

FREEDOM FLYER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

APRIL 1992



ONLY
YOU
CAN SAVE
CANADA!

Openers...

FASCISM AND FROGS

by Robert Metz

Did you know that if you take a frog and put it in a pot of cold water on top of the stove, then gradually turn up the heat, the frog will actually stay in the water without trying to jump out of the pot? In fact, if you turn the heat up slow enough, it will actually cook to death --- without ever trying to escape.

Dumb frog, right? Maybe. But that has nothing to do with why the frog seems willing to die. Unfortunately, the poor frog dies simply because the change in heat is so slow that it doesn't realize it's in an environment which is dangerous to its well-being.

In the same way, right now, each of us is a 'frog' in a pot of uncomfortably warm --- yet comfortable --- 'water' which is about to become even hotter. As each day passes, those who have the power to turn the heat up or down --- *our elected politicians* --- increasingly choose to turn the heat up. More laws, more taxes, more restrictions, more control by politicians, and of course, less and less control for citizens and taxpayers.

It's just a matter of time before the political 'waters' in Ontario come to a boil. Our well-being is about to be threatened by a political environment that has a nasty name with nasty connotations.

It's called **fascism** and it's about time more of us woke up to the fact that fascism is increasingly becoming a dominant philosophy of Ontario's "mixed" economy system.

If you think that 'fascism' is too strong a word to apply to Canadian politics --- that it just couldn't happen here, that people who use the word are being unreasonably alarmist

("Like, hey, Bob Rae isn't Hitler!") --- remember the frog.

Had the change in Canada's political environment that has taken a generation to condition us to its acceptance otherwise occurred in, say, five years, we would all be much more aware of its nature. The change in temperature would have been much more noticeable. We would be much more



Robert Metz is president and leader of the Freedom Party of Ontario.

able to sense how radically we have shifted away from the fundamental working principles of a free, tolerant and prosperous society and fallen right into the clutches of the very ideology that thousands of Canadians fought and died to protect us from.

No, Ontario's not predominantly fascist --- yet. But our current **mixed economy** {part capitalist (private property, individual freedom and choice), part socialist (state ownership, monopoly), and --- increasingly --- fascist (state control of private property)} is coming to a boil. If we're not careful, the frog just might croak.

Increasingly, the political direction in Ontario is towards fascism: *state control of private property or private choice*. It is important for each of us to recognize that politically, the distinguishing characteristic that separates a socialist policy from a fascist policy is not to be found in their similar philosophies (i.e., state control), but in their unsimilar views of

the social role of private property as the means of production. Whereas socialists uphold the doctrine of government ownership and control of the means of production (i.e., no private property, total government control), fascists simply uphold the doctrine of state control, dispensing with the need to consider the status of property. After all, in practice, control is ownership.

Though they may call themselves socialists, Conservatives, or Liberals, don't be surprised by most politicians' eager support of fascist policy: rent controls; official bilingualism; pay equity laws; Sunday shopping laws; censorship; gun

control; minimum wage laws; forced union dues; hiring quotas; discrimination laws; drug prohibition, among a list of many others. What each of these policies have in common is that each represents a control on private property, contract, or choice. Whether one agrees or disagrees with them, both in theory and in practice, these controls can properly be referred to as being fascist.

Once a society has enough such policies in place, there is very little that can be done to prevent the same type of catastrophe that enveloped Europe during the second world war. Of course, one, two, or even three fascist policies does not a fascist state make. Just how many have to be in place before we can no longer avoid the fascist label and its social and economic consequences is at best, I suppose, a matter of personal judgement. I'll leave that for you to decide.

By the way, did I mention that if you take a frog and put it in a pot of cold water...

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TRUSTEE CANDIDATES ACCUSED OF LYING DURING ELECTION

LONDON (December 11, 1991) - Quoted in the *London Free Press* as saying that there were "more untruths told during this campaign than in any other election I've been in," **Cheryl Miller**, re-elected chairperson of the **London Board of Education**, accused candidates endorsed by the **London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition (LMTC)** (see last issue, *Freedom Flyer*) of damaging the "reputation" of the board as a consequence of such "untruths."

Among the candidates endorsed by the LMTC was **FP leader and president, Robert Metz**, and other **FP** constituency presidents, members, and former party candidates including: **Jack Plant, Paul Blair, Patti Plant, Steve Ronson, Robert Vaughan, and Dave Fortner.**

UNTRUTHS?

Stunned by the accusation, **FP** president Robert Metz contacted Miller on December 11 to get specifics about the nature and source of the "untruths" in question. According to Miller, it was suggested that **Jack Plant**, in citing a survey conducted by a school association which revealed that 52% of grade 7 and 8 parents were dissatisfied with their children's education, "left the impression" that "all" parents were so dissatisfied.

In citing another "untruth", Miller denied a claim by **LMTC** executive **Craig Stevens**, that education tax dollars were being spent on "health club memberships," though the **LMTC** still maintains that such subsidization exists --- categorized under different budgets --- and thus the issue is still debatable.

Beyond these two observations, Miller offered Metz no other specific grounds for the alleged "untruths." At the very least, if only *two* such incidents represented "more untruths... than in any other election I've been in," then certainly this is evidence that previous elections were virtually uncontested in terms of issues.

SHOOTING THE MESSENGER

Miller's comments reflect an orchestrated attempt on the part of school board trustees and administrators to shift the blame for the shortcomings of the public

(TRUSTEE... cont'd next pg)

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 1991

EDUCATION

Reputation of board wounded in election, says Cheryl Miller

The London board of education needs to improve its image by 'getting out the real message of public education', says its chairperson.

By Kelley Teahen
The London Free Press

There were "serious wounds" inflicted on the London board of education's reputation during the municipal election, says its new chairperson, Cheryl Miller.

Miller, in her inaugural address to the board Tuesday night, said there were "more untruths told during this campaign than in any other election I've been in."

When asked later what those "untruths" were, she said members and candidates from the London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition played loose with statistics from a home and school survey of parents' attitudes about education.

Others criticized board budget expenses by citing items such as health club memberships for board staff, items Miller said aren't part of the board's budget.

DON'T EXIST: "I was budget chairperson last year and I went over everything. I even went back to the accountants and asked about these items, but they don't exist."

She told trustees, staff and

guests gathered for the meeting it was "okay to be proud" of London's education system and suggested the board needed to improve its image with the public by "getting out the real message of public education."

But, she warned, it's going to be a tough year ahead, trying to maintain an education system with little to no increase in provincial tax grants.

"We can no longer let the ministry implement programs without providing full funding for those programs," she said. "We'll have to decide what's necessary and what's nice --- and go with what's necessary."

Among other points:

□ Canadians are suffering stress from job losses, the recession and also from the national turmoil over the country's future, she said. "We will have to deal with the funnelled-down stresses on families and children... We must provide a secure, nourishing environment. To some kids, (school) will be the best place they'll be, all day."

□ The future of H.B. Beal Secondary School, London's largest secondary school that is in need of expensive, massive renovations: "We can no longer delay a decision on Beal. It's a mammoth job, and we need to get a grip on it in the coming year."

□ Improving technological education: "It will be costly, but we must introduce these new programs into our schools. We owe it to Canada's future to have a trained work force."

Above: Coverage of allegations against LMTC candidates from London Free Press.

(...TRUSTEE from prev pg)

education system on those who would have the temerity to point them out. More importantly, her comments reveal that for the first time in recent memory, the board is running scared.

In fact, despite opposing LMTC candidates on issues of setting education standards, holding the line on taxes, and controlling the amount of money spent on teachers' salaries, re-elected trustees were quick to jump on the LMTC issue bandwagon (at least in their publicly-issued statements, if not in actual fact), suddenly endorsing national testing in schools, holding the line on teachers' salaries, and suggesting other spending restraints. "That's my first priority -- the word will be restraint," Miller was quoted as saying in the December 4/91 *London Free Press*.

WON'T GO AWAY

Unlike most elections where the defeated candidates tend to disappear between elections, neither **Freedom Party** nor the LMTC have let up on their on-going education campaigns. Stay tuned for details of these campaigns and the reaction to them in the next issue of *Freedom Flyer*.

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Teacher 'war' on taxpayers destroying own credibility

I have been following with interest the so-called declaration of war by the teachers' union on the Ontario Taxpayers' Coalition.

So far, it has been isolated attacks by lower level, misguided members. Finally we have attracted the attention of the top level of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF).

Mission accomplished. It is amusing that the OSSTF feels it should act behind the scenes, using other organizations as its puppet to fight this so-called war. The OSSTF has remained ambiguous until president Liz Barkley was quoted in the article *Freedom Party takes shots at teacher union's tax stance* (Free Press, Aug. 7).

When Barkley states that the solution to high taxes cannot be found in cutting spending, she contradicts every intelligent organization in both the private sector, federal and provincial levels. Does she mean that her organization has a licence to spend unearned money, or just the right to demand unearned increases? Does she mean to imply that an incompetent member of her union, at \$50,000-a-year salary, can be made competent by a 10-per-cent-or-more annual increase?

Does she honestly believe that the quality of education must be measured by the steady growth of membership? Does job security mean the members must be untouchable regardless of moral or legal law? Does she think the present level of educational spending can be protected from public control by staffing school boards with past and present members of the teachers' or any union?

By her definition, any concerned taxpayer or senior member of our society is not suitable to sit on the school board. She is declaring war on the public at large, not on the Ontario Taxpayers' Coalition.

I do not believe that school boards staffed by former school teachers or active members of the union would or could voice the interests of the public at large. They would function as an extension of the OSSTF interests.

The coalition is not against education, but is against the waste of tax money in education. The coalition is not against teachers, but is against misplaced individuals in that profession and their unlimited protection.

When the union instructs its members to oppose any coalition candidate, it signifies that its members have not sufficient intelligence to sort out the issues but require union guidance. When rigid and unbending, unions are not just refusing to compromise, they are negotiating their members right out of a job.

GEORGE T. LICHTER
Blenheim

SEP 5 1991

EDUCATION

Trustees endorse national testing in schools

Most school board officials contacted in the London region are glad Ontario may join Canada-wide testing in mathematics, reading and writing, but participation in the project doesn't sit well with teachers.

By Alan Bass
The London Free Press
and news services

Word that Ontario may join a national project to test pupils and students in reading, writing and mathematics, which it had previously spurned, is being well received by school board officials in Southwestern Ontario.

"I'm glad to hear it," said London board of education trustee Olga Cooper. "We need to know

how we're doing here. There's a lot to be learned by sharing information with other parts of Canada."

Paul Whitehead, chairperson of the London and Middlesex Catholic school board, welcomed the news. "I was pointed when it looked like Ontario was not going to participate."

MEETING IN TORO!
Education Minister

Cheryl Miller, elected Tuesday to her second stint as chairperson of the London board of education, has issued a warning: If she has her way, no one in education will get more than a three-per-cent raise — if that — in the coming year. "That's my first priority — the word will be restraint," said Miller. Elementary teachers received a 6.6-per-cent increase in 1990.

EDUCATION

Cheryl Miller again heads London board

Her second term as chairperson will be 'very different, because the whole world has changed.'

By Kelley Teahen
The London Free Press

Above: Sample coverage from the *London Free Press* reveals how out of touch with education needs the public education system has been. **Below:** Editorial responses to OSSTF president Liz Barkley's comments directed against FP's information campaign (see last issue).

Teacher's comments revealing

She's never heard of the Freedom Party, but it is nonetheless "diametrically opposed to what we're doing."

Having made that admission in *Freedom Party takes shots at teacher union's tax stance* (Free Press, Aug. 7), Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation president Liz Barkley has made it abundantly clear that she is opposed to parents and taxpayers having more say in how their education dollars are spent.

This is a tragic admission. It attests to the fact that the teachers' union simply does not care about the people that our education system is supposed to serve. Her comment, like the planned tactics the teachers' union currently intends to implement in upcoming municipal elections this fall (which are outlined in *Freedom Party' Ontario Information Bulletin* being circulated in communities across Ontario), reveals a contempt for voters, parents and taxpayers that is truly unbecoming for a group claiming to support "quality education."

Barkley's comment that trustee candidates who have the support of taxpayer groups are "not people who build a community, but destroy," is downright mean-spirited and completely unfounded. Understandably, it is not the "community" she is afraid will be destroyed; it is her union's monopoly hold over an education system that deteriorates in exact proportion to the increased tax dollars we keep throwing at it to keep it alive.

In the long run, teachers themselves will eventually discover that they're getting ripped off for their union dues, simply because their union soon will no longer be able to deliver what it promises: excellent salaries, benefits, and of course, job security.

Like so many registered nurses who have been laid off despite the New Democratic Party's billion-dollar increase to the health-care system this year, teachers will eventually realize that even a government monopoly is no guarantee of job security. This will not be the consequence of any particular political lobby action, but is simply due to the fact that more and more Ontarians are finding it harder and harder to live in a province where more than half of what they earn goes to governments.

It is a reality that trustees, teachers, parents, taxpayers, and voters alike must agree to face — if our education system is to survive at all. Tragically, it appears that the teachers' union is committed to avoiding this reality. It too will eventually pay the price.

ROBERT METZ
President, leader
Freedom Party of Ontario
London

Oh! --- Canada!

'ONLY YOU CAN SAVE CANADA!' SAYS AUTHOR WILLIAM TRENCH

TORONTO (January, 1992) - FP member **William Trench** has published his first book: **Only You Can Save Canada - Restoring Freedom and Prosperity**, and judging by initial reactions, it has all the makings of a Canadian best-seller.

Only You Can Save Canada is a direct challenge to the prevailing intellectual environment in Canada, but it purposely avoids adopting an "intellectual" stance. Using plain common sense and down-to-earth everyday language, Trench's book cuts through Canada's "intellectual" political jargon with the ease of a hot knife cutting through soft butter.

TIRED OF SOCIALIST MONOLOGUE

"One of our problems is that for far too long we have not had a dialogue in Canada," observes Trench. "What we've had, and continue to have, is a socialistic monologue, led by the *CBC* and echoed by the bulk of the media. Canadians deserve options, they deserve a choice, they deserve to hear all sides before they are required to make up their minds. My book is intended to put forward some alternate ideas on how Canada can function; to show that prosperity is achieved not by oppressing the individual but by liberating him; not by government making our choices *for* us, but by government protecting our individual right to make our *own* choices."

FREEDOM PARTY PRIMER?

Needless to say, with a perspective like that, **Only You Can Save Canada** has **Freedom Party's** full endorsement. In fact, the book contains a 'Foreword' written by FP leader **Robert Metz** who, after working with Trench during its initial drafts, believes that readers will come away from the book with a much deeper understanding of FP's perspective and many of the principles underlying individual freedom itself.

"There's not a thing in this book that would contradict **Freedom Party's** principles or platform," says Metz. "If you want to get a pretty good understanding of what **Freedom Party** is for --- or against --- then Bill Trench's book is probably a very informative and entertaining way to do it."

NO MONOPOLY ON FREEDOM

While FP holds a unique position as the only *provincial* organization listed under "Names and addresses of groups, organizations, and publications which favour more freedom and less government, and/or changes to current government policies" (whew!) at the back of Trench's book, there are many other organizations listed as worthy of investigation. Among them are the **Alliance for the Preservation of English in Canada (APEC)**, the **Canadian Association for Free Expression (CAFE)**, **Citizens for Foreign Aid Reform (CFAR)**, the **Fraser Institute**, the



Above: FP member and author **William Trench**

Libertarian Party of Canada, the **National Citizens' Coalition (NCC)**, the **Northern Foundation**, and the **Reform Party of Canada**.

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GET YOUR COPY TODAY!

As of this writing, Trench's book is available to the general public through **W.H. Smith** and **Classic** bookshops across Canada, as well as through **Oxford Books** in southern Ontario (\$8.95 cover, distributed by **Cannon Books**). Groups like the **NCC**, **Northern Foundation**, the **Libertarian Party**, **CFAR**, **APEC**, and of course, **Freedom Party** are offering various purchase options to their members in an effort to promote **Only You Can Save Canada**. See back cover for details of where to order from **Freedom Party**.

Book Preview...

ONLY YOU CAN SAVE CANADA - by William Trench

"I just had to write this book," says **William Trench** in his introduction to **Only You Can Save Canada - Restoring Freedom and Prosperity**, a book he published himself after realizing that years of complaining "didn't help one bit." Trench's outline of the tragic political course being followed by Canada's elected politicians conveys an urgent message to fellow Canadians: "Only you can save Canada. If we all leave it to others, nothing will be done."

✶ CANADA HIS CHOICE

"Unlike the majority of people who live in Canada, I am not here by accident of birth," emphasizes Trench. "I came to Canada by *choice* in 1966. Looking around me today I see a very different Canada from the one I came to -- a Canada of pessimistic citizens, a Canada where work and profits are penalized, where indolence is all too often rewarded, and where criminals are treated as if they're victims."

Trench's book backs up his claims with a haunting clarity that manages to capture the Canadian dilemma -- along with many potential solutions to the dilemma -- in only 140 pages, and in a conversational style understandable even to those who do not know a single thing about the Canadian political process -- namely, the majority of Canadians.

Says Trench: "In my opinion, there is only one reason for the mess we're in. **IGNORANCE**. Ignorance of

Only You Can Save Canada...

COMMENTARIES

✶ PETER WORTHINGTON, Author, Columnist:

"It is a reflection of the sorry state of Canada today that it should need a book like this.

"William Trench has an enviable faculty for getting to the heart of an issue quickly, reasonably, clearly, and concisely, and has done a remarkable job of collecting all the aspects of this country that should concern every citizen. He seems to have a better understanding than many native-born of what Canada is, could be, and should be.

"So much of what Trench says appears obvious; unfortunately no one else seems to be saying it, or to have thought the country out as clearly as he has. This may be because he seems to possess two qualities all too rare in Canada today: common sense, and the courage to say what he thinks."

✶ ANNE HARTMANN, President, Northern Foundation:

"What a great book!"

the laws of nature, ignorance of the laws of economics, ignorance of the lessons of history. And now, to compound the problem, ignorance of just how bad the mess is.

"Most people are aware that we have a large government deficit," points out Trench. "Many are even aware that it's around thirty billion dollars. However most people I speak to appear to think that the deficit is the amount of money that the government has spent in excess of what they've taken in from taxes -- *ever!* They don't seem to realize that the thirty billion or so talked about each year at budget time is just the shortfall for *that year*."

To help the reader visualize "just how bad" things are in Canada, Trench uses simple illustrations and examples to help concretize difficult-to-comprehend concepts, like the enormity of Canada's growing debt: "To give you an idea of how much bigger a billion is than a million," he suggests, "consider the following:

one *million* seconds = 11.5 *days*; one *billion* seconds = 31.5 *years!*"

✶ SPEAKS HIS MIND

In addition to basic economic matters, says Trench, "I will be saying things that some people have insisted should not be said, even if they are true."

Take, for example, the issue of **multiculturalism**: As an immigrant from South Africa, Trench speaks with experience when he says: "I, for one, am totally opposed to this whole multiculturalism idea. I left a country preoccupied with racial differences. Government programs that seek to stress and promote these differences are utterly distasteful."

Or **official bilingualism**: "The basic flaw in our thinking is that Canada is a country of two languages, English and French. In fact, Quebec is a province of French and the rest of Canada is a country of English, and the two should be recognized as such."

✪ **DAVID SOMERVILLE, President, National Citizens' Coalition:**

"This book is an act of good citizenship by someone who cares deeply about Canada and about freedom. Blessed with libertarian instincts, sound traditional values, and a lot of common sense, William Trench has addressed many of the challenges facing our country, supplied some of the solutions, and issued a call to arms. I hope tens of thousands of Canadians read his book and heed its call."

✪ **KENNETH MCDONALD, Author of *Keeping Canada Together*:**

"This book is very well written, clear, concise, practical, stimulating. With many day-to-day examples, it shows how successive governments have led Canadians by the nose to their present condition of unmanageable debt and a fractious, litigious society.

"I'm urging everyone I meet to buy the book so that they, in their thousands and I hope hundreds of thousands, can be moved to save their wonderful country from that curse of the twentieth century -- the professional politicians."

Or **justice and the law**: "I can hear the objections now. 'Our system's fine. Oh, there may be a few things here or there that need to be corrected, but basically it's fine. Anyone who disagrees is an alarmist.' No, there are *not* just a few things that have to be corrected. Our system is *not* fine. It is based on a fundamental error. Instead of constructing our society on the rock of common justice, we are slapping it together on the sand of expediency. We are getting further and further away from the common sense of common law, and more and more under the control of arbitrary legislation and legal decisions by unelected judges."

Or on **freedom** itself: "No one can take away our freedom. We can, however, give it up, and most of us do. In spite of everything the politicians proclaim, your freedom is the last thing on earth they want you to have. Because your freedom will mean the end of their cushy jobs with the high salaries and the cheap cafeterias and the indexed pensions and

the tax-free expense accounts."

✪ **HOW YOU CAN SAVE CANADA**

Trench's book concludes with an explicit list of 19 possible avenues of action that the reader might follow, including supporting various political and lobby organizations which he lists at the back of the book. "This may, in fact, be one of the most difficult things for the reader to do," comments Trench. "Most people who work hard and are self-sufficient aren't interested in joining pressure groups of any type. But if they don't add their voices to those of other concerned citizens, they will be drowned out by the rising clamour of the ever-vocal mobs who want to live at the expense of others. If you truly believe in a cause, agreement is not enough -- financial support, no matter how little, is essential."

While the picture of Canada painted by Trench may at first seem to be a gloomy one, he blames no one in particular for the mess Canada is in,

granting the benefit of the doubt even to **Pierre Elliott Trudeau**, who, he says, probably acted with "the best of intentions." Our only enemy, insists Trench, is **IGNORANCE**, and that is a condition that can be easily corrected with **KNOWLEDGE** and **ACTION**.

Only You Can Save Canada is a most effective weapon in the fight to lift the veil of ignorance or to stir many into action. Initial reaction to the book seems to indicate that it is doing its job.

✪ **THE FUTURE IS UP TO CANADIANS EVERYWHERE**

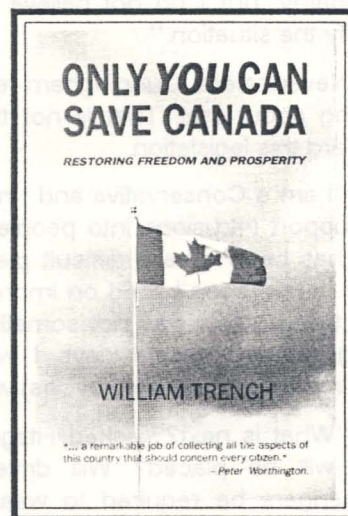
Where does Canada's future lie?

"I'm a realist," says Trench. "I know that we're not going to eliminate politicians and governments.

"The best thing Canada could do would be to live up to its promise of a strong, solvent, bastion of freedom, instead of the drowning, floundering, socialist, economic cripple that it is fast becoming.

"And Canada could do it, you know."

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✪ **Above: *Only You Can Save Canada* is available now through **Freedom Party**. Inquiries welcome.**

Helmet Laws...

CUNNINGHAM DENIES/ ADMITS PERSONAL MOTIVATION BEHIND HELMET LAW BILL

TORONTO (December 2, 1991) - In an official submission to the **Standing Committee on Resources Development** dealing with the potential imposition of a **mandatory cycle helmets** law in Ontario, **Freedom Party's Barry Fitzgerald** (president, **Welland-Thorold FP Constituency Association**) presented a brief "as a private individual" which challenged the motivations behind the private member's bill introduced by **Dianne Cunningham, Progressive Conservative MPP for London North**.

✎ DENIES PERSONAL MOTIVATION

Fitzgerald was reprimanded by the chair when he brought up the possibility that Cunningham's motivation to introduce such a law might have been initiated by a recent personal tragedy. Referring to an automobile accident in which Cunningham's son was severely injured (and in which he was not wearing a seatbelt), Fitzgerald commented, "Mrs. Cunningham... You have my deepest sympathy, but I do not believe this is the way to try to rectify the situation."

Nevertheless, Cunningham responded: "I do not mind talking about that. That is not the reason I am bringing forward this legislation.

"I am a Conservative and I have never, ever been one to support intrusions into people's family lives, so for me this has been a very difficult piece of legislation to bring forth. It has been based on improving the quality of life... I can tell you this was not something I wanted to have to bring forward. Some days I wish that (accidents with children and adults on bicycles) would just go away."

"What is next?" asked Fitzgerald. "What next restriction will be placed? Will drivers of automobiles and passengers be required to wear helmets? Will we start banning sports, making regulations for people in sports to wear helmets or actually banning some that are considered dangerous? It opens quite a can of worms and I think it should be avoided. Therefore, I would like you to consider withdrawing this bill."

(HELMET... cont'd next pg)

ROAD SAFETY

Mandatory helmets for cyclists studied at Queen's Park

A private member's bill on the subject is being promoted by MPP Dianne Cunningham of London.

By Anne-Marie Tobin
Canadian Press



File photo

TORONTO — When groups pushing for mandatory use of bicycle helmets in Ontario approached Dianne Cunningham, they had a receptive audience.

The London North Conservative MPP has spent seven years helping her son Kevin recover from a head injury suffered in a car accident when he was 14.

"What you want to do if you ever experience this is make sure it never happens to anyone else's child," said Cunningham.

She is steering a private member's bill through the legislature that would amend the Highway Traffic Act and require cyclists to wear helmets. The bill has been approved in principle and is being studied by an all-party committee, a legislative stage rarely reached by private members' bills.

Cunningham says a two-year lead time would allow helmet manufacturers and the public to prepare for implementation in October, 1993.

The committee has already heard some dramatic testimony.

Jeremy Rempel of the Ontario Head Injury Association told of being hit by a pickup truck while bicycling on his ninth birthday 11 years ago. Today he lives with severe headaches, tires easily and has no peripheral vision on his left side.

"I spent four months in total in the hospital... The doctors had to put me into a coma to remove part of my skull to let the brain swell."

A private member's bill that would require cyclists to wear helmets has a champion in London North MPP Dianne Cunningham.

Each year in Canada, more than 5,000 children are seriously injured and more than 60 die in bicycle accidents, most from head injuries, said Cunningham.

Studies have shown only two to three per cent of children wear helmets while experts say helmet use could reduce head injuries by 85 per cent.

SOME OPPOSED: But some cyclists are opposed to legislation.

Marcia Ryan cycles every day in Toronto and encourages others to do the same to cut down on pollution.

"To shift the responsibility of safety away from motorists, from urban planning and from the general non-cycling mentality does not advance the cause of cycling," she told the committee.

The Ontario Cycling Association supports the use of helmets but thinks public education, rather than legislation, is the way to go.

✎ **Above:** *London Free Press* (December 2, 1991) coverage tells a different story. "What you want to do if you ever experience this is make sure it never happens to anyone else's child..."

"If I had all the answers, we would not have public hearings," responded Cunningham. "We have public hearings so that people like yourself can come before this committee and help us with this legislation... I do not have any questions because I understand why you are here."

➔ ADMITS PERSONAL MOTIVATION

Despite her denial that her personal experience "is not the reason I am bringing forward this legislation," Cunningham was quoted in the *London Free Press* in direct reference to her son's car accident, "What you want to do if you ever experience this is make sure it never happens to anyone else's child."

Whatever Cunningham's actual motivation, it is clear that regardless of the outcome of her private member's bill to force cyclists to wear helmets, it will have very little effect on the injuries of those who fail to wear their seatbelts in cars involved in accidents.

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GET THE DETAILS!

Transcripts of Fitzgerald's address to the Committee are now available to FP members and supporters on request. Please call or write. See green box on back cover for details.

FREEDOM PARTY AMONG 'LAST, BEST HOPES FOR CANADA'

TORONTO (November 17, 1991) - In a *Toronto Sun* news article titled 'Bound for the Third World?', U.S. economist **Walter Block**, formerly with the Vancouver-based **Fraser Institute**, warned Canadians that if their governments continue the trends established by the three major social-liberal parties (Conservative, Liberal, and New Democratic), Canada will surely fall into third world status.

Block compared Canada's political and economic dilemma to that of

the Soviet Union --- rich in human and natural resources, but depressed by runaway socialism.

"The **Libertarian Party**, the **Freedom Party**, and the **Reform Party** are the last, best hopes for Canada," he said. If health, education, transport, and welfare were privatized, argued Block, the government's bite of the GNP would fall from 52% to a mere 5%.

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BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON D.C. (December 1991) - **Dr. George B.N. Ayittey**, whose essay *Democracy and Africa* appeared in FP's **Consent #14**, now has completed his book **Indigenous African Institutions**. The book, described by Ayittey as "a sort of Trojan horse designed to blast through closed minds in the black

leadership community," is his assessment of Africa's history and the future course it must follow in order to rebuild its political and economic structure.

Readers interested in obtaining a copy (\$45 U.S., hardcover) can write to: **Transnational Publishers, Inc.**, P.O. Box 7282, Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY 10503 or call (914) 693-0089.

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Highlights from Fitzgerald's Address to the Committee:

* **Helmet Law Unenforceable:** "Should this bill become part of the *Highway Traffic Act*, I have a concern about enforcement, particularly with regard to young children under twelve years old. As you know, the *Provincial Offences Act* states that children under 12 cannot be charged with an offence. This group of cyclists is the most inexperienced, the least knowledgeable and thus the most likely to have an accident, yet they are exempt, for all practical purposes, from the bill. I take serious issue with any attempt to attach culpability to the parents."

* **Helmet Law Misdirected:** "Another problem is that the aim of this bill is to minimize injuries after the accident has happened. It would be better to focus your attention on reducing the accidents in the first place. I suggest you accomplish this by rider training... Before riders should be allowed the privilege of using a road, they should demonstrate they can do so responsibly."

* **Helmet Law Disincentive to Bicycling:** "...cyclists I spoke to were almost unanimously against it. Some female cyclists said they would sell their bicycles before they would wear or buy a helmet. They cited reasons ranging from the expense of the helmet to such trivial things as messing up their hair. They also want to know what they are supposed to do with their helmets once they arrive at their destination."

* **Taxes on Safety Equipment Discriminatory:** "Our taxation system generally is discriminatory in the way you put a tax on something you do not want people to buy, like cigarettes and alcohol. Yet safety equipment is fully taxable as well."

Rae avoids Metz Challenge...

BIAs 'NOT DEMOCRATIC'

TORONTO (July 4, 1991) - In a three-page letter challenging **Ontario Premier Bob Rae** to justify his support for the lack of democratic representation within provincially-mandated **Business Improvement Areas (BIAs)**, **Freedom Party leader Robert Metz** strongly urged Rae to **repeal Section 217 of the Municipal Act**.

That's the section of provincial legislation which grants municipal governments the non-democratic mechanism to establish BIAs in designated business areas. Once designated within such an area, merchants and businesses within the area are forced to pay an additional tax --- a **BIA TAX** --- on top of their already existing property, business, sales, and income taxes.

THOUSANDS MISLED

While Ontario municipalities have, over the years, established hundreds of BIAs across the province, provincial legislation specifically denies democratic rights to "members" of a BIA. Though conscripted "members" must pay an additional tax, they are not guaranteed representation of any sort whatsoever, yet are invariably misled into believing otherwise.

As a consequence, it is not until an inevitable BIA funding crisis, disastrous outcome of a BIA project, or a conflict with the objectives of a municipal council that has its own plans for BIA tax revenues, that "members" first learn they do not actually have any guaranteed voting rights.

Metz's challenge to Rae was precipitated when **FP supporter Pat**

Pleich forwarded him a copy of a May 8, 1991 letter by Rae to herself, in connection with the **Clarkson BIA** in Mississauga (previously covered in past issues of *Freedom Flyer*; inquiries welcome). In that letter, Rae incorrectly suggested to Pleich that the BIA issue "is a municipal issue," (despite the fact that BIAs are creations specifically of provincial statute) and falsely implied that the democratic process within BIAs was adequately safeguarded.

"Your letter to Ms. Pleich incorrectly suggests that 'a number of checks and balances exist in the legislation to ensure political accountability,'" responded Metz. "(Yet), your own argument confirms (that) 'the Board of Management is appointed by council' and that 'the municipal council has the sole discretion to repeal the by-law establishing a BIA.'"

RAE IGNORANT OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESS?

"I am at a loss to explain how the Premier of Ontario can possibly suggest that a system which excludes those being taxed and governed from the decision-making process can be called 'politically accountable' within the context of a free and democratic nation," commented Metz.

To support his case that resolving the lack of democratic process within a BIA is a specific provincial responsibility (since it is provincial legislation which dictates this fact), Metz forwarded Rae a copy of a June 13, 1989 letter describing the nature of BIAs written to the **Law Society of Upper Canada** by then City of



Mississauga Solicitor **Bruce E. Thom**.

BIA LEGISLATION CLEARLY DENIES VOTING RIGHTS

Referring to Mississauga's **Clarkson BIA**, Thom wrote: "The Clarkson BIA is a creature of statute; specifically, Section 217 of the Municipal Act. You will note that by Section 217(6) thereof, Council appoints a Board of Management; it is, in fact, a Local Board of the Council. ...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."

Using the Clarkson BIA as an example, Thom's letter went on to explain how even though a BIA membership may have 'voted' a 'Constitution' in place, "it has no legal effect, since it deals with a group that does not exist in the legislation..."

With Thom's enclosure included with his covering letter to Rae, Metz argued: "Mr. Rae, I can think of no clearer evidence at your disposal to encourage you to take action and to correct this gross injustice. As Mr. Thom explains, BIAs are a 'creature of statute; specifically, Section 217 of the Municipal Act.' As a consequence, I encourage you to reconsider your tacit approval of BIAs on the simple grounds that they are coercive, non-

(BIA... cont'd next pg)

WHAT IS A B.I.A.?

Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) are the result of provincial legislation (**Section 217 of the Municipal Act**) aimed at compelling business people within an arbitrarily-selected area to join a "business association." As "members" of this forced "association", they are also forced to pay an additional tax to the municipality --- largely to do things that their property and business taxes should already be paying for.

Ostensibly, the BIA tax can also be used to "improve" and maintain the appearance of municipally-owned property within the designated BIA area, and for collective advertising to promote the area. Of course, the BIA tax widens the municipality's tax base by adding it to already existing property and business taxes.

At the heart of the issue lies the principle that is at the heart of every BIA controversy: freedom of association. Since BIA "members" cannot independently and voluntarily join or quit a BIA, they are therefore subject to forced association, where independent planning and action becomes superceded by forced collective planning and action.

A BIA operates very much like a labour union, being a body that requires a large consensus before it

can be "de-certified" or defeated in initial formation stages. Like a union, "dues" are compulsory and the compulsory BIA tax is fully enforced by law. And in the same way that an individual worker would have to quit his job to avoid compulsory dues, so too must the individual businessman be forced to leave his business community to avoid the extra compulsory tax for that area.

Like unions, many BIAs adopt political platforms, supporting or opposing various political issues --- all the while claiming to "represent" the BIA "membership."

Last but not least, BIAs as legislated under Section 217 of the Municipal Act deny the right to vote to those being taxed. In other words, BIAs are blatant forms of **taxation without representation**.

As one may well guess, the magnitude of the effect BIAs have on Ontario's economy and business climate are far greater than most would imagine. Documentation and press reports of BIA disasters which include runaway taxes, misappropriation of funds, lack of accountability for funds, outbreaks of animosity within a business community where none existed before the BIA, incidents of fraud, misrepresentation, and more, fill an entire filing cabinet at **Freedom Party** headquarters.

(...BIA from prev pg)

voluntary, and that democratic representation within the operation of BIAs simply does not exist."

RAE SIDESTEPS ISSUE

In his two-paragraph response to Metz dated September 10, 1991, Rae completely avoided the issue as outlined above by once again falsely informing Metz that "You can address any dissatisfaction with a BIA through the municipal council, since a BIA is directly accountable to it." Rae suggested that if a new business does not wish to belong to a BIA, it may locate in an area where there is no BIA.

Needless to say, Rae's pre-programmed response offers us only two possible interpretations of his stand on BIAs: (1) he is completely incapable of understanding or addressing the issue, or (2) **taxation without representation** is fine by him. Either way, unwary victims of BIAs will not find a friend in Rae.

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GET THE DETAILS!

Copies of the correspondence referred to in this article are now available to FP members and supporters on request. Just call or write. See green box on back cover for details.

WARNING!
BIA'S
ARE
HAZARDOUS
TO YOUR
ECONOMIC
HEALTH
&
INDEPENDENCE

Above: FP's original BIA Warning brochure is still available to members & supporters on request.

Victory for Taxpayers!

JAMESVILLE BIA DEFEATED

HAMILTON (October 23, 1991) - After five years of debate and controversy, the **Jamesville BIA** in Hamilton has finally been defeated. Thanks to the persistent efforts of **Ron Burrige** and supporters (including **Freedom Party**), what was once believed to be an unwinnable war against provincial and municipal politicians has turned into another example of how one **individual** can actually "beat the system" that's out to beat him.

✂ POLITICAL PRESSURE

Faced with the relentless pressure and arguments that Burrige presented to Hamilton City council, it was finally forced to concede to the wishes of a majority vote held by BIA members on October 9/91 where 67 merchants voted 'NO' to the Jamesville BIA versus 19 who voted 'YES'. Although there was no legal obligation on the part of councillors to grant the merchants their wishes, the threat of possible defeat in the upcoming November 12 municipal elections was

the catalyst that helped turn the tide.

✂ NOT EVERYONE HAPPY

Ward 2 **Alderman Bill McCulloch**, a supporter of the BIA, denounced the outcome of the vote by arguing that the number of merchants who voted represented only 42% of the 157 merchants eligible to vote. Ironically, McCulloch himself was voted into council by only 12% of eligible voters within his ward.

In order to dissolve the Jamesville BIA, council authorized and directed the City Solicitor to prepare a bylaw to repeal **By-law No. 85-198 (Designating the Jamesville Business Improvement Area)** and **By-law No. 86-74 (Establishing a Board of Management)**, in accordance with **Section 217** of the **Municipal Act** (see previous article, pg 10).

According to the **Hamilton Spectator** (Sept. 26/91), Burrige was quoted as saying that he would begin forming a private business organization operating independently

of the municipal government, should the vote turn out favourably. Under the BIA, municipal assessments ranged from \$35 to more than \$1000 per year, depending on the size of the business.

Long-time members and supporters of **Freedom Party** may recall when, in 1987, Hamilton city council voted unanimously to approach Ontario's Attorney-General to investigate **FP's** BIA Warning brochure under Section 177 of the Criminal Code (i.e., "spreading false news"), the same section under which Ernst Zundel was charged for "denying the Holocaust" (see Freedom Flyer, July/87).

✂ GET THE DETAILS!

Copies of documentation, press clippings, etc., relating to this BIA are available to **FP** members and supporters on request. See green box below for details on where to write or call.

FREEDOM FLYER

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