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Whelan Pounds Press

by Annamaria Micallef
Staff Writer

Canadian farmers are the most productive members of society and the least subsidized.

That is why federal agricultural minister Eugene Whelan was so incensed that they have received such a "pounding" from Beryl Plumptre, vice-chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board and members of the press.

Mr. Whelan saw fit to entertain liberal party cardholders with a frenzied bar-

rage against the news media, during the liberal party's annual dinner in Delhi last Saturday.

He said that ever since the price freeze started CBC and Globe and Mail reporters, aided and abetted by Beryl Plumptre, have gone on a nit-picking campaign.

Most of the fuss was created about a one cent increase on the price of a dozen eggs. The price freeze should apply to food too, was the general consensus, of the newsmen.

Mr. Whelan was angry; he was very angry. It is true he tried to make his point stick

with the party members congregated in the over-large dining-room at the German home. He tried to point out that a food price freeze would mean higher not lower food costs. He cited the recent fluctuations in the prices of pork as an example.

But mostly he succeeded in making sections of his speech unintelligible by talking too loudly into the microphone.

Yet he was determined to win the farmers in the audience over to his side. He said that the Canadian farmers are the most productive in

the world, and the most productive members of their community.

"We have the most efficient producers in agriculture in the whole world. Children are encouraged to work and by the time they are old enough to operate a farm they can operate all the electrical machinery," he said.

He added that farmers are the least subsidized of all Canadian citizens, and that the annual budget of the ministry of agriculture is the smallest of all.

Mr. Whelan said Canadian farmers aren't protected

from cheaper imports from the United States, which often lowers the market value of their produce to below the cost of production.

The latest racket in this type of profiteering by importers is the sale of cheap palm oil, which is affecting the sales of Canadian corn oil.

"I hope old Beryl looks into that ... Does she ever raise hell about one cent a dozen," quipped Mr. Whelan.

He talked further of the lack of control on agricultural land for farmers, and very

briefly mentioned the low profit level of tobacco farmers -- in tobacco farm country -- to add a local whiff to his speech.

He concluded that the power of the press -- enormous as compared to his own as minister -- should be used to point out these real discrepancies instead of making 'ad lib' reports and blowing small issues out of all proportion.

He hoped that next year's liberal dinner would be packed to the rafters with staunch liberals. Lots of luck Mr. Whelan!

BOARD DIRECTOR SAYS

TOBACCO IMPORTS

CHIEF CAUSE OF DEPRESSED MARKET

The effects tobacco imports are having on the prices of domestic tobacco is one reason that the Minister of Agriculture, Eugene Whelan, will meet with the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Donald Jamieson, sometime in the near future. This is what a director of the Ontario Flue-cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, Michael Murray, said Monday, December 8.

Mr. Murray said that that was "the only thing concrete" resulting from a meeting last Thursday, December 4, between the stabilization committee of the Board of the Agriculture Minister.

The meeting, held in Ottawa was called to discuss conflicts arising from the Ministry's civil servants' refusal to give consideration to such important issues as family labor, said the Board Director.

Directors Michael Murray and Mac Frew, along with the Vice-Chairman Walter Huszco, past Chairman Ted Raytrowsky and Chairman George A. Demeyere are the members of the stabilization committee who met with the Minister.

Mr. Murray said that he pointed out to the Minister at the time of the meeting that "importation is definitely a factor which is causing our depressed market."

He also said that Mr. Whelan spoke sympathetically of recent threats made toward families of the marketing board members.

The stabilization committee was formed last Spring in order to study price stabilization of tobacco at both the federal and provincial levels.

Don't drive - if drinking

If you're caught driving with an alcohol level higher than .08 in the blood you're in trouble. But it could be worse, you could kill yourself and others.

The Haldimand-Norfolk regional police are making a plea for safe driving for the Christmas season. So unless you're attending teetotal parties this Christmas please keep off the road.

Have a happy Christmas!



ENERGY IS AGELESS
For feature story see page 5



Santa's helpers

Although Santa Claus is not known to award his helpers for making the finest Christmas gifts, Elizabeth Lindsay - in this case playing the role of Santa - does just that. Clark Hoskin, Jim Bigger, Brenda Vandebelt and Tina House pose with Mrs. Lindsay after she recently awarded them with prizes for having made the best hand-crafted gifts which will be given to needy children for Christmas. Mrs. Lindsay, a school-bus driver, says that choosing the winners was the most difficult part of her self-assumed duty of directing the passengers of her bus in a gift-making mission.

Norfolk Council reviews re-zoning application

by Annamaria Micallef
Staff Writer

An application to town council should be clear and unambiguous.

That is what Harvey and Ellen Lamont have learned the hard way.

Their application was for the re-zoning of a severance of 75 acres, part of their 225-acre property, for Courtlea Mobile Acres Limited.

This would leave 150 acres of farmland in the lot.

The Lamonts need the severance for future recreational and other facilities for the mobile park.

"If we sell the farm we would like to reserve enough land for the park," said Mrs. Lamont.

The council had been misled into thinking the application for the severance and re-zoning of the land was made to double the present number of mobile homes, now 102, because of what Norfolk township mayor Jerome Van De Slyke described as a "garbled" report.

The Lamonts expressed their intention to limit the park to its present number of units with no plans for expansion now or in future. They appeared before

council last Monday morning to straighten out the misunderstanding.

Councillor Dorothy Overbaugh expressed concern that such a case may create a precedent for other people whose case may be less worthy. The councillors agreed that Courtlea Acres was a desirable area for mobile homes.

The Lamonts applied to town council for their comments on their desired land severance, but the final decision lies with the region which appealed the Land Division Committee's agreement to the severance.

Town council has no authority to grant the severance and re-zoning, but the Lamonts hope that they may be able to weigh the scales in their favor.

The park meets with Norfolk County health standards, having one or at the most two homes per septic tank. Most of the residents are retired and pay up to \$300 each in taxes.

Mayor Van De Slyke advised the Lamonts to go to the region to explain their situation and clear the misunderstanding. Only then will town council express their approval.