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# SOUTH PEEL'S PEOPLE

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John Caldwell has a theory about the movement of freight in Canada. From this theory has evolved his job and part of his interest in the way Canadian government works.

Caldwell has spent all of his life in Southern Ontario. He moved to Port Credit in 1950 to work with Diversey (Canada) Ltd., as an office and transportation manager.

"It was there that I developed a theory about transportation in Canada," said Caldwell. "The movement of freight in Canada is unique, there is no other place in the world like it, because of the geography — long distances with gaps between the industrial areas."

## GOVERNMENT OWNED

He said it is also unique that the biggest railway system in the country is owned and operated by the government, so other railways have to compete with the government.

"Highway transport is increasing rapidly," he said, "and the railways, instead of going into it, have let a whole new transport industry build up, so this new industry now competes with the government."

"The result is a myriad of government controls, and in a large degree industry is paying too much to move freight in Canada."

He said on an average, one-third of the cost of anything bought in Canada is for transporting it.

## TRANSPORTATION COSTS

Caldwell's theory is: instead of letting separate trucking firms evolve, firms should own their own trucks, or failing this, they should lease trucks, and thus avoid the high cost of transportation.

He believes so firmly in this

theory that he set up his own company — Transway Leasing Service — to lease trucks to companies who want to transport their own goods.

Besides theories on transportation, Caldwell has been involved in local politics. "But," he claims, "I'm not a political person."

"I got mixed up in politics because of an intense interest in education. Because of this interest, I got myself elected to the South Peel Board of Education."

## FINANCE CHAIRMAN

He served two terms on the board as academic chairman and two terms as financial chairman.

As financial chairman, he ran into problems with municipal governments, because of a lack of understanding on their part of education.

"I ran for Port Credit council to promote an understanding of education," he said. After he was elected he found himself appointed chairman of finance.

After spending seven years on council, he decided to quit, but the regional government question was just arising, and since this is another of his interests, he decided to run for mayor.

## DYNAMIC GROWTH

"I decided I could do nothing as a councillor," he said, "so I ran for mayor." As mayor of Port Credit, he thought he would be in a position to express his views on regional government and have them taken more seriously.

"In this area," he said, "the big problem is that growth is uncontrolled. Approximately 12 years ago I said that some method of working all of the municipalities in South Peel together was necessary."

(Incumbent mayor Tom McCollum defeated Caldwell by a slim margin of 35 votes in the election).

Caldwell feels he went into issues too thoroughly for most people. "I kept boring everyone with my theories," he said, "but I'm going to keep on saying these things because they're right."

## ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY

"A politician needs two abilities. He has to know how to get votes and how to administer. I believe I have the administrative ability, but I have learned I have no vote-getting ability."

He said he definitely will not run for political office again. "I've decided to be rational and say I don't belong in that league."

Caldwell has three sons: Warren, currently studying for his Ph.D. in Canadian history; Paul, in his fourth year of medicine at the University of Toronto; and Colin. "Colin and I are the hippies of the family," joked Caldwell. Because of his three sons, Caldwell feels he is close to the youth of today and "what's happening."

"One of the great things that many in politics refuse to see is that a completely new environment is developing," he said. "This period now is more dynamic than the renaissance or the reformation, and this is particularly true in Canada and even more particularly in Ontario."

## "JUST SOCIETY"

"We've been spending billions and billions of dollars on education, but the people won't listen to these youngsters whom we've educated."

"The people of Canada have twice shown themselves to be ahead of the politicians. Once in 1958 when Diefenbaker got



JOHN CALDWELL

his big majority because he talked of a vision of Canada and again with Trudeau who talks of a just society.

"Canada has too much government. The government is in business in Canada. The answer is education. We

should have a civics course in high school, so our youngsters get a factual analysis of public finance and administration. If we're going to have continuing growth of government, the people who are financing it should understand it."