by it. Supermarket advertizing and store layout is designed to get the impulse shopper. If possible, leave the kids at home because they demand unnecessary cakes, candies and other goodies; even parents who resolutely say no to the first few demands tend to give in before



photos: Phil Lapidés

Shopping in supermarkets these days can be a confusing thing with prices rising so quickly. Finding bargains is particularly important for older people on fixed incomes.

reaching the checkout counter. Avoid buying things you don't need, and be wary about being trapped into trying new products advertized on television.

2. Make some time for shopping. Time is money when it comes to shopping. If you can afford the time, check the newspapers and shop in the supermarket that is selling the things you want at the cheapest prices. Take time in the supermarket to check the price between the different sized packages of the same products. Take time to carefully pick your produce. Even at good prices, rotting fruits and vegetables are not worth it.

3. Shop around and buy the specials. Don't stay with one supermarket chain out of allegiance or family tradition. There are shifts in pricing policies and services. Look around from time to time to see if another chain may now offer more than your regular store. Look for the specials. Every store runs loss leaders to get you in, and you can

turn the tables on them by restricting your buying to these items. If you have the cash, stock up on specials. It hurts two weeks later when you have to pay between five and ten cents more for the same items.

4. Watch convenience foods. Every time some food processor helps you prepare your meal, you pay for it. Not only the legitimate labour costs in processing the food but also the fancy packaging, the advertizing and the company's profit. Avoiding convenience food is a sure money saver and usually makes for a better meal.

5. Buy house labels. Every major supermarket chain has its own house labels. What most shoppers don't know is that they are usually produced by the companies that make the national brands which are much more expensive. At times there is no variation in quality or taste; only the wrapper is changed to protect the food processor's profit and supposedly highly respected

name. Some house brands do taste different, but it's worth investing in them from time to time to see if you like them. The potential savings are well worth it. The difference at a midtown store between the national and house labels on ten items was recently computed by a Citizen shopper at 18 per cent.

6. Be wary. Supermarkets aren't lovable homes away from home where even more than the price is right. Usually the price isn't right and the store is set up like a booby-trapped jungle. Psychologists tell the supermarkets how to arrange their products to appeal to customers and there are sneaky arrangements between food suppliers and the supermarkets aimed at liberating more money from the customer. Don't be fooled by the packaging, the lighting and everything else. If the business was morally sound, would all the spoiled tomatoes always be at the bottom of the specially-priced boxes? Be on guard at all times.

USHER'S PLACE

Alternative to the ripoff

by Marilyn Linton

Shopping at Usher's is different and not everybody's cup of tea. People shove their way down the narrow aisles, there are long line-ups, some of the canned goods are slightly damaged and others are obviously old. The decor, although not the offensive "plastic" style of the musak supermarkets, is not all that inviting. In short you don't go to Usher's to have a good time, you go there to save money.

One of Dave Usher's basic assumptions is that people who are concerned with cost and value will overcome the advertising conditioning they have been subjected to and will buy the hundreds of non-brand name items carried in his two outlets, a large store at 1266 Queen Street West and a smaller version at 169 Queen Street East.

King B products are an example. A regular sized tin of soup is 10c, pork and beans are also 10c. But most shoppers have never heard of King B products or the other brands that Usher's sells from places in Quebec until they enter his stores. Instead people rely on national brand names, and food companies use the idea of reliability to cement their product into the hearts and psyche of their consumer. Usher believes that to think differently is a process of self-education. The taste difference is minimal and is not important to people who want to save money. "We got in a load of

tomato juice, which was under regulation for its salt content. I didn't know the difference but the dietician at the food company did." He sold the large tins for 20c, and anyone who noticed a difference added his own salt.

Usher says that the general public is largely unaware of the number of checks and controls involved in the canning industry. "Canada has a rigid code about canning and bottling. You just cannot sell a bunch of junk in cans." Damaged tins scare some people because of the reports that botulism may sometimes be evident in mis-shapen tinned goods. Usher denies this. Damaged shipments are inspected through insurance claims before they are cleared to his store. Botulism is not represented by a dent in a can, but rather a bulging disfiguration. In any case, damaged tins are less than 10 per cent of the stock at Usher's.

Exactly what kinds of things does Usher get his hands on? Label changeovers, for one. When a company decides to redesign a tin label, those with old labels are removed from the market through clearinghouses such as Usher's. end of the line products are also absorbed, and Usher keeps a nose out for bankruptcy sales and fires, buying up goods at low prices after they have gone through inspection. There may be new products which can't get into the regular market, such as a new type of baby diaper.

Some companies overproduce and can't sell enough through regular channels.

Day old bread is picked up from the major bakeries. Most of the time, these are bread and baked products resulting from over-production rather than shelf goods which have not been sold. Consequently, the day old bread is still fresh but is sold at half price. Usher has also set up exclusive importing rights with several manufacturers in the United States and Europe. Paper products are an example, as are sardines from Spain. He sells some of the volume to other stores as well. Usher says his outlets provide enough variety that most customers can do about 80 percent of their shopping there. Occasionally he runs out of some items, and there are some things that he doesn't carry.

Usher believes in making a profit without raking the hell out of the public. He grew up at Queen and George Streets where his father had a grocery store selling goods at reduced prices. When he started the food clearing warehouse, he wanted to keep in mind welfare recipients, penny-conscious pensioners and a carriage trade concerned about cost. Sometimes, people come to slum. They look at a strange label on a tin, and say, "I wouldn't buy that." They probably don't return, but they aren't encouraged to.

(continued, page 6)

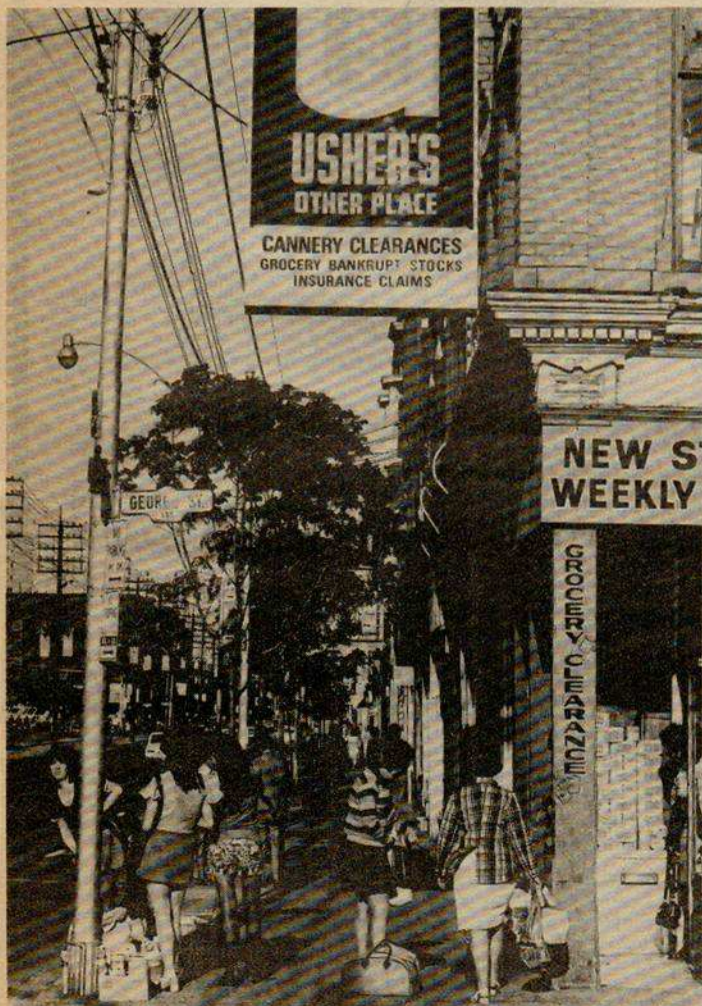


photo: Phil Lapidés

Usher's two outlets offer a reasonable alternative to the supermarkets. But shoppers have to forget about national brand goods if they want to save money.



Surplus goods or obscure brand names mean much lower prices at Usher's.



photos: Phil Lapides

There's no piped in music and little elbow room in Usher's crowded stores.

Savings on 'no-name' goods

(continued from page 5)

Usher says his profit margin and the price he charges depend on how successful he is in his own shopping. Customers seem to accept that a jar of peanut butter might be 29c one day but 39c three months later — or the reverse. It depends on the shipment that Usher was able to get his hands on. Either way, both prices are lower than the 49c "all time lowest price offered" elsewhere in the city.

Although Usher feels there is a need for more food clearing warehouses in Toronto, he says that there is just not enough merchandise around to stock them. He is working to capacity with his two stores and says he is not interested in setting the world on fire. He might consider one more Usher's in places like Hamilton or Scarborough, which might reduce some of the pressure from the two city stores. "I'm sure we lose a lot of customers because of the waiting, the crowds." The store at 1266 Queen West is open only Friday and Saturday. The rest of the week is spent in clean-up and restocking. Prime time labour expense is kept to a minimum.

Some recent prices at Usher's were: Pop 3 for 29c; fruit juice 48 oz. 25c; frozen french fries 2 lbs for 39c; E. D. Smith tomato ketchup 20 oz for 41c; Burns cooked ham 6 oz. pack for 39c; Dutch bleach 96 oz. for 49c; Soy cooking oil 16 fl. oz for 53c.

In addition to shopping at places like Usher's, there are small ways of cutting corners. Mixing homo milk with powdered milk in equal parts retains the flavour of whole milk while cutting the cost in half. Cheaper cuts of meat may take more preparation time but are worth it. A private butcher shop sells chicken livers for 89c lb., and braising ribs at 98c lb. This, in addition to stewing beef or veal, is a saving as compared to the more expensive cuts of meat — lamb at \$3.29 lb. and sirloin steak at \$4.59 lb. Meatless dinners where eggs or cheese is substituted is another obvious moneysaver.

People who are determined to buy Grade A meat could look into some companies offering savings for those buying in quantity. The Meat Man, a division of F. G. Bradley, at 946 The Queensway is a cash and carry pick up outlet. Some of the recent prices include loin of lamb chops, well trimmed, and boxed at \$10.60 for 20 4 oz chops. (\$2.30 lb) and round steak minced in 5 lb. packs at \$5.95 per 5 lbs. (\$1.19 lb (compare with \$1.79 of some private butchers). The point to remember in going to Bradleys is to check their prices over the phone (255-3418) before committing yourself, so that you are assured of a saving before driving out there.

Since the Meat Man sells only in quantity, you had better have a large freezer or some friends who are willing to break up the load. Lamb at the Meat Man is particularly good quality and is cheaper than most shops in Toronto. A similar quantity selling arrangement exists at Simon de Groot on Church Street south of Wellesly. A highly regarded butcher shop, de Groot's sells a side of beef cut up into steaks, roasts, stewing meat, and hamburger for an overall price of \$1.15 a pound. But as a side of beef often runs 300 pounds, a lot of cash, a freezer, and group buyers would be needed.

There are other places where bulk

buying brings savings. Balaban's Produce has eggs at 95c per dozen for extra large, compared with \$1.04 of other places. If you buy a 15 dozen box of eggs, the price for extra large comes down to 88c a dozen. They are at 951 Ossington. Staub's Eggs at 66 Antler Avenue are 86c a dozen for a 15 dozen box. On Highway 48, north of the 401 you can save on fresh vegetables by picking your own. Skrow's Produce at Front Street and Portland sells mushrooms at \$3.75 per 5 lb. basket, a case of 18 lettuce for \$4.00, a 50 lb. bag of carrots for \$3.25, and a 50 lb. bag of onions for \$3.75. Again, group buying is indicated, because the goods are perishable.

At 66 Alcorn, Hunt's Bakery has a day old outlet which stocks baked goods which have either been overproduced or returned from their own outlets. The prices are 20 per cent off fresh goods, and one-third off day old merchandise.

Frank D'Elio has a small shop where he sells only horsemeat. It is at 1A Harvie Avenue, off of St. Clair West, near Lansdowne. Italians and Portuguese use horsemeat like beef or veal, and D'Elio says that the tastes are very similar. Ground horsemeat is 69c lb., while steaks are \$1.19 lb.



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Food industry profits rise ahead of prices

Stephen Lewis, the leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, issued a press release August 30 showing the extraordinary profits being made by large companies in the food industry. They show that while prices have been rising so have company profits. All figures used in Lewis' report come from the companies' financial statements.

BECKER MILK CO

The latest figures for 1972 show sales up over 20 percent, and net income up to \$1,611,000 compared to only \$988,000 the previous year — an increase of 63 percent. The rate of return on equity, after taxes, was 20.4 percent.

CANADA PACKERS

The year ending March 31, 1973, showed a jump in net income over the identical period a year earlier of over four million dollars. It represented an increase of 40 percent. The rate of return for the most recent year was 10.95 percent.

DOMINION STORES

Again, a food chain doing over \$1-billion in annual sales, its net income for the year ending March 17, 1973, was in excess of \$10-million. This represented a return on equity of 10.9 percent. Rather more spectacular, however, is the 13 week period ending June 16, 1973 which, compared to the same period last year, saw net income rise from \$1,480,000 to \$2,847,000 — a jump of 92.4 percent. (Sales increased by only 13 percent.)

DOMINION DAIRIES

For the year 1972, this company managed a 14.5 percent return on investment. For the six month period ending June 30, 1973, net income went up by 59 percent (though sales only went up 12.7 percent).

GENERAL FOODS LIMITED

This company must have felt chagrined to find that its net income only climbed from \$9,235,000 for the year ending March 31, 1972, to \$10,300,000 a year later — a 11.5 percent increase. On the other hand, the rate of return was 14.2 percent.

QUAKER OATS LIMITED

The latest 1972 figures show a modest gain in net income of 7.3 percent over the previous year with a 12.6 percent return on equity.

SCHNEIDER'S LIMITED

For the fiscal year ending Oct. 28, 1972, net earnings rose from \$1,586,000 to \$2,007,000 — an increase of 26.5 percent. The rate of return on investment was 10 percent.

SILVERWOOD INDUSTRIES (MAC'S MILK)

After an overall loss in 1972, with a return on investment of only 5.4 percent, Silverwoods, for the twelve weeks ending March 23, 1973, experienced a jump in net profits of 775 percent over the same period one year earlier. In the rise from \$32,000 to \$280,000, this company recouped, in one quarter, the entire 1972 loss.

STEINBERGS LIMITED

(MIRACLE FOOD MART)

The latest figures for 1972 show a rise in profitability of 58.3 percent — from \$9,459,000 to \$14,972,000. The rate of return for that period was 12.8 percent. The net income of Steinbergs jumped another 10 percent in the first three months of this year.

GEORGE WESTON CO. LTD.

Another huge chain doing over a billion dollars of sales per year. Net income rose in 1972 over 1971, from \$15,113,000 to \$18,577,000 — some 22.9 percent. The return on investment was nearly 10 percent. For the six month period ending as recently as August 3, 1973, profit was up 63 percent over 1972 (though sales were up only 17 percent).

Drache: the important issue is seniority

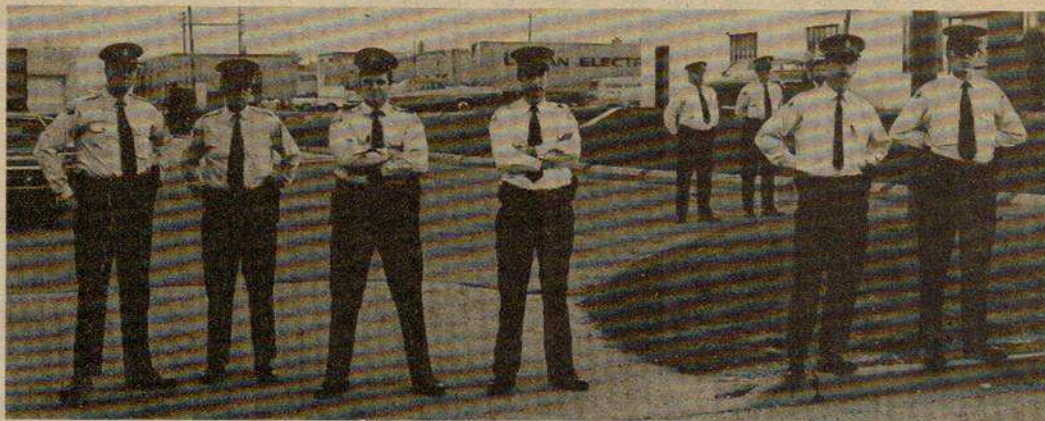
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migrant workers to organize collectively to fight for their democratic rights."

Fighting for 20 years
The CTCU, a small union affiliated with the Confederation (formerly Council) of Canadian Unions (CCU), has been fighting for 20 years in small plants in Ontario. Since it won the Texpack strike in Brantford two years ago, the union has, with the help of volunteers, expanded its organizing drives, most recently succeeding at Puretex Knitting Mills in Toronto.

The struggle is an important example of the need for unionization of the unorganized two-thirds of Canada's working people, many of whom work long hours with low pay and with working conditions and

even their jobs completely out of their control. Before the CTCU organized Artistic Woodwork earlier this year, the employees worked a 42½ hour week, plus an average of four hours overtime, at wages from \$2.00 to \$2.95 an hour. According to assembler Ricardo Pena, who works at the company's main plant on Densley Avenue, between Eglinton and Lawrence off Keele, the company occasionally demands five hours on Saturdays. Not surprisingly, compulsory overtime is also a bargaining item.

Strike organizer and negotiator Danny Drache says the company attempted to use the 65 cent wage boost over two years — instead of its original offer of 35 cents over three years — as a bribe to induce the union to accept other clauses which



Strike supporters have charged the police with aiding and abetting strikebreaking.

he describes as "totally arbitrary" and, in some cases, "vicious and punitive". "They want to have the hand on the whip," he said.

The most important issue in the strike, as it is in many conflicts between newly established unions and management, is seniority — the right of workers who have worked longest with the company to be the last fired, first rehired and first promoted. The union's position is that the seniority principle prevents discrimination against workers on the basis of age and race, while the company insists that its rights to run the operation must be unimpeded.

Artistic's chief negotiator, assistant manager S. J. van Zyl told the Citizen that the company is willing to accept seniority on a plant-wide basis for promotions and recall from layoffs, and on a division-wide basis for layoffs. However, he quickly qualified this acceptance, adding that while seniority would be first priority, "some determination of skills and performance" would also be considered by the company's decision makers.

Low priority

In fact, van Zyl indicated seniority would be low on the list of priorities, stating, "Wherever there are equal qualifications, seniority would prevail." The union's opinion, as expressed in a leaflet, of the company stance is that, "When, in the company's judgment, there is any difference (in quality) between two workers, all seniority rights of a senior worker would be negated completely."

A pervasive management rights clause which Drache says was used as an ultimatum in close to three months of bargaining — the company would not sign a contract — appears to leave everything but the application of rules solely up to the company.

Although van Zyl says the company's lawyers, Mathews, Dinsdale and Clarke, advise that rules may be challenged through the grievance procedure, the clause states "that it is the exclusive function of the company to . . . make, enforce and alter, from time to time, rules and regulations to be observed by the employees." A disciplined or discharged employee may only grieve if he claims "that he has been discharged or disciplined without cause", according to the management's proposal.

The CTCU charges that the company can discharge any worker for violation of a plant rule, no matter how frivolous. Even if a rule could be grieved, which would depend on an improbable legal interpretation of the clause, this could only be done after a worker had been punished for violating it. Drache considers "all management's rights clauses to be "odious", but he says the union will accept one providing that it is neither "punitive nor restrictive".

Artistic Woodwork is attacking the union on two fronts — at the bargaining table and on the picket line, by continuing to run the plant. Van Zyl told the Citizen that production was moving so well that the company does not want to hire any more workers at the present time. He claimed over 60 per cent of

the firm's normal complement of 117 worker employees is working, plus nine foremen and some managerial staff, with an output that is 70 per cent of normal. "We're improving every day," he says; there's "no difficulty" maintaining production. Asked if the company still intends to sign a contract, he replied that circumstances had changed since the beginning of the strike, and "we're giving a fair amount of thought to the total situation."

Almost nil

Production of finished products is running at almost nil, the CTCU counters, because all the finishers, necessary for both moulding and finishing frames, have gone out. About one-third of the workers, the same third who opposed the union's certification, are scabbing on their fellow workers. CTCU secretary-treasurer Parent, who along with a worker was knocked down by a company car August 22, says that production is necessarily so restricted that the only reason for operating the company is psychological, to attempt to discourage striking workers.

At the bargaining table, Artistic Woodwork has refused to accept the checkoff, or automatic deduction of union dues from pay cheques, which is accepted by nearly every organized company. In a "democratic country . . . workers should have the right not to belong to a union," van Zyl insisted, even if all

workers benefit from collective bargaining. In fact, the union is not demanding that all workers be forced to join it, only that they pay dues because they benefit, a long-accepted compromise with anti-union companies.

Meanwhile, every weekday 50 to 75 pickets take on the company and police.

Support has come from many quarters, and Parent is expecting more. In addition to Aldermen John Sewell and Dorothy Thomas and supporters unidentified with organizations, members of the Italian-Canadian Association and the Waffle, including James Laxer, have marched on the picket line. Panhellenic Liberation Movement leader Andreas Papandreou, son of a former Greek premier, denounced Artistic Woodwork in a speech to picketers September 4.

"I feel deep disappointment . . . that in this particular establishment workers are earning wages that are a shame," Papandreou said.

"But far more important is that you are being denied the right to organize."

Although strike pay is \$25 per week or less, the CTCU is prepared for a long strike. It is asking for support on the picket line at 23 and 25 Densley Avenue, near Keele and Lawrence, particularly between 6:45 and 7:45 a.m., when scabs are herded in. For more information, call the CTCU's Toronto office at 537-6765.

The strike breaker's best pal has been the Metro Police

Metro Toronto police are helping Artistic Woodwork attempt to break the strike by escorting non-union workers across picket lines and harrasing union picketers. Police have arrested at least 17 unionists at the plant on charges of trespassing, public mischief, intimidation, obstruction and assaulting police.

Two of those arrested were Judy Steed and Walt Humphries. Steed, charged with assaulting a policeman, has laid a counter-charge against a policeman, alleging that she was kicked by him. Humphries, charged with obstruction and trespassing, told the Citizen that police questioning him at the station-house insisted he was being paid by the union for his strike support. When Humphries asked what his legal rights were, he was told he had none.

City Aldermen John Sewell and Dorothy Thomas, who marched on the picket line September 4, denounced the police role in the strike. Sewell said that the police were helping break the strike and were frustrating the law which gives workers the right to organize, strike and picket.

After Sewell, Thomas,

Alderman Dan Heap and union representatives addressed the City Executive Committee September 5, the committee passed a resolution asking for information about police activity at the strike scene, another calling for a meeting between unionists, politicians and a Police Commission representative, and a third resolution condemning in general terms police activity which provokes violence or prevents strikers from communicating with people who want to cross the picket line.

At the committee meeting, Thomas said that police could never get away with the kind of tactics they have been employing at Artistic if a major union were involved. Police at United Auto Workers' picket lines would be much more diplomatic in their actions, she said. Sewell pointed out that, when railroad unionists broke into the federal parliament buildings, none were arrested or shoved around. But at Artistic, where the strikers were behaving very reasonably, Sewell said, the police were harassing the workers. He and Heap said this was because the union involved was small, the number of workers was tiny and the people involved were immigrants.

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Are two sides at City Hall

12-11 split on Council according to the voting record since January

Gardiner; the O's indicate those who supported environmental lawyer David Estrin. The vote was March 18.

3. **Planning Board appointment.** This was the vote January 31 for the last member of the Toronto City Planning Board to be elected by Council. The X's supported Lloyd Poulton, staunch citizen defender of developers; the O's supported Richard Gilbert, a citizen group representative.

4. **Executive Committee appointment.** This vote, at a Council caucus December 19, 1972, was a choice between Art Eggleton, supported by the X's, and Archie Chisholm, supported by the O's.

5. **Display centre.** The vote, April 12, was about whether Council would set up a committee to advise the Development Department on the programs which would be shown in the City Hall display centre.

6. **Development Department.** This vote, April 13, was about whether Sewell's motion to re-organize the Development Department should be considered further.

7. **Mayor's conference.** This vote was about whether or not Mayor Crombie should be allowed to finance a conference of Canadian mayors, which he had personally arranged without Council's advice and consent, from the City general budget.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

1. **Soccer stadium turf.** The vote, April 27, was about a proposal to spend an uncertain amount of money to put artificial turf into Stanley Park. The minority wanted answers to various basic questions before expenditures were made. The proposal later fell through because of the federal government's reluctance to proceed in such a hurry.

2. **Canadian National Exhibition.** This vote, April 12, was about whether or not Council should ask Metro to turn the C.N.E. back over to the City.

3. **Garbage pick-up.** This vote,

March 14, was about whether garbage pick-ups throughout the City should be made at the curb instead of at the side of the house, as they had been in Rosedale and some other neighborhoods.

4. **Speed bumps.** This vote, February 2, was about whether or not the City should apply to the province for legislation which would permit the installation of speed bumps or should postpone applying for another year pending further study. Immediate application won, and the province subsequently granted Council's request.

5. **Spadina transit alignment.** This vote is an amalgam of votes March 5 and June 9 to appeal the Spadina subway alignment decision to the Ontario Municipal Board and to the provincial cabinet.

6. **Queen Street widening.** This vote, June 21, was about a proposal to widen Queen Street on the north side from City Hall to University Avenue at a cost of \$600,000.

Incomplete but useful

John Sewell's City Council voting record is a document which should be handled with care and used cautiously. The voting record does indicate how Council's 23 members have been voting on various issues at Council over a several-month period. Insofar as it indicates general trends at Council, the habits of particular aldermen and the kinds of alignments that have occurred on various issues, it is a very useful document. However, there are some very important things it does not tell readers, and so while it gives an accurate picture of one aspect of Council, it is not anything like a complete look at Council or particular aldermen. Among the things which the voting record does not communicate are these:

1) **Member's initiatives and leadership efforts.** The chart does not indicate which aldermen are really raising issues at City Hall and which are simply voting with their bloc when final ballots are taken. Alderman Elizabeth Eayrs, for example, took a leading role in the debates about Gothic-Quebec — an issue centred in her ward — and the Metro Centre tower. The voting record does not show that she was instrumental in raising these issues and articulating her bloc's position on them. On the issue of the Mayor's conference, Alderman Mike Goldrick took a strong leadership role during Council's debate. Alderman John Sewell and Mayor Crombie often tend to be in the thick of the fray and sway other votes. The voting record does not say what Council members are taking initiatives or in what area they are



One story which the voting chart does not tell is whether councillors are taking initiatives in Council or just raising their hands when the yeas and nays are counted. Alderman Elizabeth Eayrs, for example, took a leadership role during the Metro Centre tower debate — something which the chart doesn't indicate.

taking them.

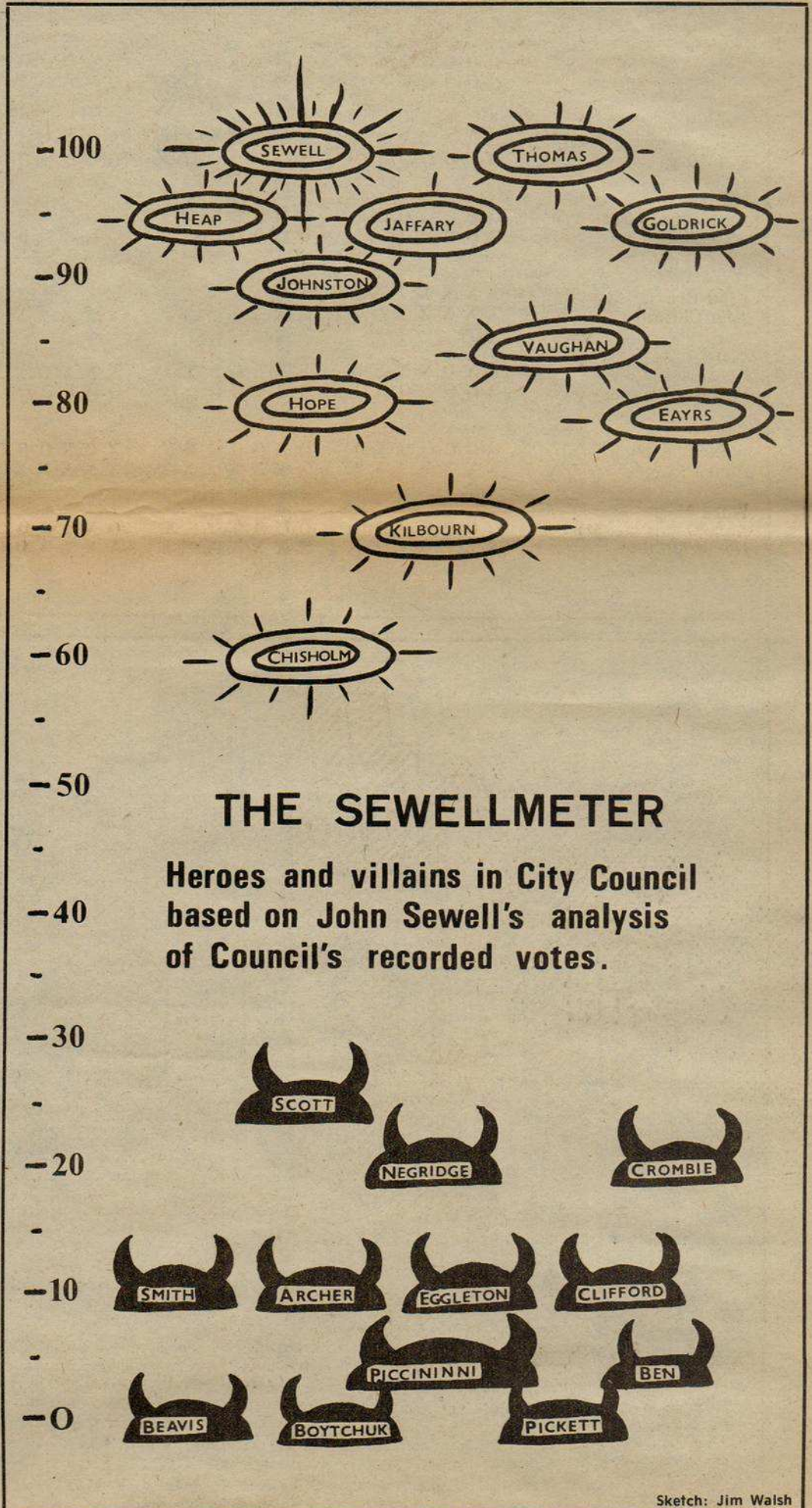
2) **Relationship with constituents.** The voting record does not indicate to what extent aldermen are involved with their constituents when they are developing positions on issues. It does not indicate in what ways citizen participation in the political process is flourishing or withering in various wards. It does not indicate the ways in which aldermen develop their ideas, who advises them and how.

3) **Rationale for votes.** The voting record does not explain why councillors voted as they did on particular issues. For example,

Alderman Dan Heap voted against the Sewell-Thomas organizing proposal for very different reasons than did his colleague from Ward Six, William Archer. Heap was looking at the proposal from the left, while Archer viewed it from the right. On various votes, citizens may want to consult with their aldermen about why they voted as they did and how they interpreted the issue before making a judgment about the vote. It would be foolish to interpret the X's and the O's of the chart in a one-dimensional good-guys and bad-guys way. It is important to remember that the chart does not

convey political complexity.

4) **Incompleteness.** The chart does not cover all of the critical issues which arose during Council's first six months. For example, the 12 to 11 vote which put Archer rather than Heap on the board of directors of Toronto Western Hospital is not included. The votes about the police communications tower in Winston Churchill Park and about the Sherbourne-Dundas block are not included. However, while this is a selected voting record, it does accurately indicate the trends at Council during the first several months of this year.



Sketch: Jim Walsh

Votes tend to be close

One of the most noteworthy things about the Council voting record is the closeness of many of the votes. Six of the votes would have gone the other way if one alderman had changed his or her vote, and five more would have been reversed if two aldermen had changed their votes. This means that citizens who are serious about their civic politics have something to gain from staying on top of what their representatives are doing at Council. Failing to have one's alderman in Council and voting a particular way on certain issues could make a critical difference during the 1973-4 Council term.

"Reformers", whose political representatives seem to be outnumbered by one vote at Council, may want to take note of the fact that the people who appear most likely to be open to persuasion on various issues are Mayor Crombie and Aldermen Scott and Negridge. While the voting record doesn't show it as clearly, it's probably also worthwhile trying to lobby Aldermen Smith and Eggleton. These five members are probably as close to the "middle-of-the-road" as any are on the bifurcated 1973-4 Council. The voting record also suggests a little political homework might be in order with "reformers" Archie Chisholm and William Kilbourn.

They will bellow and gnash their teeth

Early this autumn City Council may decide whether or not to legislate a height limit — perhaps 45 feet — for any new buildings in downtown Toronto. The effect of the bylaw would not be to prevent any further structures in the City's core more than four storeys high. Rather, it would be a form of development control; any proposals for new buildings higher than the limit would have to be routed through a political process at City Hall and specifically approved by Council.

A downtown height limit is not a bolt from the blue at City Hall. Development control was a major plank in the platforms on which many people believed "reform" candidates stood in last year's municipal election. And the new Council commissioned reports from its professional staff about downtown development control shortly after it was elected; these reports are what are now giving rise to a debate about a height limit.

A height limit would accomplish a couple of things. Used as a tool to restrict downtown development severely for a couple of years, it would allow the City's planning staff time to assess the core's two decades of radical growth and to develop some ideas for the downtown's future. Without this sort of "holding" bylaw, while development is popping off constantly throughout downtown, the planners are unable to do this.

A second objective which a height limit would achieve is offering any citizens and politicians who want it a chance to scrutinize and discuss any but minor future downtown development proposals. The City would insist that developers explain openly what their projects are all about before allowing a building permit. Some kinds of development could be encouraged and others discouraged.

Not marked interest

Interest in participating in political process has not been marked among Toronto's property industry, and the industry is likely to bellow loudly and gnash its teeth when word gets around that a height limit may be in the works. There are a number of developers with plans for new downtown edifices on the drawing board, and there are many more speculators with investments in core property who will be unable to enjoy their usual profits if nothing more spectacular than a 45-foot building can be built on their land.

Developers and speculators are people who tend to involve lawyers by the horde in their business, and proponents of the height limit anticipate committee rooms full of three-piece suited solicitors huffing and puffing about justice, the sanctity of property, and the Canadian way, when an opportunity for public discussion of the bylaw arises. It will be suggested that imposing a downtown height limit is a mode of behavior akin to banning pea soup and cod-cakes from Canadian dining rooms. Toronto's usually mild-mannered crop of "reformers" will be depicted as a raving socialist gaggle for daring to suggest that the people who live in the City ought to have any important role in deciding about the future of downtown.

There will be talk about "assessment". "Assessment" is a ritual incantation which politicians and developers utter while con-

secrating plans for new extravaganzas. What it means is that most anything at all anyone cares to build is justified by the taxes it will generate. But the costs of sewers and garbage collection, roads and transit, policing and fire protection, and so forth, have not usually been figured in when politicians recite their acts of faith in "assessment".

When they are figured in, it appears that the difference either works against the ordinary taxpayer or is nil. And in any case, it's all beside the point during the height limit debate since the limit won't prohibit development but will simply provide more opportunity to think about it.

It is possible that a height limit will neither be passed nor defeated this fall. What Council may do is refer the issue for further study and discussion. That will satisfy the property industry almost as much as will killing the whole idea, and the industry will support this alternative if the bylaw can't be defeated. It's not clear who else will be opposing the height limit because, in one alderman's words, "nobody else has anything to lose if we pass it".

Another debate at City Hall this fall will be about Metro Centre; it will begin this month when Alderman John Sewell begins trying to shepherd his ideas about the development through City Hall. Among Sewell's proposals for Metro Centre are that:

—"All housing built in Metro Centre should be non-profit. Metro Centre should be allowed to make the normal builder's profit of nine or ten percent, but nothing on land or buildings."

—"At least 30 percent of retail stores must be owner occupied. No more than 50 percent of the retail space may be rented or owned by companies having more than three other outlets in Toronto. (These criteria will help to ensure a strong position for the small businessman and help to keep out chain stores.)"

—"No office space may be built on speculation (that is, without a committed ten-year tenancy) unless it has been conclusively shown that the vacancy rate from all office space in the University-Queen-Jarvis-Front area is less than five percent."

Crombie's assistants

An alderman wrote in to complain about a remark in my last column. The piece was about Council's handling of Mayor David Crombie's request for funds to continue to maintain an expanded personal staff, and the comment with which the alderman took issue said that some observers at the debate were disillusioned by the failure of any "reformers" to query the size of the salaries Crombie wanted to pay his staff. Two of his assistants are receiving \$2,500 monthly and another \$100 a day.

My correspondent pointed out that one alderman's "initial reaction to the proposal was the size of the salary, which was double" the alderman's salary. Another alderman, the letter said, had made a comment about the very low salaries aldermen pay their own assistants — salaries which come out of the aldermen's own pockets since no funds for aldermanic assistants are provided, and salaries which would be unacceptable to any unionized City Hall employee.

The alderman who wrote to me is right. There was some discussion of the size of Crombie's assistants' salaries in the contexts outlined, but this is not the context I was writing about. What I was talking about was the whole tone of the debate which never questioned that \$2,500 monthly is a perfectly acceptable salary to be paying someone. Or, as my correspondent wrote, "What is important is that the people Mayor Crombie has hired are worth the money they are getting, and could

easily earn in private industry."

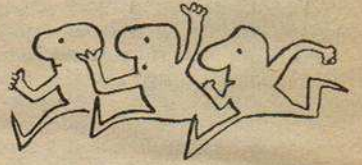
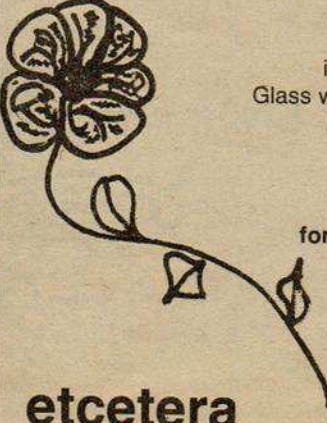
I think we are into a controversial argument here. The point I was trying to make in the comment with which the alderman took issue, and in the sentences leading up to it, was that people are not "worth" so much money monthly or yearly. Once you accept the notion that Michael Dennis, one of Crombie's aides, is worth \$2,500 monthly, you are also saying that someone else is only worth \$500 monthly, or maybe \$250 monthly, or maybe less. My own opinion is that Michael Dennis should make no more and no less than anyone else at City Hall — garbageman, typist, alderman, mayor. Michael Dennis is a bright, talented man who had the good

fortune to go to law school and to become a member of a prominent Toronto firm. He is a very valuable person, I am told, to have on the City's staff in any capacity. But I don't think this makes him "worth" more than the fellow who cleans the aldermanic latrines.

What Michael Dennis could make in private industry is irrelevant to the principle I'm talking about; I am no more enamoured with private industry's scale of values in paying workers than I am with their scale of values in building downtown skyscrapers or James Bay hydro projects.


Of course, this is airy-fairy pie-in-the-sky talk. I don't expect Michael Dennis would continue to work at the

Mayor's office if he was paid a laborer's wage. Maybe this means we pay him what he asks. Maybe it means he's not the man we hire. At any rate, several people with whom I spoke at the August Council meeting said they wished some alderman had at least raised this issue, as did I.

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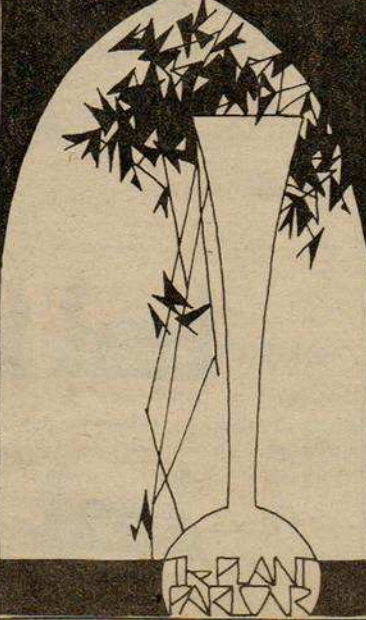
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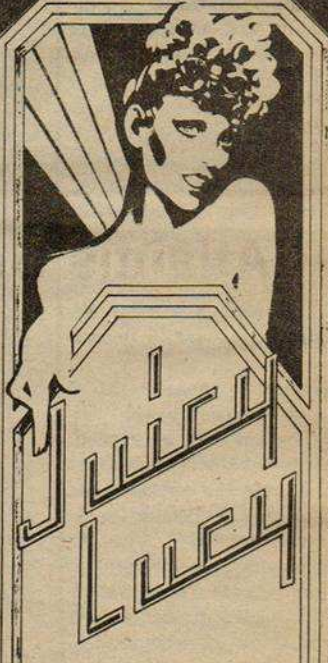


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