

FREEDOM FLYER

THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF THE
FREEDOM PARTY OF
ONTARIO

Those who expect the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it - Thomas Paine

LAWS

Blind obedience sometimes worse than going to jail

Can we entrust our minds and bodies to the same soulless machine that runs the post office and Via Rail?

By Marc Emery
Guest writer JAN 20 1990

In reference to Sunday shopping laws, Ontario's Chief Justice William Howland and The London Free Press argue that breaking the law is no way to change a bad law.

I disagree. If you want the law respected, make it respectable.

Canada now has more laws that abrogate legitimate individual choices than it does against actual crime.

The government owns or controls all major utilities and alcohol outlets, gives preferential status to so-called minorities and controls property rights through pay-equity laws, rent controls and Sunday shopping laws.

The government controls and forces participation in our state school system and our monolithic state medical system. Incredibly, we have entrusted our minds and

ships. At least in a dictatorship, most people know who their enemy is. In a democracy, it is difficult to face the fact our vote-wielding neighbor is likely the enemy.

The illusion persisting in Canada that significant change can be accomplished by voting every four years has not changed anything. Socialism and statism advances each year, as do inevitable increases in taxes, national debt and government dominance.

HONORABLE WAY: Breaking a law and publicly announcing your intention to do so is the only honorable way of changing bad laws. It poses no threat to any other individual while avoiding the process that is slowly destroying a potentially free society — democracy.

In breaking the law, the individuals in Ontario know you are willing to make a sacrifice for change.

Gandhi, Martin Luther King, H. D. Thoreau, Lech Walesa, Canadians Henri Bourassa and William Lyon MacKenzie and thousands of others broke bad laws impinging on individual freedom.

They went to jail, and they were right to do so. Many of these true freedom fighters won — and many died.

Protestors urge:

Drop bilingualism as job requirement

Barry Fitzgerald, a member of the Freedom Party, said the protesters are irate over provincial legislation known as the French Language Services Act and similar federal laws, because of "special treatment" they give francophones. "We find the French Language Services Act doesn't meet the test of making things better for the average Ontarian," he said. "We're all

going to have to pay for the costs associated with it — one of which is making bilingualism a qualification for jobs in the provincial government."

Fitzgerald said the government seems to have an "open-ended account" when it comes to implementing francophone programs, but it's

Two Freedom Party members attend board battle meeting

Two members of the Freedom Party of Ontario left their political opinions at the door to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Monday night.

Barry Fitzgerald and Chris Holmes, both Freedom Party members, sat quietly through most of a tense three-hour meeting between members of the Welland Downtown Development Board and the merchants who provide its operating budget.

When board chairman Marjory McPherson announced the meeting two weeks ago, she said it was open to anyone interested in the workings of the board except those representing political parties.

"I sort of expected it," McPherson said Tuesday. "These aren't the kind of people who acquiesce to your requests."

While Fitzgerald remained quiet throughout the meeting, Holmes did ask a few questions about the board's operating budget and action procedures.

They also want a one per cent ceiling on the special tax levy used to collect the board's operating budget from merchants, and an annual general election of board members.

Fitzgerald and Holmes handed out literature before the meeting. Included in it were clipped news stories about similar conflicts in other Ontario towns and cities.

HELPED DISBAND

According to a 1988 Toronto newspaper article, the Freedom Party's province-wide opposition to designated Business Improvement Areas figured in the disbanding of three boards similar to Welland's Downtown Development Board.

An unsigned statement on party letterhead said the local board's executive members were not within their mandate when they donated money to the Festival of Arts murals project, or when they lobbied for or against market value assessment.

**SPEAKER'S
CORNER**

OPENERS

BY ROBERT
METZ:
PRESIDENT &
PARTY LEADER

WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE GST?

TAXED TO DEATH!

by the

PIRATES OF THE HIGH SEIZE

- by Robert Metz

(Mr. Metz is president and leader of Freedom Party)

Tax protests may come and go, but as long as we insist on governing ourselves through the majority-rule process, taxes will be here to stay and, even worse, they'll eventually get so high that few of us will be able to afford them. I regretfully say this with a fair degree of confidence, given the spending history of all democratic governments around the world, and the dismal current state of economic affairs in every democratic country today, including, unfortunately, both the economies of Canada and Ontario.

There are three main barriers making it difficult to launch an effective, successful campaign against higher taxes: (1) voter ignorance, (2) voter apathy, and worst of all, (3) voter support. You heard right --- voter support.

Just think of all the people you know who complain about high taxes, yet faithfully vote Liberal, Conservative, or New Democrat election after election. Have you noticed how the only time (if ever!) they realize they voted for higher taxes is *after* each election?

Sad to say, regardless of how much voters may say they are against high taxes, the fact of the matter is the vast majority of voters *actively support* our disgustingly high tax rates --- by routinely voting for political parties who

in turn routinely increase our taxes after each and every election. That's the way it is with *taxes*. Voters never think about them until it's too late. And by then, well, it's too late. *Taxes are the hidden agenda behind every election campaign.*

With over half our earnings already being spent by politicians, *where will it all stop?* Do taxpayers have a right to any protection against excessive taxation? Is there a point where citizens can protect themselves from the irresponsible spending of politicians? If a 50%+ tax rate isn't considered excessive, what is? --- 60%? --- 70%? --- 80%? --- 100%? Is there any politician out there willing to give us a guarantee that these outrageous rates will never be exceeded?

TAX FACT : ALL 3 LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT ARE COMPETING TO SPEND OUR MONEY

Believe it or not, there isn't. Like thieves and pirates, the only "tax limits" politicians have any concern with is their victim's *ability to pay*.

But you'd never guess it by the way politicians talk. Since the advent of the proposed federal goods and services tax (GST), every politician from every level of government who isn't a federal Conservative (plus a few who are!) has had bad things to say about the GST and about taxes in general. Hypocrites.

Ontario premier David Peterson, after having force-fed Ontarians with a 14.29% increase in the provincial sales tax (from 7-8%), actually had the nerve to criticize the newly-proposed federal goods and services tax (GST) as a "bitter pill to swallow" for Ontarians.

Were it not so tragic, his assessment may have been considered comical: the Peterson era has seen a host of significantly-higher new taxes imposed upon Ontarians. In addition to the sales tax increase, we now have an Employer Health Tax and soon-to-be-imposed land development taxes --- both desperate attempts in the government's publicized bid to generate more dollars for failing provincial government health and education schemes. But even despite everyone's ever-increasing tax burden and ever-decreasing personal income, the provincial *deficit* continues to grow in leaps and bounds! Not surprisingly, the *federal deficit* is reaching all time highs as well, while municipally, there never seems to be enough in the budgets to keep the roads in repair.

It becomes increasingly understandable why *provincial* and *municipal* politicians get so upset about increases in *federal* taxes; after all, they're competing for the same tax dollars. So the next time you hear a politician preach about the evils of excessive taxation, remember, it's not *your* pocketbook he's trying to protect, it's *his* political career; he has promises he wants to make and he knows taxpayers have to pay for them. What he's really after is *first-claim* on your pocketbook.

(Continued next page)

TAX FACT : All three levels of government are competing to *spend* our money, *not* to save it;

TAX FACT : Liberals, Conservatives, and New Democrats at both the federal and provincial levels are competing to *spend* our money, *not* to save it.

TAX FACT : The *average* Canadian pays *more than half* of his yearly earnings to various levels of government right now;

TAX FACT : Half of the average Canadian's earnings is not nearly enough to keep up with the current rate of government spending. Ontario and Canada's deficits continue to grow at unprecedented rates (Even with Ontario's "windfall" in personal income taxes of \$952 million for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1990, only a projected \$11 million temporary "surplus" was created, hardly a drop in the bucket considering the province's accumulated debt of over \$40 billion!);

A TAX IS A TAX, NOT A PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED

TAX FACT : Taxes have always gone up, never down;

TAX FACT : Majority-rule governments always spend more than they take in;

TAX FACT : There has never been a successful tax protest exercised within the majority rule process that has actually resulted in lower taxes and increased market choices. (Even "successful" tax protests like California's infamous Proposition 13 merely resulted in a *shifting* of the tax base and even worse, resulted in a disproportionate reduction in basic civic services.)

TAX FACT : No matter how we try to shift the burden of taxes to those "more able to pay" (i.e., corporations, the "wealthy", etc.), in the end, *everyone* pays, even those who perceive themselves to be beneficiaries of taxes and government handouts.

If we really want to get serious about doing anything *meaningful* about lowering taxes, the first place to start is by casting off the overwhelmingly popular myth that there is such a thing as *fair* taxes.

TAXES PAY FOR THE VERY THINGS WE, AS INDIVIDUALS, ARE NOT PERMITTED TO HAVE ANY CONTROL OF

Let's be honest with ourselves about what taxes really are. No matter how you collect a tax, or *who* collects it or which level of government collects it, or which government collects it, or how many different ways it can be spread out to as many people as possible, *there's no such thing as a "fair" tax*. There are *low* taxes (since when?), *high* taxes, *equal* taxes, *flat* taxes, *graduated* taxes, *income* taxes, *sales* taxes, etc., --- but I have yet to discover a *fair* tax.

The reason is almost self-evident, though most rarely pause to consider what taxes are really all about: taxes, by their very nature, are *involuntary payments imposed by law*. A *tax* is a *tax*, not a payment for services rendered. You pay it whether you receive a particular service or not. You pay it whether you want the service or not. You pay it whether you agree with how it's spent or not. If it's a tax, the government forces you to pay it and the government decides how your money will be spent, not you.

For those about to suggest that we can exercise our "choice" for lower taxes at the ballot box each election, I have a simple question: *where's your choice?* I guarantee you won't be able to find any Liberals, Conservatives, or New Democrats with the guts to promise you *lower* taxes. (On the off chance that you do find one, you'll know one of two things about him; either he's stupid or he's lying.) Lower taxes are simply out of the question given that each and every one of the election promises being made by these parties guarantees an *increase* in taxes.

But there *is* an answer. For those who want to see lower taxes, Freedom Party is their only choice.

In fact, choice is what Freedom Party has always been about. With Freedom Party in power, that's exactly where we'd start --- by returning the choice of what taxes are spent on back to the people who pay those taxes: *taxpayers*.

It's a sensible place to start. If you stop to think about it for a moment, taxes pay for the very things that we, as individuals, are not permitted to have any control of; that's why government spending is *always* out of control.

Taxes pay for the cost of collecting more taxes. Taxes pay politicians' salaries. Taxes pay for the government education system. Taxes pay for the government health care system. Taxes pay for the roads and highways. Taxes pay for the welfare system. Taxes pay for pension and unemployment benefits. Taxes pay for the justice system. Taxes pay for military defence and for domestic police forces. Soon, taxes will be paying for daycare services and to clean up the environment.

What this means to each and every one of us is this, and only this: each of us will have to give more of our hard-earned dollars to *politicians*, and have less of them to spend on ourselves. But that isn't even the worst of it. The real frustration comes with the realization that we can still have accessible education, a health care system, roads, highways, and various forms of insurance and economic protections *without* high taxes and that in fact, our high taxes themselves will eventually be the undoing of all the services voters have claimed to "value" so much. *Taxpayers simply won't have any control over their tax dollars.*

WHAT WE HAVE IS TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION; AND REPRESENTATION WITHOUT TAXATION

In an effort to provide an alternative to this bleak outlook for our economic and social future, Freedom Party will be launching a comprehensive anti-tax campaign, unlike anything that has ever been tried before by a political party. You're invited to get involved.

We want the taxpayer to regain control of his or her tax dollars. We want to return to the principle of *taxation with representation*, which was abandoned when the majority rule process evolved into the primary driving force behind our democracy. We must never lose sight of the fact that the principle of majority rule and the principles behind a free democracy are *not* compatible! In a very large part, our failure to recognize and remain conscious of this fact is what's responsible for our currently hopeless tax situation.

THERE SHOULD BE AN OPTION SECTION ON EACH TAX RETURN

Taxation with representation is a very important component of a free democracy. In Canada, we don't have it. What we have is a curious inversion and reversal of that concept: *taxation without representation* and *representation without taxation*. All it takes is some lobby group begging for social handouts to get the ear of the right politicians and the next thing you know we're all paying for somebody else's choice and somebody else's responsibilities. Politicians see lobby groups as potential votes, while taxpayers are simply their means to buy those votes. Is it any wonder that under such a system, *controlling government spending is impossible*?

FREEDOM PARTY WILL VIGOROUSLY PROMOTE AN ANTI- TAX KIT

As long as the politicians of the other parties continue to force us to pay them, all taxes relating to social legislation, income redistribution, and the provision of "essential" services should be directed to the service/institution/welfare agency of the taxpayer's choice. There should be an "options" section on each individual taxpayer's tax return indicating which school, which hospital, which welfare agency etc., he wants to direct his taxes to. Of course, our current crop of politicians will do their best to resist such a suggestion, since an increase in the taxpayer's power will represent a proportionate decrease in the politician's power.

That's precisely why we need an *anti-tax campaign that educates, recruits supporters, lobbies the public, lobbies the politicians, and in the process, creates a new political alternative for lower taxes and increased choices.*

...INCLUDING BUTTONS, POSTERS, NEWSPAPER ADS...

Among many of the points our campaign will advocate are the following: (1) a call for the right of taxpayers to direct their taxes (as outlined above), (2) the privatization and selling-off of Crown corporations engaged in business activities, (3) dramatic cuts in government spending (the mechanics of which are too detailed to discuss within the confines of this editorial, but which will be published as part of our campaign), (4) an end to *universality* in social programs, (5) a flat tax rate, (6) visible taxes, (7) lower sales taxes, (8) lower income taxes, and much much more.

Beginning with a focus on the GST, our campaign will include newspaper advertising, public advocacy and debating, public rallies, political lobbying, and the preparation and distribution of an anti-tax kit consisting of information, statistics, various economic perspectives on the effects of all forms of taxation, and pre-printed tax protest cards directed to appropriate politicians at all three levels of government. Those who support our campaign will receive a regular anti-tax newsletter appraising them of our progress and keeping them up-to-date on *political* developments concerning taxes.

We'll have buttons, posters, bumper stickers --- the works.

YOUR ADVICE, SUGGESTIONS, TIME, EXPERTISE, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS REQUIRED

But we can only accomplish as much as our resources allow. Your support, and the support of everyone opposed to ever-increasing taxes is what will make it all possible.

I'm determined to make lower taxes the primary issue Freedom Party is identified with. That's a commitment. What I need is YOUR commitment and that means one of two things: money and/or time.

It should be obvious that we cannot accomplish our goals without the money or without the volunteers to help us spread our message and campaign for lower taxes. While it may seem a paradox to have to spend more money to save on taxes, rest assured that your contributions to Freedom Party are always an investment in your future while taxes will always remain a losing proposition. You may also take comfort in the knowledge that contributions to Freedom Party are *tax-creditable* (one of the very few provisions in our current tax structure that allows you to direct a portion of your taxes to the political party of your choice).

Consider the future. Act now.

A COPY OF "THE CASE AGAINST OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM IN CANADA"

&

"NO"

TO OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM BUTTON ARE ENCLOSED. ORDER MORE TODAY!

(BUTTONS ARE 25
FOR \$10,
BROCHURES ARE
100 FOR \$10)

FREEEDOM PARTY ISSUES BROCHURE ON ONTARIO'S BILL 8 AND OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM

FREEEDOM PARTY
campaigns for
FREEEDOM OF CHOICE
in
LANGUAGE

"It is the French dimension of our national personality that constitutes the soul of Canada and its impact at the national and international level."

-Prime Minister Brian Mulroney
-Toronto Star, July 13, 1989

WELLAND (Jan. 1990) -
Freedom Party has officially gone on record against forced bilingualism with the participation of FP representative Barry Fitzgerald in a public protest against the hiring policy of the *Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO)*. Central to the issue are the legal provisions of Ontario's French Language Services Act, which along with other similar federal laws, *discriminate* in favour of francophones.

Says Fitzgerald: "We're all going to have to pay for the costs associated with (official bilingualism), one of which is making it a qualification for jobs in the provincial government."

As if to drive his point home, he adds "We don't have enough money to operate our hospitals now, but the Ministry of Health can find enough money to implement French services."

Official bilingualism has been a brewing divisive issue since its very beginnings in Canada, though most Ontarians have never been overly concerned. Now, official bilingualism has come to Ontario, and the issue is much more visible. This has in large part been due to the formation of various groups specifically created to fight official bilingualism, particularly the *Alliance for the Preservation of English in Canada (APEC)* and the *Confederation of Regions party (COR)*. Both groups were represented at the Welland LCBO protest.

Unfortunately, some types of supporters attracted to these organizations have often done more harm than good to their cause. It must be admitted that there is often a great deal of anti-French sentiment, resentment, and growing intolerance providing the incentive to lobby against official bilingualism. As a result, the media and politicians have often painted these organizations with a tainted brush.

To complicate matters further, the leadership of these groups is often undermining their objective by advocating principles that represent the very thing they are fighting against. For example, in *APEC's* January 1990 newsletter edited by Pauline Leitch, in the lead article entitled "What does Canada really want?", the writer proposes that "There must be no provincial right of veto or right to opt out of any Federal program and it follows that there would be no compensation to provinces which refuse to participate. Laws and programs under Federal jurisdiction shall have a Federal presence in every province." If this is what *APEC* stands for, how can it possibly justify its stand on official bilingualism *without* sounding intolerant and contradictory?

"Canadians want the right to control their own destiny," concludes the article. "The right to be a democracy in the true sense of the word. A democracy where the will of the majority prevails... (Canada) wants to be a nation whose destiny is determined by the expressed will of all its people and not by government decree." Clearly, one cannot have it both ways; either each individual is permitted to control his own destiny or the will of the majority prevails. *Freedom of choice and majority rule* are direct opposites and official bilingualism is a direct result of majority rule. Moreover, "government decree" is the very instrument by which the "expressed will of the people" is exercised through the majority rule process.

In an intellectual vacuum of such magnitude, political polarization of the official bilingualism issue is a foregone

conclusion. While one side senses injustice and unfairness in the application of official bilingualism rules without properly identifying the cause, the other side senses bigotry, racism, and intolerance without examining *their* causes. Yet, from *both* perspectives, the cause of the conflict is the same: a denial of each individual's freedom of choice in language.

In an effort to combat the confusion and lack of focus being generated by both sides in the bilingualism debate, Freedom Party has produced a pamphlet entitled *Official Bilingualism is Forced Bilingualism*. "Unless official bilingualism is abandoned in favour of **freedom of choice in language**," says the pamphlet, "the future of English-French relations in Canada will be doomed to a bitter never-ending political conflict resulting in increased intolerance, division, racism, and even violence." Of course, this trend is exactly the path on which our federal and provincial governments have embarked upon today --- through the enactment of official bilingualism laws.

However, Freedom Party draws a sharp distinction between the language a government chooses to operate in versus the policy of dictating language practices to private citizens. On the latter, our policy is clear: "Government has no business dictating language policy to anyone."

For more details or information on how to get involved, order pamphlets, etc., contact Freedom Party headquarters.

***The newspaper
coverage of this
event is included
on the cover***

FOR:

People before profit

We can't afford not to pay a decent minimum wage.

By Susan Eagle
Guest writer

IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE in this enlightened day that we could still be engaged in a debate over the merits of minimum-wage laws.

Competing economic philosophies have not only kept the debate alive but pressure from conservative business interests has kept minimum wages far below the poverty line.

As a result the minimum-wage law hasn't protected workers but has contributed to a growing gap between rich and poor.

Statistics from the Canadian Council on Social Development show the working poor increased between 1973 and 1986 by 19 per cent for families and 46 per cent for unattached individuals to a total of 409,480 households in Canada. That does not include those on social assistance.

The increase of 25 cents an hour, which brings Ontario's minimum wage up to \$5 an hour won't begin to deal with the real cost of living for workers and their families.

As the Canadian Council on Social Development reports, "In 1975 a fully employed minimum-wage worker, who supported a spouse and child in a large city, could earn 81 per cent of the Statistics Canada poverty-line income. By 1986 however, this worker could earn only 46 per cent of the poverty-line income. In fact, even if both spouses were fully employed at the minimum they could earn only 92 per cent of a poverty-line income in 1986."

The social assistance review committee, in its report in the fall of 1988, concluded that, "a minimum-wage job has never yielded sufficient income to provide adequately for the costs of raising a family, but today the minimum wage provides an insufficient income to support even a single person in many parts of Ontario."

As minimum-wage levels continue to lag behind inflation, some other economic shifts need to be identified.

The Ontario Federation of Labor says the declining number of large employers and increasing number and proportion of small employers and small workplaces leads to fewer better-paid industrial jobs and more less well paid and insecure jobs.

Labor federation statistics indicate 474,000 full-time jobs were lost in the 1981-83 period, while there was a net increase of 218,000 part-time jobs.

PAYING THE BILL: Moral and ethical arguments alone justify the obligation society has to provide adequately for its citizens. And working wages come back into the economy as purchases of goods and services. The very consumers on whom businesses depend to buy their goods need to be paid sufficient wages to do so.

A few months ago the Ontario government boasted that "over the past half-dozen years Ontario has led the industrialized world in economic growth." Yet, incredibly, minimum wages, while they increased slightly, have been losing ground during those years. Management salaries increased at the same time by up to 40 per cent.

There are undoubtedly some marginal businesses which would be adversely affected by higher wages, but even they may benefit from the increased spending power of better-paid workers.

Those who argue that higher wages will create unemployment, ignore other more important economic factors. Minimum-wage increases in the U.S. have not brought the predicted increase in unemployment.

Arthur Fleming, former U.S. secretary of health, education and welfare, concluded that "other factors such as economic growth, interest rates and inflation have a far more profound impact on employment, than does the minimum wage."

The rationale that "we can't survive economically any other way" has been used to justify slavery, apartheid, unequal wages and other forms of economic injustice. Paying a worker less than a legislated just wage is simply another example of economic injustice. The other economic factor which will undoubtedly affect minimum wage is the Canada-U.S. free-trade agreement.

Competition with manufacturing industries where there is already a low wage scale will come from the U.S. with even lower minimum wages and poor labor legislation.

Kansas and Nebraska have minimum wages less than \$2 an hour. Increasingly there will be pressure in Canada to seek competitive advantage by cutting wages or benefits and this will mean more deprivation for working class families.

PROFIT MOTIVE: The market economy asserts that business profit is a priority and workers are hired, fired and paid according to the prevailing profit formula. It argues that a legislated minimum wage leads to workers who will price themselves out of jobs.

In fact, the continuing decline in minimum-wage dollars, as compared to the cost of living, indicates that workers are anything but overpaid.

Work and production serve a social usefulness and the well-being of society is a priority. Consumer and social needs, worker well-being and environmental protection must all be integrated in the economic formula.

Workers are entitled to a fair return for their labor. We are morally obligated to develop an economic formula which recognizes the needs of people as a higher priority than the quest for profits.

MINIMUM WAGE DEBATE STIRS CONTROVERSY

LONDON (Sept. 1989) - In recognition of Ontario's latest increase in the legislated minimum wage on October 1, 1989, Freedom Party's Murray Hopper was invited to participate in a published debate on the merits of minimum wage laws. Featured on the front page (Sept. 23, 1989) of the Forum section of the London Free Press, readers were invited to phone or write their views to the paper; their responses were featured the following week. In addition to the immediate responses printed by the Free Press, the debate carried on in the paper's editorial pages over the weeks that followed.

Hopper's case against minimum wage laws represented his third published essay in the London Free Press, and like his previous two essays on controversial subjects (on free market education and pay equity) has generated a great deal of interest in the party and in the ideas we are working to promote.

MINIMUM WAGE

About 196,000 Ontario workers will get a raise Oct. 1 when the new provincial minimum wage levels come into effect. Under the new pay schedules, an adult general worker is entitled to \$5 an hour, while student under age 18 can expect \$4.15 an hour. People serving liquor in bars and restaurants will receive \$4.50.

The increases, averaging 25 cents an hour, make Ontario's minimum wage among the highest in Canada and that has stoked a strong debate on whether minimum wages work for or against Canada's poor.

LET'S HEAR YOUR VIEWS ON MINIMUM WAGE RATES

Call our telephone answering machine, 667-4580, today between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Include your name and phone number so we can contact you for verification — or bring your written responses to our London or district bureau offices by 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25. We'll publish a cross-section of responses in next Saturday's Forum Section.



AGAINST:

Wage law doesn't work

Minimum-wage laws only increase unemployment, keeping young, unskilled people from getting a toe-hold on a better life.

By Murray Hopper
Guest writer

MANY OF THOSE who advocate or support minimum-wage laws do so from the noblest of motives, the desire to help others.

They perceive that the capitalist employer wants to hire labor at the lowest possible cost, and they fear that this attitude would bear most harshly on those at the fringes of our society — the poorly educated, the handicapped, single mothers, members of minority groups, and others with few marketable skills.

They sincerely believe that without preventive government action these vulnerable marginal workers would fall victim to exploitation.

Unfortunately for good intentions, this legislation will produce results exactly opposite to those intended or expected.

When an employer is required to pay, say, \$4 an hour to a prospective employee whose services are worth only \$3, the candidate probably will not be hired. To put it plainly, minimum-wage legislation condemns to unemployment all those whose low skill levels do not justify payment of the mandated figure.

CUTTING A GOOD DEAL: Coercive legislation is no substitute for private contract. What the marginal worker needs is freedom to make his or her own deal with an employer, using the rate differential as a bargaining tool in order to gain entry into the work force and the opportunity for on-the-job training. Surely people are better off working at a job which pays only \$3.50 an hour if the alternative is unemployment because they are not yet worth \$4.50.

What we are discussing here is, after all, the entry-level job. It was never envisioned that this type of employment would be either permanent or sufficient to support a spouse and children. Millions of people have successfully passed through this early stage in their working lives and have gone on to greater glories.

The awareness of the harmful effects of the minimum wage on unemployment levels is by no means of recent vintage. As long ago as 1930, English economist William Beveridge accepted as common knowledge the fact that implementation of minimum-wage rates resulted in increased unemployment, particularly among the poor.

This is an astonishing admission, given that Sir William (as he later became) was a founding father of the British welfare state and, therefore, well to the left in the political spectrum. His aim was "security from the cradle to the grave" for all Britons. Naturally, this was to be accomplished by government action.

The understanding that lower wage rates will result in increased hiring, particularly of the disadvantaged, is of even earlier origin.

Marcus Garvey, the militant black leader of the 1920s, paid a back-handed and somewhat cynical compliment to American employers of the day when he said, "It seems strange and a paradox, but the only convenient friend the Negro worker or laborer has in America at the present time is the white capitalist. The capitalist being selfish, seeking only the largest profit out of labor, is willing and glad to use Negro labor wherever possible on a scale reasonably below the standard union wage... but if the Negro unionizes himself to the level of the white worker, the choice and preference of employment is given to the white worker."

In more recent years, white racist unions in South Africa's construction industry successfully lobbied for an increase in the minimum wage. Although this action was widely hailed by unthinking liberals as an expression of inter-racial solidarity, it was no such thing.

White union leaders knew that any reduction in the gap between high white wage rates and low black ones would result in an increase in white employment and a decrease in black; and that is exactly what happened.

COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE: The American experience verifies the counter-productivity of such legislation. The U.S. minimum wage (introduced in 1939) had risen by the end of the Second World War to only 40 cents an hour. This amount, relatively small and ravaged by inflation, had little or no impact on the economy.

However, in 1950 the minimum wage was raised sharply to 75 cents, and in 1956 to \$1. By 1968 the rate stood at \$1.60. The effect on the employment of teenagers, particularly black teenagers, was devastating.

In the period 1950 to 1954 teenage unemployment was undifferentiated racially, standing at an average of 10.3 per cent for whites and 11.1 per cent for blacks. However, by 1971 the rate for whites stood at only 13.5 per cent while that of black teenagers had risen to 33.8 per cent.

The greatest objection to this legislation, however, is not simply that it fails to produce the result desired, but that it offends against liberty. No government has the right to limit the peaceable activities of any citizen; when it does so it abandons its sworn duty — to uphold the rights of all.

Think of it. This foolish law makes criminals of honest men (both workers and employers) who seek only to negotiate an agreement on terms acceptable to both sides.

CLARKSON BIA TO STAY (AND OTHER TAXING EVENTS)

CLARKSON BIA TO STAY

MISSISSAUGA (August, 1989) - When last we reported on the situation in this city's business community of *Clarkson*, a raging debate over its Business Improvement Area (BIA) (involving BIA members, executive, Mississauga's municipal council, and Freedom Party) had reached the boiling point (see *Freedom Flyer*, Winter '88-'89).

After having dumped the issue in the lap of Mississauga's mayor Hazel McCallion, BIA executive members Pat Pleich and Robin Raimondo took a drastic step in their effort to rid their business community of the BIA by filing a complaint with the *Law Society of Upper Canada* over the actions of the city solicitor Bruce Thom at a BIA meeting held on May 15, 1989. Charging that Thom was "threatening" them and behaving unprofessionally with regard to his advisements on the Clarkson BIA, Pleich and Raimondo argued that he had no right to attend BIA meetings since he was not a member and that his presence was destructive to the "democratic" nature of the group.

In his response to their charges, Thom was forced to explain the nature of BIAs to the *Law Society of Upper Canada*. His description in every way confirmed what Freedom Party has been saying about BIAs all along; that

they are *not* democratic organizations and that they represent another level of business tax.

As Mississauga City Solicitor Bruce Thom explained: "The Clarkson Business Improvement Area (BIA) is a creature of statute; specifically, Section 217 of the *Municipal Act*. ...Although the BIA is not a democratic process (whereby every assessed owner gets a vote) the Clarkson group have proceeded to some extent as if that was the case. ...In fact, the Board of Management is the BIA and the general group simply forms the tax base. ...In late 1988, the general group in Clarkson tried to put a 'Constitution' in place. Even though it has no legal effect, since it deals with a group that does not exist in the legislation, it was an attempt to bring order to the chaotic general meetings. ...At the meeting, I simply advised the group of the provisions of the legislation, told them that the legislation take precedence over any Constitution and that if any members of the Board did not want to carry out their statutory duty to prepare a budget and administer it, they should get off the Board or Council may be forced to remove them by law."

It is understandable why Thom appeared unable to comprehend the nature of the BIA opponents' charges: "I am supposedly 'helping some dishonest politicians to break the law' but neither the politicians nor the offence are cited." Similarly, it is understandable why BIA members felt threatened and offended by

Thom's recital of the law. "This is not democracy, but pure coercion," remarked (then) executive member Raimondo. But it was not Thom who "threatened" members of the *Clarkson BIA*; it was the law itself.

The whole confusion initially arises over how BIAs are "sold" to their "members", or rather, as Thom has explained, to their "tax base". It is quite possible that Thom is unaware of how misleadingly BIAs are politically promoted to business communities. Business people are *not* being told that they are merely a tax base; they are outrightly being told that BIAs are democratic, which accounts for why "the Clarkson group have proceeded to some extent as if that was the case."

Regrettably, it appears that the *Clarkson BIA* may have to continue in existence for quite some time. With a six figure sum outstanding as a loan from the city, the chances of dissolving the BIA before its debt is repaid is remote. This very circumstance was warned against in Freedom Party's *BIA Warning* brochure. And after all her work, BIA opponent Pat Pleich has been forced to face dismissal from the executive to which she was elected.

Though the *Clarkson* saga is not yet a closed case, it should serve as fair warning to potential BIA conscripts around the province everywhere. *Warning: BIAs may be hazardous to your economic health and survival.*

FREEDOM PARTY BARRED FROM WELLAND BIA MEETING

WELLAND (September, 1989) - While it normally might not be worthy of news coverage, the appearance of Freedom Party members at BIA meetings seems to be upsetting to certain interests. With a conflict surrounding the Welland downtown BIA's general manager position (145 of the BIA's members signed a petition requesting that either the general manager's position be eliminated, or the board itself be eliminated), Freedom Party's arsenal of BIA information can be most persuasive.

Thus, it was not surprising that chairman of the downtown BIA, Marjory McPherson, announced that the BIA's September 18 meeting was "open to anyone with information to share, save persons representing political parties," according to the *Guardian Express*. It was a move exclusively calculated to exclude Freedom Party from being represented, a cowardly tactic, to say the least.

FP representative Barry Fitzgerald reacted by handing out a printed statement outside the door of the BIA meeting which explained:

"The executive of the board has chosen to censor its only real political opposition under the guise of forbidding all political parties from making presentations. The issue at the root of your problem is BIA taxation. How much should you pay? What should you get in return? Do you want any part of this deal?"

"The mandate of a BIA is twofold: (1) to promote the area, (2) to beautify the municipally-owned property in the area. Your executive is not within this mandate when they lobby other levels of government for or against Market Value Assessment of Transit Malls, or when they donate your tax dollars to the Festival of Arts. Did you authorize your executive to undertake these projects? Whether you agree with these projects is not at issue, but if you were not even asked, then on what authority is the BIA operating?"

Perhaps members of Welland's downtown BIA should be introduced to Mississauga's city solicitor Bruce Thom, who, in our coverage on the *Clarkson BIA* elsewhere in this issue, answers that question rather directly.

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Being a political orphan in search of a party, I attended FP's annual dinner on June 3, 1989. With one major exception, I found that we agree on all the salient issues --- philosophical and political. Perhaps I have found a home in FP. If the point of our disagreement were not an overriding one, my commitment to FP would, at this point, be without qualification, because I agree with you also that to reject affiliation with a group over minor and debatable single issues is frivolous.

So long as we hold Freedom to be paramount, we can disagree (and always will in light of that very Freedom we cherish!) on moral issues like abortion, on religious issues like Sunday shopping, and a host of lesser ones like metric measure, speed limits, seat belts, anti-smoking bylaws, etc. Regulations enacted in public crusades "for the good of society" are mere irritants to some individuals' freedom of choice; as long as the foundation of Freedom is in place and the citizenry resolute in its action, they can be easily rescinded through the political process. Prohibition of the sale of alcohol is a good example.

But (we) have a disagreement on a profound question of Freedom itself and the attendant responsibilities it demands from the individual.

To get to the crux of it: Foremost to any philosophical formulation, natural law grants to the individual and a society the absolute right of self-protection from external as well as internal threat. We cherish Freedom as our most valuable possession and have the right and obligation to protect it. Not to exercise that right and fulfill that obligation flies in the face of natural law. And natural law is the most unforgiving of all --- disrespect for it leads to the destruction of the offender.

This too is as old as the ages, said by many men many times: Maintaining freedom requires eternal vigilance. Although individual freedom of choice occupies the core of our belief, it can prevail only within the larger sphere of like freedom to others.

Freedom is simultaneously an individual and a societal attribute. It follows that irresponsible individual choice, one that endangers the freedom of the collective whole, can not be allowed.

It is precisely on this point that the Libertarian credo derails itself; I hope that Freedom Party can do better.

The libertarian is obsessed with a mythical government ogre devouring individual freedoms and completely ignores the dangers to those same freedoms from actions of other individuals. But what is governance, after all, if not the exercising of choice by an individual (if a king, or autocrat), or by a group of individuals (elected or appointed). Therefore, we must have a government so constituted that eternal vigilance is brought to the protection of freedom by abuses by either an individual, a group, or the government itself.

The constitution of the United States is recognized as one of the more successful documents for self-governance by free men. It is so because the drafters of that constitution started with the historically proved proposition that all men are intrinsically selfish, venal and power-hungry. To put it crudely, which the drafters were not loath to do in their deliberations, their challenge was to devise a system of self-government by a bunch of rascals, such that each would have the maximum leeway for pursuing his at times nefarious ends, and yet ensure a measure of fairness to the rules of the game and protection of the lot from external predators.

The external predator of the day is the USSR. Certain sanctions on the export of high-tech to the USSR from NATO countries have been in force for many years. Granted, this has impeded the free choice in the disposal of property by greedy men who have no principles, save the mighty buck. There has been much loud squabbling and moaning by businessmen here and in Europe about the enormity of restrictions on free trade, but no thought about the fact that this trade aids the colossal warmaking potential and power stance of the USSR, making

the world less free and skyrocketing defence expenditures in the West. To me this is a clear case where the demand for unrestricted free choice by some endangers the freedom of all and therefore must be banned. To think otherwise is senseless and suicidal. I would prefer a complete ban on export of technology and capital to the USSR in any form. We are not dealing here with a tin-pot dictatorship, but with a power that, given the opportunity, would in their own words bury us.

June, 1989

George Irbe

RICHMOND HILL, Ont.

EDITOR: Fundamentally, it does not appear that we have any disagreement on the "profound question" of freedom and its inherent responsibilities. We quite agree with your general comments and observations. It should be made clear that Freedom Party supports absolute *rights*, not absolute *freedom*; in fact, individual rights are the way that a free society *limits* the freedom of individuals so as not to interfere with the similar rights of others.

It seems, rather, that if there is any disagreement in question, it is on the issue of free trade, specifically, trade with the USSR, a nation which you have certainly identified in the proper moral light. However, as the saying goes, "when goods don't cross borders, armies will." Military secrets aside (which may or may not involve high-tech, and which is entirely a separate issue from free trade), trade restrictions offer no defensive value to a nation whatsoever. Your preference towards "a complete ban on export of technology and capital to the USSR in any form," is a frightening prospect. Much of our food is the result of advanced technology, while much of any nation's capital consists of ideas and expertise; in the case of the USSR, the "brain drain" flows east to west. Totalitarian and authoritarian nations have always ultimately depended upon trade with free nations for their survival; for that very reason, it is seldom in their own interest to militarily destroy the productivity on which they depend; when that trade is cut off, we invite the very danger we fear. Restricting trade is in itself a totalitarian action; for that reason, we simply can't support it.

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As usual, I read my most recent issue of *Consent* (#11) with great interest. The lead article raised interesting points re: environmental degradation and "environmentalists". Mr. Jones' suggestion that privatizing forests would lead to far better management is undoubtedly true.

The Ontario government, at the urging of wildlife biologists, about 30 years ago decided to use that approach to manage fur-trapping in central and northern Ontario, (i.e., where land is owned by the Crown). Each trapper has his/her own registered trapline (the rights are owned for life and can be inherited). Thus, the amount of fur that a trapper can take from his trapline on a *sustained basis* depends on how well the trapper manages his annual harvest (taking either too much or too little will ultimately result in reduced income).

This system of free enterprise has been exceedingly successful and Ontario has the best managed furbearer population in the world. Please note that "environmentalists" who condemn wearing fur coats and promote synthetics are promoting pollution --- harvesting furs makes use of a renewable natural resource, whereas production of synthetic fibres results in air and water pollution and uses non-renewable resources (e.g., oil).

I also much appreciated the anti-hunting cartoons. Hunting is another personal freedom that is under attack by those who would impose their so-called ethics on those in society who choose to exercise that freedom (sounds much like the Sunday shopping issue).

January, 1990

C.D. Ankney

Professor of Animal Ecology

University of Western Ontario

Just finished *Freedom Flyer* Winter 1988-1989. Excellent work! I especially liked the article on education by Murray Hopper.

I should know better by now but

the comments by (London controller) Burghardt re: "We could close you down" left me awestruck. Emery's retorts to him and (Sarnia mayor) Bradley re: who provides employment were outstanding.

Please keep up the good work.

July, 1989

Dan Chalykoff

OAKVILLE, Ontario

I really enjoy and look forward to receiving each issue of *Consent* and *Freedom Flyer*, as well as *Reason* magazine. Therefore, I would really like to meet other readers in the Barrie area. If you're interested, please call me at 705-728-4902.

June, 1989

Brenda M. Fenemore

BARRIE, Ontario

"Frederich" it is not. (See your comment in reply to the letter by Norma Marchman of the Ludwig von Mises Institute, in your Spring 1989 issue.)

In the original German, let alone its English equivalent, Hayek's given name was "Friedrich", not "Frederich", and this is the way it's spelled by Canadian literati, as well as by his American publishers, (vide the face page of his epic work, *The Road to Freedom*, published by the University of Chicago Press in 1944).

I'm amazed that someone like Ms. Marchman, presumably very familiar with the work of the Austrian school, should have made this error; or was the error, (as I presume the misuse of "altercation" for "alteration" was), that of your typesetter?

June, 1989

Dr. William E. Goodman

TORONTO, Ontario

EDITOR: You've caught us twice. "Friedrich" it is, and "alteration" it should be --- our fault on both counts. Here's hoping we've got it right this time, before the issue develops into an altercation.

Having just finished reading the lead article "The Waste Makers" in *Consent* #10, I take issue with the simplistic analysis of Dr. Walter Block. In a perfect world with the Golden Rule working 100% of the time, he would be right, but in the world of real people, where greed is a much greater driving force than love, he is dreaming.

The forests don't belong to the person who goes to cut them down. They belong to all of us. Not even just Canadians, as we can reflect in the situation of the rain forests of Brazil. The minerals in the ground do not belong to the person that digs them out, and having dug them out, he is not free to walk away and leave a potential hazard or eyesore for the rest of us. In processing the ore, he is not free to pollute the rivers and land around, which has adverse effects on all of nature, including humans.

So who has the right to cut trees, or dig minerals? Who has the right to grant to individuals the right to do these things? Who is to say how the trees are to be cut, and what is to be done with the land afterwards? Who is to say what can be dumped in a river? Who is to determine who is to pay the health price from the chemicals in the water? What compensation are the people whose health is risked to get from the miners? Is it not the right of those people to be compensated ultimately by the users of the mineral that is mined?

In our imperfect world, there has been no consideration given to the people harmed by the actions of others. Even the courts are agonizingly slow, and only reflect the thinking of the society from which the judges are drawn. Do the politicians protect the victims? Not at all, unless they have a lot of votes.

Dr. Block seems to be advocating unrestricted free enterprise, and damn the consequences. When the trees are gone and the air we breathe is unable to sustain life, then science will come up with something else to substitute. I don't believe that or accept it. I find that even in my short lifetime that the

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quality of life has deteriorated markedly, even while the material accumulations have expanded enormously. The deterioration has been in the air I breathe, the water I drink, the food I eat (additives), the pace of work that I must do to keep going. I am like Alice in Wonderland, I must run faster and faster just to stay where I am. I do not find that people are any happier for all the material possessions they have acquired, that their parents could not.

I think that we must pay the real price of what we are doing to nature, and pay it up front. The trouble is, that we are not trying to find out what "nature" is charging for what we are taking, and we don't compensate "nature" in any way for what we take. Thus, we consumers (that is all of us) are not paying a fraction of the cost of the products we use. We are leaving it to future generations to pay the bill for our borrowing (or stealing) from nature now.

Thus, paper plates might be a whole lot more expensive, if we were paying the true cost of the trees, the true cost of having clean rivers down stream from the paper mills, the true cost of treating the garbage. But we subsidize some people to use paper plates at a ridiculously low cost. Perhaps some of my china dishes that are more than 50 years old have been washed at a ridiculously low (subsidized) cost over that period of time. Have I paid the real cost of the detergent, the water, and the sewage disposal related to those washings?

There is no doubt that, left to run all by itself, the system will produce goods as described, according to the individual choice of the many consumers. Most of those consumers, feeling very self righteous, will run around and demand that somebody clean up the rivers, and the polluter pay. Never will that individual stop to realize that *he* is the polluter. *He* is the one that causes the trees to be cut.

He is the one that is responsible for the pollution of the river. *He* is the one that wants the garbage disposed of in somebody else's back yard. *He* is the one that is not paying his way. Your *Herman* cartoon on page three (of *Consent* #10) tells it all.

So please answer the question. How shall we restrict the actions of some of us, so that we do not infringe the rights (to clean air/water/etc.) of others? In our complex world of billions of people, hundreds of billions of other creatures on this planet, how are we going to be fair to all? It is very obvious that we are not doing it now, and have no plans or intention of doing it in the near future. Where economic interests clash, the majority is running roughshod over the minority, and always has. Is this fair? If not, how will Dr. Block's approach correct it?

Much and all as I would like total freedom, total responsibility must go with it. In our imperfect world, total responsibility must be imposed, because none of us will even see, much less take up, the burden. (I bring to your attention the Japanese drift net fishing.)

You call that a loss of freedom. So do I, but I think that it is something that we must all give up willingly, to enable us to live together without war.

Dr. Block mentions the cartel of the doctors. Would he advocate that anybody should be able to advertise his ability in medicine, and that it should be up to the consumer to sort out who is good, and who is not? Of course the consumer *can* investigate, if he is not too sick, and if he has time. But for most of us it is just too complex to be able to carry out on one's own. We delegate the task to those we think are qualified to do it for us. Many situations show that even this is not a perfect solution, but can you imagine what it would be like if every individual tried to do the selection all by himself?

That the system we have devised does not work perfectly is to be expected. That it is gradually being improved is apparent. That there will be abuses is inevitable. That *humans* could never live with complete freedom is undeniable. (It is interesting that all wild animals have it, and would survive very well but for the predations of humans.)

I realize that it is impossible to cover the total complexities of Dr. Block's thesis in a couple of pages of *Consent*, but I think that he has left

such a naive and simplistic picture, that he trivializes the basic tenets of the party for *more* freedom, not total freedom.

I think that the party must not just talk about freedom, but also must talk about responsibility. I don't think that will make you popular with most of the community, but I perceive that the party is much more interested in doing the right thing, than being popular.

January, 1990

David E. Bawden

WILLOWDALE, Ontario

EDITOR :Given that Dr. Block's thesis "The Waste Makers" was focused on the issue of planned obsolescence, not on the environment and free markets, your observation that it is impossible to cover all the complexities of his argument in a couple of pages of *Consent* is particularly relevant; indeed, his thesis only touched upon these considerations. However, those who attended *Freedom Party's* October 29, 1989 Sunday brunch with Dr. Block --- on the *environment* --- had each and every one of your questions answered in detail, and much more. (Coverage on this event will be included in the next issue of *Freedom Flyer*.) Also, we're pleased to announce that Dr. Block's presentation on the environment will appear in future issues of *Consent*.

Nevertheless, your letter includes a lot of positive recommendations (which we support) and the questions you ask deserve a direct response; *briefly*, here are a few of our major considerations and concerns:

We fully agree that "we must pay the real price of what we are doing to nature, and pay it up front." In fact, that's what *responsibility to our environment* (and to each other) is all about. Thus, the essential question is *how* is this to be done?

Your presumption that the forests "belong to all of us" is precisely what makes it impossible to fairly answer any of your questions relating to the environment. The concept of "public ownership" is a collectivist myth which is at the very heart of our environmental dilemma. There are, both in working theory and in practice, only *two* essential

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forms of ownership: *private* ownership and *government* ownership. "Public" ownership is a misnomer; ownership implies the right of use, disposal, trade, etc., of whatever property is being discussed. Fundamental to the right of ownership are *private property rights* which, when properly defined, not only extend to all private individuals the right of ownership, but make it possible to protect their property from the irresponsible actions of others. Thus, you are quite right in saying that, for example, miners are "not free to walk away and leave a potential hazard or eyesore for the rest of us." Indeed, should any hazard become a problem for other *private* property owners and *private* individuals, they should be well within their rights to seek redress in a proper court of law (i.e., one that *upholds* private property rights). The bottom line is this: The people who should normally have the right to decide the various questions that you ask are those who *own* --- and are *responsible* for --- the particular property in question. It should never be otherwise.

Unfortunately, most people seem to assume that "public ownership" will somehow result in "public responsibility" --- even though both terms defy definition and cannot be carried out in practice. *Individual* responsibility is the only kind that exists (and is the only kind

a government can effectively enforce) and thus the privatization of our natural resources is a *necessary* element in the preservation of our environment. (See *Consent* #11, "Polluted Perspectives", by Greg Jones, for an application of this principle to the forests; also, see last issue of *Freedom Flyer*: "Freedom Party pushes to clean up Welland River.")

The alternative to private ownership is "public" (i.e., *government*) ownership, which by your own observations has failed the environment miserably: "Where economic interests clash, the majority is running roughshod over the minority, and always has." But "majorities" running roughshod over "minorities" is a *political* process, not an *economic* one. Were private property rights protected, majorities would have no right to run roughshod over minorities. The question you answered for yourself says it all: "Do the politicians protect the victims? Not at all, unless they have a lot of votes."

But even *with* a lot of votes, politicians can't protect anyone from anything. In fact, it's the politicians we need protection *from*. They have been encouraging voters to abuse the democratic system to vote for *cheaper* benefits, not, as you suggest, to "pay the real price of what we are doing to nature, and to pay it up front." Voters vote

to *avoid* their responsibilities, not to take on more responsibilities; the myth of collective ownership allows them to falsely believe that they have exercised their responsibility simply by *voting*, when in fact they have abandoned their responsibilities by continually voting for government programs that offer them "freedom" *without* responsibility. For years, voters have been voting for politicians to dispose of their garbage and waste at artificially subsidized costs, thus discouraging recycling (at a profit!) and unnecessarily polluting the countryside.

If it's *responsibility* you want to see exercised with the environment, then the privatization process is the first avenue you should investigate.

One final point: yes, doctors *should* have the right to advertise their ability; they too are not "public property". As individuals, they are entitled to the same rights as the rest of us. In the United States, various hospitals specializing in various fields routinely advertise their services and by all accounts, everyone benefits. There is no reason whatsoever to suggest that the medical referral systems you refer to would disappear as a consequence of doctors advertising.

FREEDOM FLYER

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