

"Not A Waste Of Money"

To The Editor:

Sir,—Eastern Passage resident Floyd Day's letter on the future of MacNab's Island so accurately reflects the attitude of Maritimers to development that I would like to put forward the views of a foreigner.

First we agree that the metro area needs a higher standard of living and that this means more industry. Second, to run

new industries we will need skilled people.

Unfortunately, skilled people need attracting. Also the emigration of our own skilled workers to other regions has to be stopped. The latter represents Canada's oldest "brain drain."

To attract skill one must either pay more — never a strong Maritime tradition, or make the place sufficiently attractive so that people want to live here.

As a widely-travelled person I can state that Halifax and Dartmouth are ugly cities with poor recreational facilities. Point Pleasant Park is one of the few gems.

Providing more of these facilities in the area will help reverse the drain of workers.

Picnic tables and bird sanctuaries and the like are not a waste of money. They represent an increase in the attractions of the region and as such will bring an eventual cash bonus.

Floyd Day says he would rather see smokestacks. If everyone agrees with this then I will soon be leaving Halifax. But surely it is not that we need industry or picnic tables. We must have both.

We might even start by cleaning up the shore past Eastern Passage. A spring cleanup and a few picnic tables would work wonders even there.

M. J. HARVEY

1253 Edward Street,
Halifax

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"Nose For News"

"You know, I've been keeping my ear to the grindstone recently, and I tell you we've got to do something to get a toe-hold on the public eye."

This remark by a federal government employee is a prize item collected by Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

We'd not have been surprised had it gone on: "Make no bones about it. It's plain as the nose on your face. We're just not on our toes. We keep putting our foot in it. It's high time we started talking straight from the shoulder. I know I'm sticking my neck out, but I say the people can't make head nor tail of what we've been saying.

"Quite frankly, some of the statements out of Washington make my hair stand on end. Sometimes we seem to be all thumbs.

"High-handed methods just won't work. You can't lead the public around by the nose. And it's no good splitting hairs."

"If we get our head out of the clouds, there's still time to save face. Provided we don't get cold feet. If you ask me, it's time to put our shoulder to the grindstone."

We admit that it takes a nose for news to dig up an item like this. All we ask is that you don't accuse us of tongue in cheek.

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