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"Democracy rules" and "Stop the insanity, lobotomize Mike" — were kept outside by security guards.
Among the few allowed in were Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall, Scarborough Mayor Frank Faubert, East York Mayor Michael Prue and John Sewell, head of Citizens For Local Democracy.

Metro's six municipalities as of next Jan. 1.
About 76 per cent of Metro residents who voted in the referendum disapproved of the proposal.
"We're going to require our energy over the next few weeks. Our work is cut out for us. It's very difficult to get the govern-

ning roughshod over people," Sewell said in an interview.
"I noticed that (Municipal Affairs Minister) Al Leach was quoted as saying he believes a majority of people still favor amalgamation. I mean, wow, what kind of a world is he living in?" Sewell said.
Asked about a legal suit

and nothing has persuaded me that a megacity is going to be a better city," Locke said.
"I resent the tremendous amount of emotion and energy that has been spent on this misguided enterprise when we could have been dealing with some of the real problems of the city and the region."

told the committee. He stressed that the anti-megacity movement was a citizen's group, not a politically driven cause. He said a megacity will become a "dumping ground" for the entire province.

were said Toronto's success in welcoming immigrants is due in part to the role of local government. "Those who are familiar with local politics in Toronto know that this is very much flavored by ethnic communities."

Joseph Whitney, longtime Toronto resident and retired geography and planning professor at the University of Toronto: Whitney said the government has no one but itself to blame for the conspiracy theories that abound surrounding Bill 103. Whitney said if the government had come out with clear reasons for the plan, it would have created more rational arguments.

Sam Metalin, North York resident for 21 years: While he applauded the government's plans to reform municipal government, he said the government is headed in the wrong direction and it is the Metro level of government that must go.

Drummond White, Durham Region Coalition for Social Justice, former MPP: "As a coalition, our concern is that this could happen to us... let's look for a mechanism that would please everyone."

Andrea Bowker, lawyer, Toronto City Cycling Committee: Bowker told the committee that Toronto's age, combined with its official plan, makes it welcoming for cyclists. She said her committee enables cyclists to keep in touch with local politicians and advocate cycling. She sees increased distance between volunteers like herself and municipal council as detrimental. She says it will reduce the number of people who volunteer.

Charles Diamond: He criticized the government for the "contemptuous way" it has ignored the overwhelming opposition to megacity. "We need a government that we can trust," he continued. "The bill is defective and the way the government has proceeded borders on malice."

Sheila Cary-Meagher, a former American now living in Toronto: "People are really angry," about the proposed megacity, she said. "And the marches and protests have only just begun. You people are toast." More than 95 per cent of the deputants to the megacity hearings at Queen's Park have been opposed to the idea, she pointed out. "You are moving too fast... in forcing a radical ideology on this province."

Franz Hartman, a North York resident: The referendum has shown that the citizens of Metro are overwhelmingly opposed to a megacity, he said. The critical question now, for the government, is how to react to that vote, he continued.

Karen Goldenthal: As a parent of an inner-city school child, Goldenthal said the needs of a diverse and immigrant population in the city differ from suburban areas. She said local representation, be it trustees or city councillors, must be close to the people who rely on their services.

J. Robert Berry, Islington Ratepayers and Residents Association: Berry recommended replacing the GTA's five regional governments with one greater Toronto council while allowing the smaller municipalities to retain local representation.

Greg Spence: A lack of GTA co-ordination has prevented such initiatives as a rapid transit line to Pearson International Airport. He said the reason outlying communities have not joined together is that they do not want to risk losing their local representation. He urged the government to expand regional government, while leaving local cities intact.

Ron Mazza, lifelong resident of Toronto: "I am not a wild-eyed radical, Bill 103 is turning me into a wild-eyed radical... This person sitting in front of you, and everyone I know, opposes Bill 103."

Reid Lester, Toronto resident: Lester said the anti-amalgamation fight has "energized" the citizenry and provided an open door for the government to work hand in hand with the people to come up with a better plan for Metro's future. He said including all players in the discussions would re-establish the government's credibility.

Maggie Keith, Co-op Housing Federation of Toronto: Keith said the lesson to be learned from co-op housing is that "small is beautiful." She said the democratic nature of running a co-op gives people a vested interest in where they live. She said the same principle applies to local government.

Anne Dubas, President Local 79, Canadian Union of Public Employees: As the head of the union representing workers in both the City of Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto, Dubas said the two-tier system works best. "These complementary levels of government have resulted in a system which balances the needs of all communities and spreads responsibilities in an equitable way."

Anne Collins, Toronto Arts

Amalgamation hurts the hungry, panel told

Province asked to reconsider bill as hearings end

BY CAROLINE MALLAN AND PAUL MOLONEY
STAFF REPORTERS

Metro's losing battle with hunger will only worsen under an amalgamated Toronto, a coalition of food bank workers told MPPs yesterday.

The HungerWatch Coalition's presentation to the government committee studying Bill 103, the amalgamation of Metro's six municipalities, urged MPPs to reconsider a move to one city for the sake of the poor.

Sue Cox, executive director of the Daily Bread Food Bank in Toronto, said the recession of early 1990s increased food bank use by more than 60 per cent in Toronto.

She said the government's plan to shift funding for welfare to municipalities in return for taking up education funding will result in jurisdictions competing to provide the lowest welfare benefits to drive out the poor and disadvantage those who most need help.

Loren Fried, of North York's Harvest food bank, said charities such as his cannot become the end responsibility for the region's needy.

"We find ourselves becoming a new kind of standard bearer for morality," Fried said. "Downloading on to the charitable sector is wrong."

Fried said as welfare rolls swell again, a megacity may not be prepared to ensure that its poorest citizens are taken care of.

Bill 103 would require a new 45-member Toronto council to take office Jan. 1.

It would represent the 2.3 million people now governed by Metro and the municipal councils of Toronto, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, East York and York.

The five weeks of legislative hearings on the province's megacity bill ended last night with Tory MPPs being serenaded by a staunch opponent who warned the government will suffer if it pushes ahead.

After the last speaker wrapped up, Sydney White took to the microphone in a Queen's Park committee room to predict the government's demise in song.

White sang:
"Tory Blue, you got in by default, you wrecking crew
Tory Blue, they don't ask you, When they need a new law, they shove it through.
Once I thought that we had a democracy,
Now I know Ontario, will not be free,
Until we see that you're gone, Tory Blue.
When we win and you're through, Tory Blue."

In an interview, White said the government is in serious trouble unless it withdraws the legislation.

BOSTON TEA PARTY
"We will have an impact," she said. "If they come back April 1 and they do cosmetic changes, it's cosmetics on a dead body. This bill is dead."

"If they try and push it through, they're going to get such a surprise. We're not going to take this lying down."

Progressive Conservative MPP Steve Gilchrist was unfazed by White's caustic lyrics. He said he's confident amendments the government plans to introduce will placate opponents.

"The amendments will range from the technical to the very substantive, very substantive," Gilchrist said.

Sheila Cary-Meagher threw a can of tea on the committee room floor — a reference to the Boston Tea Party, when U.S. colonists rebelled against taxation without representation.

"People are angry," Cary-Meagher told Tory MPPs on the

all-party committee. "I'm happy to say that I believe that you are all toast."

Gilchrist said hostility was expressed by some but no means all of the roughly 600 speakers who have addressed the committee since the hearings began Feb. 3.

"I think most people were civil, I think most people gave presentations that were lucid and constructive."

Asked whether he felt battle-weary, Gilchrist replied: "No, not at all."

A coalition of artists also made their presentation before the Tory-dominated legislative committee yesterday.

Actor Merle Matheson had strong words for the government's plans.

She said the government of former Tory premier Bill Davis, which supported the arts, was vastly different from the current batch of Tories.

"They were democrats, not ideologically driven authoritarians. And unless something was seriously broke, they didn't fix it."

Matheson said the decision to fund the arts, and putting those decisions in jeopardy by amalgamating Metro, is a small investment considering the paybacks.

"Funding an artist is like buying straw and having it turned into gold," she told the committee. "In Toronto, cultural events pull in \$1 billion from tourists alone every year."

Anne Collins, president of the Toronto Arts Council, told MPPs the artistic community in Toronto needs a commitment of funding and support.

She said the existing funding structure at the Metro level of government is closer to the political level, whereas the Toronto Arts Council is left by the City of Toronto to operate at arm's length.

"It's not artist-driven (at Metro)," Collins said.

She urged the committee to ensure that sustained funding



SUE COX: Head of Daily Bread Food Bank fears welfare plan.



MERLE MATHESON: Megacity would put arts funding in jeopardy.

for the arts be included in any plans for amalgamation.

Also yesterday, NDP MPP Tony Silipo (Dovercourt) asked his fellow all-party committee members to agree to ask the clerk to invite the government's appointed megacity trustees to appear before the committee.

Although the trustees are no longer operating after a divisional court ruling last week declared they had no legal status until the legislation is passed, Silipo said he feels they should be available to answer the committee's questions.

Liberal MPP Mike Colle (Oakwood) suggested that if the three did not agree to appear, then a warrant compelling them to come to the committee should be sought from the Speaker of the Legislature.