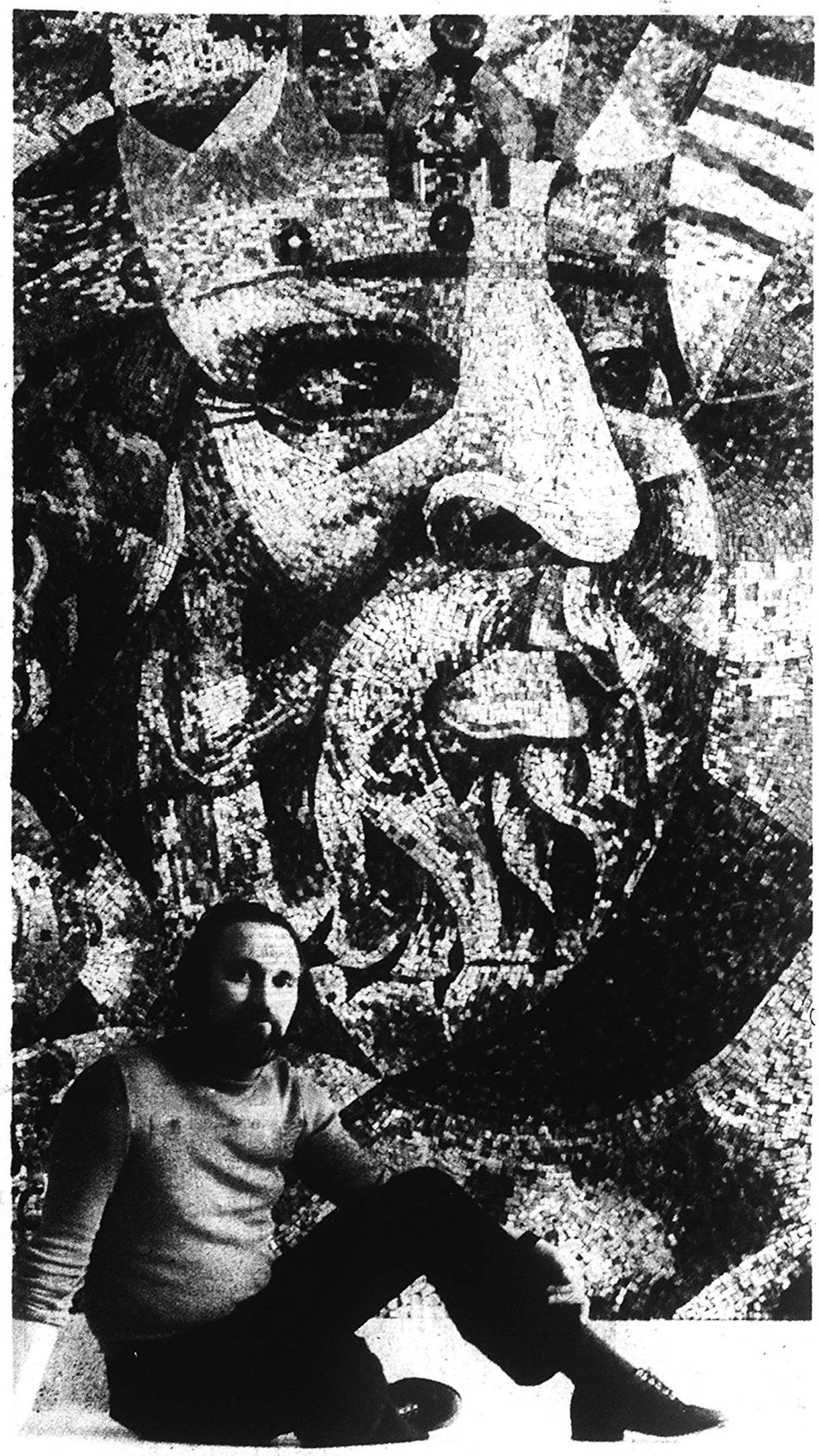
Weather outlook
Clear, cold
Tonight low -18 (-1F)
Tomorrow high -12 (10F)

The Spectator

VOL. CXXX NO. 6 HAMILTON, CANADA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1977 R5 172 PAGES

THE Canadian MAGAZINE
COLOR COMICS TV TIMES 30c



Mosaic mural

Thousands of pieces of opaque colored "smalti" glass and 425 hours of work went into this mosaic mural by Hamilton artist Tibor Nyilasi. The mosaic, 8½ by 15½ feet, decorates the entrance to the new hall of St. Stephen's Hungarian Roman Catholic Church on Barton Street East in Hamilton. Entitled Ecclesia, it will be unveiled Jan. 16. Picture by Bob Chambers.

Super Bowl big cash game

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The most impressive statistics for tomorrow's Super Bowl are neither quarterback Ken Stabler's passing yards nor the rushing totals of running back Chuck Foreman.

The big numbers are dollars — up to $105 million, promoters say. And the free spending is giving commercial interests in the Los Angeles area a bonanza.

Banquets, cocktail parties and news conferences have put Super Bowl fever at its highest pitch, for professional football's championship game between the Minnesota Vikings and the Oakland Raiders, said Chris Hills, an official with the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We estimate a total economic impact of between $85 million and $105 million."

More than 103,000 people are expected at the game, and thousands are in town. Another 75 million — some as far away as Turkey — will watch it on television.

"The people who are in town for the Super Bowl are not your regular convention types," Mr. Hills said. For example:

● The National Football League is throwing a $75,000 cocktail party. It is renting the Rose Bowl for $112,000. The cost of plane tickets and lodging for the teams, plus players' shares of the gate, run the NFL's bill to $2.5 million.

● NBC, which will televise the game, is throwing a breakfast for 1,000 people, featuring 10 varieties of omelettes. The tab may hit $75,000.

● A Japanese firm is flying in 120 executives from Tokyo.

● A U.S. company, unable to find suitable lodging in Los Angeles, is putting up its executives in Las Vegas and flying them in for the game.

All major hotels in Los Angeles are booked for the weekend. The luxurious new cylindrical glass Bonaventure hotel, 15 miles from the stadium, was sold out for Super Bowl weekend a year ago.

● See Pages 13 and 14 .

Byelection delay has PCs upset

OTTAWA (CP) — Formal procedures before parliamentary byelections have been mysteriously delayed and the opposition wants to know why.

Warrants formally proclaiming two Commons seats vacant have not been logged, although this necessary first step towards an eventual byelection normally takes place within days of a seat being vacated by death or resignation.

Walter Baker, Progressive Conservative House leader, said yesterday he plans to investigate why procedures are being delayed.

Probable reason could be the Liberals' reluctance to face byelections "because of recent events," Mr. Baker said.

There are six vacancies in the 264-seat Commons. Standing is 135 Liberals, 96 Progressive Conservatives, 16 New Democrats, 10 Social Credit and one independent. Loss of six byelections, five of them in Quebec, would reduce the Liberal majority in the House to six seats from 18 after the 1974 general election.

Conservatives have won the last three federal byelections, two of them in traditionally Liberal seats.

Fared badly

The Liberals have also fared badly in recent public opinion polls. The Conservatives top the polls and have gained in Quebec, a traditional Liberal stronghold.

The two Quebec seats in question were vacated by the Dec. 16 death of former Social Credit leader Real Caouette of Temiscamingue and the Sept. 30 death of Liberal Albanie Morin of Louis-Hebert.

A spokesman for government House Leader Allan MacEachen said the Speaker cannot issue the warrants until two MPs sign a letter announcing the death.

Apparently, MPs haven't written such letters concerning the two former Quebec members.

Three other seats are vacant in Quebec and one in Prince Edward Island.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has not announced when byelections will be held in any of the ridings.

Mr. Baker said it is important that byelections be held soon.

"We believe that no constituency should be vacant."

Speeding tickets illegal?

OTTAWA (CP) — Ontario speeders could be temporarily off the hook because of missing words on tickets used by police if an Ottawa judge's decision serves as precedent.

Deletion of four words pertaining to location of an offence was considered serious enough for county court Judge Rene Martin to dismiss two speeding charges this week.

The judge agreed with an argument by Ottawa lawyer James Fontana that the ticket summonses didn't comply with the Highway Traffic Act's legal format.

Mr. Fontana said it's not an offence under the Highway Traffic Act to speed unless it's done on a highway as defined by the act.

"Omitting to say whether the roadway is a street, avenue or other-roadway as defined as a highway under the act, makes the summons illegal," he said.

The ticket forms are provided to provincial and municipal police by the province. Under the act, the policeman laying the charge must state the full, legal name of the roadway and municipality where the offence occurred.

The missing words "upon a highway, namely...." can be written in by the policeman, but in the case of the two charges this week, they were not.

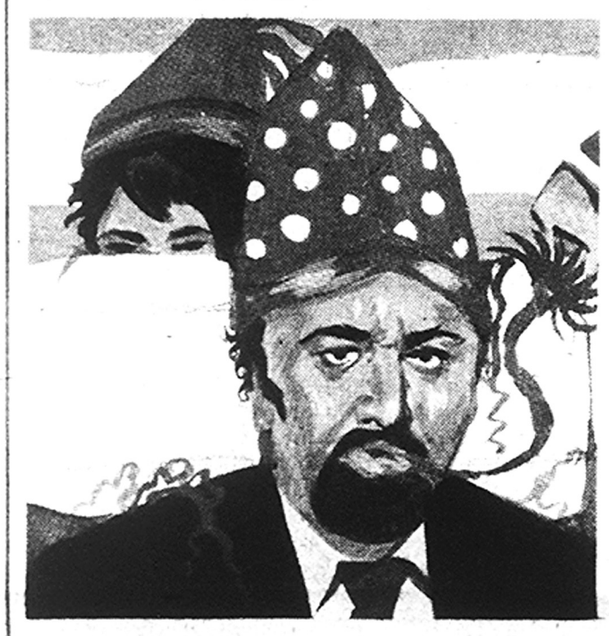
PURSEPICACITY

Special to The Spectator

TULSA, Okla. — Marshall Cummings made a big mistake in deciding to defend himself on a purse-snatching charge.

The 25-year-old cross-examined the victim with: "Did you get a good look at my face when I took your purse?" He was sent to jail for 10 years.

INSIDE



★ Fifty airborne revellers brought in the New Year three times as they crossed international date lines during a supersonic jaunt from Washington to Paris and back again. Others had their own crazy ways of welcoming 1977. Page 65.

★ At least one supermarket chain plans to defy the egg marketing board and continue to advertise eggs that are on sale as loss leaders. Page 10.

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Unfit flu serum can be cleaned

OTTAWA (CP) — About 1.6 million doses of swine flu vaccine have been declared unfit for use unless it can be "cleaned up," says Alex Morrison, head of the federal health protection branch.

The doses contain particles of protein that "might plug the needle or might do nothing but we would not permit it to be sold because it does not pass Canadian federal health standards," he said.

On Thursday, another government department said more than three million doses of the vaccine had been deemed unsatisfactory.

The particles were found during an inspection by federal health officials at Connaught Laboratories Ltd., Toronto, one of two companies the government commissioned to process and package vaccine from bulk suppliers in Britain, France, Austrialia, Holland and West Germany.

Connaught may clean the vaccine up by filtering out the particles, said Dr. Morrison, an assistant deputy health minister.

Connaught consultant John Kieran said that is what the company is doing.

The potency and safety will not be affected, he said. Connaught has had problems with most of the 12 batches of vaccine it imported.

Dr. Morrison said no vaccine with particles has slipped by inspectors, although earlier lots of the swine flu vaccine contained "black particles related to the vial tops."

"Parts of the bottle caps were ending up in the bottom of the vial," he said. That vaccine was reprocessed, repackaged and sent to be used in shots.

The swine flue inoculation program was virtually halted last month.

Union controls 'only under study'

TORONTO (CP) — Ontario has no immediate plan to ban trade union closed shops in right-to-work legislation, Labor Minister Bette Stephenson said yesterday.

She denied published reports which quoted her as saying the province might become the first in Canada to end the widely-followed practice in major industries.

"What I did in fact say was that we were reviewing the right-to-work legislation for a number of jurisdictions."

"Also I did not say anything about impending legislation or how long the review was expected to take," she said.

Canadians have much to appreciate amid their chaos

By JOHN R. WALKER
Southam News Service

FOCUS:
On returning home

OTTAWA — As the Chinese always said, the situation there is excellent, but all is in chaos in the world outside.

Returning to Canada after 4½ years in Asia, most of that in the People's Republic of China, is a mind-boggling exercise, with the chaos more in one's perceptions than in the staggeringly rich society revealed to the returnee.

Fleeting visits to Hong Kong and Tokyo, from the austerities of Peking, gave the impression that these Asian supermarkets were well stocked with the foodstuffs and baubles of capitalist living and properly corrupted with sinful exotica in the shape of bars, nightclubs and erotic bathhouses.

But it wasn't until my wife and I had reeled out of a few of Canada's super supermarkets, with their glistening aisles of junk food and their banks of fast-frozen goodies, had picked our way through a few overflowing department stores and gazed with amazement at the new proliferation of expensive speciality shops, that we realized what massive consumerism is all about in the '70s.

The shock of recognizing affluence at its present almost obscene level — at least for some Canadians — is quite stunning after the austere basics of Peking shopping, or the sickening poverty of India and Bangladesh. Even overpriced and consumer-oriented Japan begins to swim into some perspective, when juxtaposed to this under-populated nation of highly conspicuous consumption.

We had thought when we left these shores in 1972 that Canadians had reached the limits of the plasticized, cellophaned world, that small was beginning to be beautiful again, that consumerism was going to be more selective rather than simply massive.

And when we read, in poorly-lighted Peking where human muscle-power is still a major source of energy, that Canadians were making great efforts to save energy and conserve resources in the face of the world crisis, we expected real change.

But all this was hard to credit as we visited across Canada and saw the newly-risen face of downtown Canada in almost every city from Victoria to Ottawa.

We sat bug-eyed for a while into the early hours of the morning, watching a plethora of television channels, like someone just returned from the desert of Chinese black and white TV and its three hours of dreary propaganda. But in short order we were tiring of the new law and order dramas and the electronic quiz shows of our big networks and switching to the unexpected delights of Public Service Broadcasting and Ontario TV.

And who could not but be delighted, after the paucity of entertainment in the Chinese capital, to return to a country where live theatre is really alive, musical concerts constantly available, choice of movies almost unlimited, and where book and record shops abound to delight the jaded eye and ear?

Coming so recently from the Chinese capital where the native cuisine is supposed to be Parisian in its quality and international in its sophistication, it was still encouraging to find so many new and interesting restaurants, even in such places as Saskatoon that had not been in existence five years ago. They may still overload your plates, but with discrimination you can find good food now, even in Ottawa.

Of course, the chaos here, one gathers in travelling across the nation again, is being created in Ottawa and Quebec, with the lack of leadership in the one and too much now arising in the other.

There seemed to be a sour and bitchy mood abroad in the country, we noticed, with everyone blaming someone else for the trouble the country is in and nobody offering any useful panaceas, or even ideas, for its removal.

To someone, however, coming as we just had from an Asian world that really has problems and trouble enough for a lifetime, this Canadian mood, this surfeit of complaining, seemed petty and self-centred and unbecoming of a country as well favored and wealthy.

For even if this country is falling apart as everyone tells us, we can't think of a better wreck to cling to after swimming in the fascinating but restless seas of Asia.

Many Canadians today don't really seem to appreciate how lucky they are to live in a country as well endowed with natural resources, living space and freedom of thought and actions as this.