



BMR

NEWS
BRIEFS

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BUREAU BRIEF ON T.T.C.

The Civic Affairs bulletin entitled "The Future of the T.T.C.", distributed to Bureau members September 20th, embodied the Bureau's submission to the Executive Committee of the Council of Metropolitan Toronto recommending changes in the set up of the Toronto Transit Commission. Other submissions were made at the same time by the Metro Chairman, the Reeve of North York, and the Toronto Board of Trade.

One press comment on the Bureau's proposal follows:

"This is the suggestion of the independent Bureau of Municipal Research, which recommends that the so-called 'independent' transit commission be abolished, that transit be administered by a regular department of municipal government and policy established by a standing committee of the Metropolitan Council - just the same way as with roads, and sewers, and parks.

TOO GOOD TO BE CONSIDERED

This suggestion is far too radical, far too extreme, far too logical, to get any consideration whatsoever."

RON HAGGART IN TORONTO
Toronto Daily Star,
Thursday, October 6, 1960

Although comparatively little direct attention was given to the submission from the Bureau and others from organizations and individuals, the briefs were not without their effect. Many members of Council gave them careful and serious consideration and on several occasions issues raised in the briefs caused members to question the proposals before them. The result was that more careful attention was given to the reasoning behind and the likely consequence of the courses of action proposed. If the submissions had achieved nothing else this would have made them worth the time and effort put into them. In a few instances, however, amendments were made to the proposals adopted which reflected, in varying degrees, recommendations contained in independent briefs. The provision for one member of the Metropolitan Council on the T.T.C. is a case in point. Although the amendments did not go as far as the sponsors of the briefs would have liked, they were a step in the right direction.

IS A CODE OF ETHICS THE ANSWER?

The defeat of an Ontario Municipal Association convention resolution embodying a code of ethics for municipal representatives has drawn the editorial fire of several publications and has been interpreted as a sign of decadence at the municipal level. In fact the convention took issue with the practicability and not the spirit of the resolution. It was the opinion of the delegates that if an individual could not distinguish right from wrong no code of ethics could possibly cover even the municipal applications of the matter. On the other hand, if a man is capable of the distinction, yet acts dishonourably, a code of ethics will not suffice to stop him unless the code is enforced by legal sanctions. If such sanctions are needed then amendments to The Municipal Act, not a code of ethics, should be proposed.

The resolution discussed was one of 130 dealt with at the O.M.A. three-day convention in St. Catharines. The convention was the largest yet held by this Association in its sixty-two years of operation and required extensive preparation and organization by the staff of the Bureau and Institute who directed its programme and are represented on many of the committees.

We would recommend to any of our members particularly interested in municipal administration that they review the convention resolutions and the special reports on "Local School Costs" and "Administration of Justice Costs". Requests can be directed to this office.

ROADS BRIEF

At a technical session of the recent convention of the Canadian Good Roads Association, attended by over 250 delegates, Mr. F. J. McGilly, Research Associate, presented a paper on urban expressways impact, based on a survey prepared for the Roads Department of Metropolitan Toronto. We are proud to have been given the opportunity to discuss the study with such an eminent group in this specialized field.

Toronto, Ontario
November 8, 1960