

(Please after reading the proposed Open Letter and noting thereon any comments, additions or corrections you wish, return it at once. The management of the Exhibition regard the situation as serious.)

H.L.B.

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

OPEN LETTER

Mar. 4th, 1937.

To His Worship the Mayor,
Controllers and Aldermen,

Madam and Sirs:

We had thought that the proposal to use the track of the Exhibition Park for a horse racing meet would receive scant consideration from your honourable body and therefore made no representations concerning it. We now wish, however, to place on record our position and to raise the following questions:

1. Will the suggested revenue of, say, \$20,000 to the City from a horse racing meet in Exhibition Park be a net profit, or will the ultimate direct and indirect costs to the City result in a net financial loss?
2. Can, in fact, the track be restored to its proper condition for use by the Exhibition after once having been adapted to racing conditions?
3. Is it a good thing to bring the young people who use the park in close contact with conditions obtaining on race tracks now further removed from the center?
4. Is it a good thing for the people as a whole to introduce the race track atmosphere into one of its most important park areas so near a large center of population?
5. Is it a good thing for a large residential area to bring in a large influx of race track crowds with its resulting traffic congestion?
6. Will a racing meet so near in time to the holding of the Exhibition by gathering in loose cash affect adversely the revenue of the Exhibition, possibly more than the direct revenue to the City from the lease?
7. Will the use of any part of the Exhibition grounds for a racing meet tend to create an unsympathetic attitude to the Exhibition - the Directors of which of course are in no way responsible for the proposal - in the minds of any large part of the population of Ontario and Toronto, on which the Exhibition must depend for its success?

8. Will the race meet crowds have a bad effect on the turf of the park so as to make it less attractive at Exhibition time and will turf restoration by the Parks Department be more expensive as a result?
9. Is it a dignified action on the part of the City to permit the use for other than public purposes, or for purposes not approved by many citizens, of any part of the plant which was purchased, and has been improved and maintained for public purposes?
10. Is the Canadian National Exhibition Association in favour of the use of its track for a horse racing meet?
11. If it, or its directorate, is opposed to such use as being detrimental to the use of the property for Exhibition purposes, what steps is the City taking to meet the possible "veto" on such use by the Exhibition authorities?
12. Does the City really need an additional horse racing meet?
13. What special interests, if any, are back of the present urge for obtaining race revenue from the use of Exhibition plant?
14. If one part of the Exhibition plant may be used to produce revenue from racing, what is to prevent the use for similar purposes of other parts, of the plant or even of the Exhibition buildings?
15. Should any such far reaching change in policy with regard to a property in which the citizens have so large an investment and of which they are so proud, be taken without submission of the question to the electors? It is just possible that Council has misread public opinion in this respect.

May the Bureau respectfully suggest that it might be possible, with the full approval of all citizens and taxpayers, to affect economies in the City services (and thus reduce the tax levy) to a much greater amount than any net revenue which the City might possibly receive by leasing the Exhibition race track for commercial race meet purposes.

Yours very respectfully,

Read and
Signed by

"T. G. Rogers"
President

"H. L. Brittain"
Managing Director

(If you could phone an answer, it would help).
B.