

FREEDOM FLYER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

MARCH 1996 - Vol. 5. No. 5

The Freedom

EVOLUTION



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Sense
A

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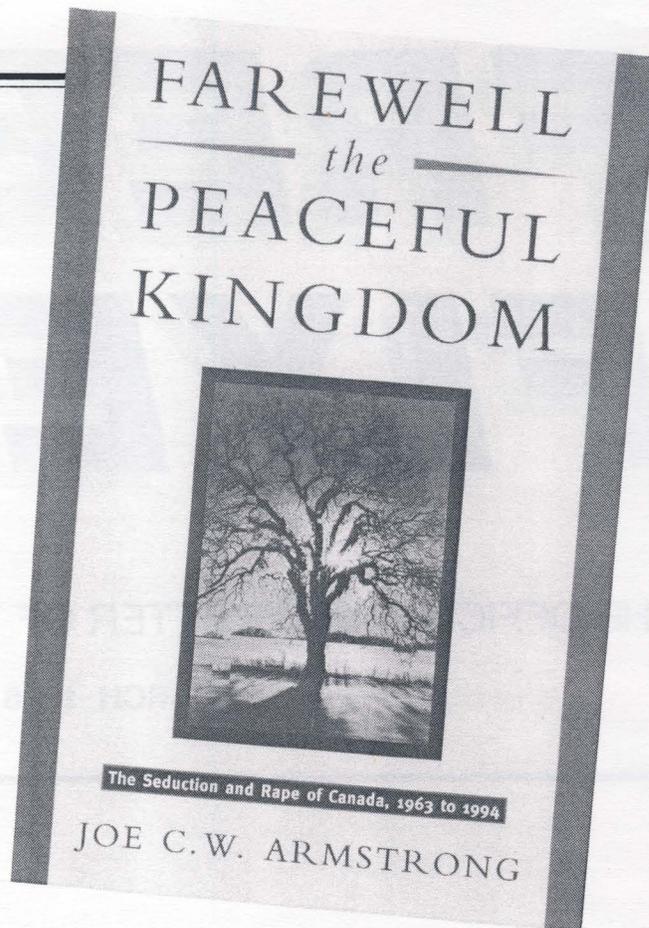
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"(Joe Armstrong) is embroiled in a lovers' quarrel with Canada. The book is filled with facts, references and quotes. What makes it all come together is humour and wit. Mr. Armstrong provides us with a voice that was largely ignored by major newspapers and television stations..." - **Frank Rupnik, Sarnia Observer**, July 26/95

"It's a new kind of history. It's a fascinating book. The scope is magnificent. It's factual. There's a tongue-in-cheek aspect. It's a great read." - **Bill Kelly, CHML Hamilton**, June 12/95

"For a generation, socialists of all parties have manipulated Canada into its present condition: debt ridden, fractious, and torn adrift from its roots. In a book that historians of the period will treasure, Joe Armstrong skewers the manipulators with the record of what they said and did." - **Kenneth McDonald**, April/95

"It is a wonderful analysis of the last thirty years of Canadian history but it goes way beyond that. It annotates each and every step we've taken in the wrong direction. (Armstrong) is uniquely qualified, an eminent historian." - **Jim Chapman, CKSL 1410 London**, June 30/95

"There are many, many salient points covered in this book that documents rather tightly, how the country was sold down the river. It's bullet proof in its scholarship. (Armstrong) is a researcher par excellence and he's done his homework." - **John Oakley, CFRB 1010 Toronto**, June 20/95

"(Armstrong's book) is something you ought to read if you care about your country. It's thirty-five bucks and well worth every nickel. Buy the book." - **Rafe Mair, CKNW Vancouver**, May 22/95

Working For Freedom...

FREEDOM BRIEFS...

ARMSTRONG ADDRESSES Fp AUDIENCE

LONDON (September 30, 1995) - Joe C. W. Armstrong, author of the controversial book *Farewell the Peaceful Kingdom*, addressed 60 attendees at Freedom Party's \$50-per-plate dinner at the Radisson Hotel in downtown London. His theme, "Racism Rampant In A Victim Culture", was the focus of his demonstration that Canadians live with a "victim culture constitution" that is undermining the fundamental values on which Canada depends for its continued existence as a free nation.

A sixth-generation Canadian who describes himself as "author, historian and heritage publicist," Armstrong also had copies of his best-selling *From Sea Unto Sea: Art & Discovery Maps of Canada* and his definitive biography *Champlain* available for the audience.

While *Farewell the Peaceful Kingdom* has become another best-seller for Armstrong, its sales have fared far better in the western provinces than in Ontario.

"I began this work angry with Canada's politicians and leaders and convinced that Canadian unity was really threatened, that 'national unity' by itself was an objective worth monumental effort and dedication," says Armstrong in his introduction to the book. "I am no longer convinced of even the relevance of such an objective. After ten years of struggle to document what has happened, I find myself far more disillusioned with the general populace than I am with Canada's leaders.

"Canada does not suffer a leadership crisis. She suffers a crisis of citizenship."

Armstrong says his next book will be focused on freedom and censorship in Canada. It will demonstrate how Canada has become a "closed society" which shuns open debate on fundamental issues of importance to Canadians.

Farewell The Peaceful Kingdom is still available through Freedom Party at \$35 per copy. See ad at left for more details.



Joe C.W. Armstrong

TRENCH BOOK A BESTSELLER!

TORONTO (March, 1996) - Copies of Fp member William Trench's 1991 book, *Only You Can Save Canada*, are virtually sold out. The book, which was originally introduced to Fp members and supporters in the December 1992 edition of *Freedom Flyer*, contains a Foreword written by Fp president Robert Metz and has sold over 6100 copies nationwide. (Sales of 5000 or more are considered best-sellers in Canada.)

Like author Joe Armstrong (see above), Trench emphasizes that it is the citizens of Canada, not the politicians, who hold the only real hope for Canada's future.

As of this writing, only five copies of Trench's book are still available for sale through Freedom Party, with a another possible dozen or so available through the author. Anyone interested in getting a copy before they are completely unavailable (on a first-come, first-served basis) can contact Fp offices for further details (\$8.95 cover). See green box on back cover for details of how to get in touch with us.

KIMURA, HILBORN, ELECTED TO UWO SENATE

LONDON (October 19, 1995) - We are pleased to announce that Fp members Doreen Kimura and Kenneth H.W. Hilborn were among those elected to the University of Western Ontario's (UWO) 91-seat senate. The senate has extensive powers affecting everything from race relations and sexual harassment policies to broader academic matters on campus.

In the shaping of this philosophical environment, Kimura and Hilborn have already made an impact. Hilborn cites the deletion of a restrictive phrase within UWO's policy on academic freedom as an example of their influence. The phrase, guaranteeing "the right (of professors) to speak freely on campus in the conduct of academic duties," while sounding like a guarantee of such freedom, effec-

tively LIMITED that freedom TO the campus, leaving the question of free speech off the campus as an issue that could restrict academic freedom.

Not surprisingly, both Kimura and Hilborn were supported by the Society of Academic Freedom and Scholarship (SAFS) in their quest for senate seats. However, their interest in affecting policies regarding race and sex is far more than simply 'academic'. Both are involved in research and work directly related to politically sensitive issues, and both have drawn conclusions or expressed opinions not deemed to be 'politically correct'.

A historian and specialist on 20th century international relations at UWO, Hilborn was the center of controversy in April/95 when his, *Cult of the Victim*, published by C-FAR (Canadians for Foreign Aid Reform), was brought to the attention of the Reform Party. Because he was a member of the Reform Party at the time, the party subjected him to an investigation reviewing his party membership. Media reports ludicrously drew vague associations between Hilborn and "known racists", citing his involvement with groups like the World Anti-Communist League as examples of links to racist organizations.

As a professor in Psychology, Kimura's work has been highly cited in scientific journals. In 1992, she wrote a widely-read article on sex differences in brain organization for *Scientific American*. With over 70 other articles having been published in various scientific journals and books, her book *Neuro-motor Mechanisms In Human Communication* was published by Oxford University Press in 1993. She was also the founding president of SAFS.

Both Hilborn and Kimura have had articles published in Freedom Party's alternate newsletter, *Consent*. We wish them all the best with their continued influence on UWO's senate.

REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATION FALLS ON DEAF EARS

TORONTO (February 21, 1995) - The Ontario Election Finances Commission, presided over by appointees from the three parties in the legislature, reviewed Fp secretary Robert Vaughan's request to have the Commission appoint non-voting representatives from the unrepresented registered politi-

Post-election...

MAKING ROOM FOR FREEDOM IN THE 'COMMON SENSE REVOLUTION'

ONTARIO (June 8, 1995 - March 1996) - Since the election of the **Progressive Conservative Party** on June 8, 1995, **Freedom Party** executive, members, and supporters have been hard at work encouraging the new government in its positive directions. At the same time, they have offered alternate input and direction on issues where fundamental differences clearly exist between the 'Common Sense' agenda and the principles of individual freedom.

Through public campaigns, news interviews, published editorials, commentaries, official submissions to the government, group networking, correspondence, and a host of other activities, **Freedom Party** efforts to make room for freedom in the 'Common Sense' revolution have been under way since the day of the election.

☞ PCs LISTENING?

With a firm commitment to carrying out its agenda, the question of whether the new government is listening to ANY groups across the political spectrum has become a legitimate concern.

For example, a multitude of groups, including **Freedom Party**, were turned away when they applied to address the government's committee on **Bill 26** (the Omnibus Bill). Past governments normally accommodated all input at public hearings by structuring hearings accordingly. But the process of selection for the Bill 26 hearings left the government wide open to charges of being a closed "doctrinaire" party unconcerned with the social effects of its policies. (See related coverage, pgs 16-17.)

The PCs certainly must be listening to the public via the polls. Until the Bill 26 hearings, polls showed the PCs at an all-time high (52%) in popular support, giving them the courage to forge ahead quickly with their agenda. However, many of their policies were bound to decrease PC popularity, as the beneficiaries of government spending and legislation would increasingly make their opposition to cuts in these areas loudly known. Thus, the recent drop in PC popularity since the Bill 26 hearings is not surprising.

☞ A COMMON DIRECTION?

What the Harris government's ultimate political vision is remains to be seen. While

(cont'd next pg...)

2

THE OTTAWA TIMES

DECEMBER 1995

NEWS

'Middle class is responsible for deficit,' say critics

Welfare Cuts Force Thousands Back to Work

Timothy Bloedow
QUEEN'S PARK

We are "pleasantly surprised by the fiscal direction of the provincial government," said Robert Metz, director of Freedom Party (Ontario), reflecting on the recent welfare cuts that have raised the ire of some people in the province.

Referring to what he sees as a human tendency to shun work, he said that many of us "need a little more hardship." This view, which places the responsibility for a person's poverty, in most cases, on his own shoulders, is generally rejected by many opponents of the provincial Tories' reforms.

A spokesman for Stop the Cuts Coalition (SCC) said that the cuts that do most harm to the poor are unethical because, among other things, "the middle class is responsible for the deficit," not the poor.

Mr. Metz, however, argued that "when you take away hardship, you take away the incentive to act," adding that "making life easy for the poor keeps them poor."

Welfare Minister, David

Tsubouchi, recently supervised the 22% cut in welfare payments promised by the PCs in their Common Sense Revolution, generating a lot of conflict in the process with "anti-poverty" groups and the new Ottawa-based SCC.

The PCs, however, argue that these cuts, along with the rest of its program, will provide Ontario with a better economic environment in the long-run, thereby improving the lot of the rich and poor alike, not to mention the middle class.

They respond to their critics by noting that Ontario still has a welfare payment rate that is 10 percent higher than the nation's average, ahead of all provinces except British Columbia, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island, for a "single employable" person and above all provinces but B.C. for a "single parent with a child (<12)."

Groups like SCC are calling for more of the approach that the PCs campaigned against, with their spokesman stating that her personal view is that the only thing that Bob Rae did wrong was not adhering to the principle

of collective bargaining.

Recent reports, however, indicate that, for whatever reason, the present government is overseeing a movement among welfare recipients that all the major parties claim to want — a reduction in the number of people on the dole.

Mr. Tsubouchi has overseen a decline of 80,000 welfare recipients, in eight months, representing a saving of about \$499 million a year. Each month since July has seen a reduction from the previous month, including October with a decline of 36,189 people, the largest since 1969 when the government started keeping such records.

The minister is not speculating about where those 80,000 people have gone and, while some groups that minister to the needy report growth in the numbers of people seeking help, no-one has effectively tracked all them.

Some critics, however, have suggested that some of them have begun to work at jobs that perhaps did not look as appealing when their welfare cheques were about

30% above the national average.

Although such work may not be satisfactory, some conservatives like Mr. Metz argue that working is decidedly better for the person concerned and for society at large than living on welfare.

The SCC may be the most vocal opponent to Mike Harris' cuts in the Ottawa area.

It comprises a growing number of individuals concerned about the government's economic program, and is independently funded and volunteer staffed, said the SCC spokesman.

"It has been very active since it was formed," she added. "I think we have accomplished a lot by building a public awareness that not everyone likes these cuts."

On November 22, the group participated in a "Fight the Cuts" march in Ottawa that was also endorsed by the Communist Party of Canada, International Socialists, Pro-Choice Network and several local branches of CUPE.

The organization recently submitted a petition to Ottawa-Carleton's regional government, requesting that

the government publicly express its opposition to the provincial cuts as well as the proposed tax cuts.

Regional councillor Diane Holmes (Ward 14) made a motion in Council based on that petition.

Using even stronger words than the SCC, Ms. Holmes moved that it be "resolved that this Council regards the Provincial Government's welfare cuts to be an unacceptable attempt to victimize the poor for economic problems they did not cause; that this Council oppose the Provincial Government's welfare cuts, cuts to childcare, cuts to women's shelters, cuts to social housing, and the introduction of workfare."

Councillor Linda Davis seconded the motion. Alex Cullen (Ward 7) and Alex Munter (Ward 4), who was recently voted the favourite regional councillor of *Ottawa Sun* readers, also voted in its favour.

A separate vote on the SCC's recommendation that the regional government oppose the 30% income tax cut proposed by the provincial Tories found support from



David Tsubouchi

the same individuals and five others: David Pratt, Richard Cantin, Michel Bellemare, Jacques Legendre and Acting Chair Madeleine Meilleur.

An SCC spokesman said that although the government watered down her petition, it made more headway than she originally anticipated.

Mr. Munter has been very vocal about his opposition to Mike Harris' strategy, arguing that the combination of spending and tax cuts is

Tsubouchi
Page 5, Column 1

Post-election...

(...cont'd from prev. pg.)

spending cuts, the passage of **Bill 7**, and other similar initiatives were publicly praised and defended by **Freedom Party** representatives, the PC's continued commitment to concepts such as equal pay, universality, government-monopolized health care and education, and policies of official multiculturalism are clear evidence of commonality with a socialist agenda, not a freedom one.

However, even on issues where **Fp** and the PCs might disagree, we often, nevertheless, continue to share with the PCs common opponents and adversaries on those same issues. From a **Freedom Party** perspective, most of the criticism levied against the PCs from labour and left-wing interest groups is out of context, detached from any fundamental understanding of government or economics, or embarrassingly self-serving.

Thus, we can find ourselves both criticizing a particular PC policy AND criticizing other opponents to that same policy. Or vice-versa.

☞ MOSTLY PRAISE

In the given Ontario environment, the PC's resolute determination to follow through on their agenda --- which was clearly presented to the public IN ADVANCE of their election

☞ At Left, Below: from the Ottawa Times, December 1995. Reflections on the wisdom of Harris' welfare cuts include comments by Fp president Robert Metz

Tsubouchi

Continued from page 2

nothing more than stealing from the poor to give to the rich.

Mr. Metz, who said that he has been on the receiving end of such a comment, himself, stated that this claim is "almost like a religious dogma repeated verbatim" by liberals.

He added that you can not take from the poor because they do not have anything.

"What Mike Harris is really doing is stopping the flow of money from the rich --- actually from the average guy --- to the poor."

This approach that has gone unchallenged by the Liberal and Conservative parties for several decades --- that the government should be, as much as possible, all things to all people, and even the first source of charitable help for those in need is being challenged in-

creasingly today.

In its "Taxpayers' Budget," issued in February, the Reform Party argued that personal reserves, family and private charitable organizations should be the first sources of help for people in need. In the Freedom Party philosophy one would be hard-pressed to find justification for any government rôle in the provision of charitable help.

Far from being a reflection of meanness, as critics often argue, Mr. Metz said that it reflects a fundamental ethical paradigm that may not usher in utopia, but does offer much more hope than the political philosophies that run our governments today.

A story about David Crocket, a member of the U.S. Congress in the 19th century, is often used by conservatives to illustrate their view on this matter.

Challenging a bill to appropriate money to help a widow of a notable naval officer, he said that "we must not permit our respect for the

dead or our sympathy for a part of the living to lead us into an act of injustice to the balance of the living. . . . We

have the right, as individuals, to give away as much of our own money as we please in charity; but as members of Congress we have no right so to appropriate a dollar of the public money. . . . I am the poorest man on this floor.

I cannot vote for this bill, but I will give one week's

pay to the object, and, if every member of Congress will do the same, it will amount to more than the bill asks."

With these two political philosophies competing for power and the other permutations developed by mixing different portions of the two,

the battle over the Tory government's fiscal plan is not likely to go away.

Nevertheless, with no lull in the controversy in sight, Mr. Tsubouchi says that his government is still planning to pursue its "work-fare" promise in the new year.

--- must be commended. At the same time, the disgraceful and uncivilized behaviour of organized labour groups, poverty marchers, angry university students, and others must be equally condemned. Their actions speak louder than words.

How **Freedom Party** is positioning itself against the PC's 'Common Sense' agenda is illustrated by the reproduced media coverage throughout this issue of *Freedom Flyer*. Both praise and criticism --- but at this stage mostly praise --- have been directed towards the new government through **Fp** activities and media coverage.

☞ MEDIA PERCEPTIONS

For the media, "right-wing" criticisms of a "right-wing" party in power can present a unique perspective. However, our current experience suggests that the more "left-wing" a particular media might be, the less interested it is in our perspective on the current government. Thus, PRAISING the government's actions, in particular, has become exceedingly difficult, in the media of the left. (See related coverage on the **London Free Press**, pgs 9-10.)

But when the media has opened its doors, the process of commenting on the current government's performance has presented **Freedom Party** with a simultaneous opportunity to identify and promote **Fp's** philosophy and platform.

Within this context, media coverage of **Fp's** perspective has ranged from generally sympathetic to perceptions of the party as extremist.

☞ Fp 'FANATIC'?

Referring to **Freedom Party** as "fanatically pro-business, pro-capital(ist)," **id** editor **Nate Hendley** reveals what we, in turn, might term a "left-wing" perspective on the part of the author. (See page 6 for article reproduction.) Yet his perception is a valid one. In the sense that it is likely shared by a substantial portion of the public, it offers us direction in terms of clarifying ourselves on these terms.

Adherence to principle has often been associated with "fanaticism", and rightly so, when the principle has been completely detached from reality. But in the absence of any specific criticisms of **Fp's** philosophy or platform which would support that, it is more likely the author may simply regard all devotees to ANY principles as "fanatic", under the incorrect assumption, shared by so many "philosophically disarmed" individuals, that there are no consistent and workable principles in reality.

The misled perception that **Fp** is "pro-business" is caused by that term's confusion with our "pro-free enterprise" platform, which is an entirely different concept. Whereas "free enterprise" simply refers to a market free from government intervention and control, a "pro-business" platform suggests a government-monopolized and/or controlled market to the unfair advantage of certain existing business interests, or tax subsidies to business. Neither of these policies would be supported by **Freedom Party**, yet both have been supported by all three of the major parties in Ontario.

While the label "pro-capitalist" is certainly applicable to **Freedom Party**, we must not forget that many people's perception of capi-

(POST-ELECTION... cont'd pg 7)

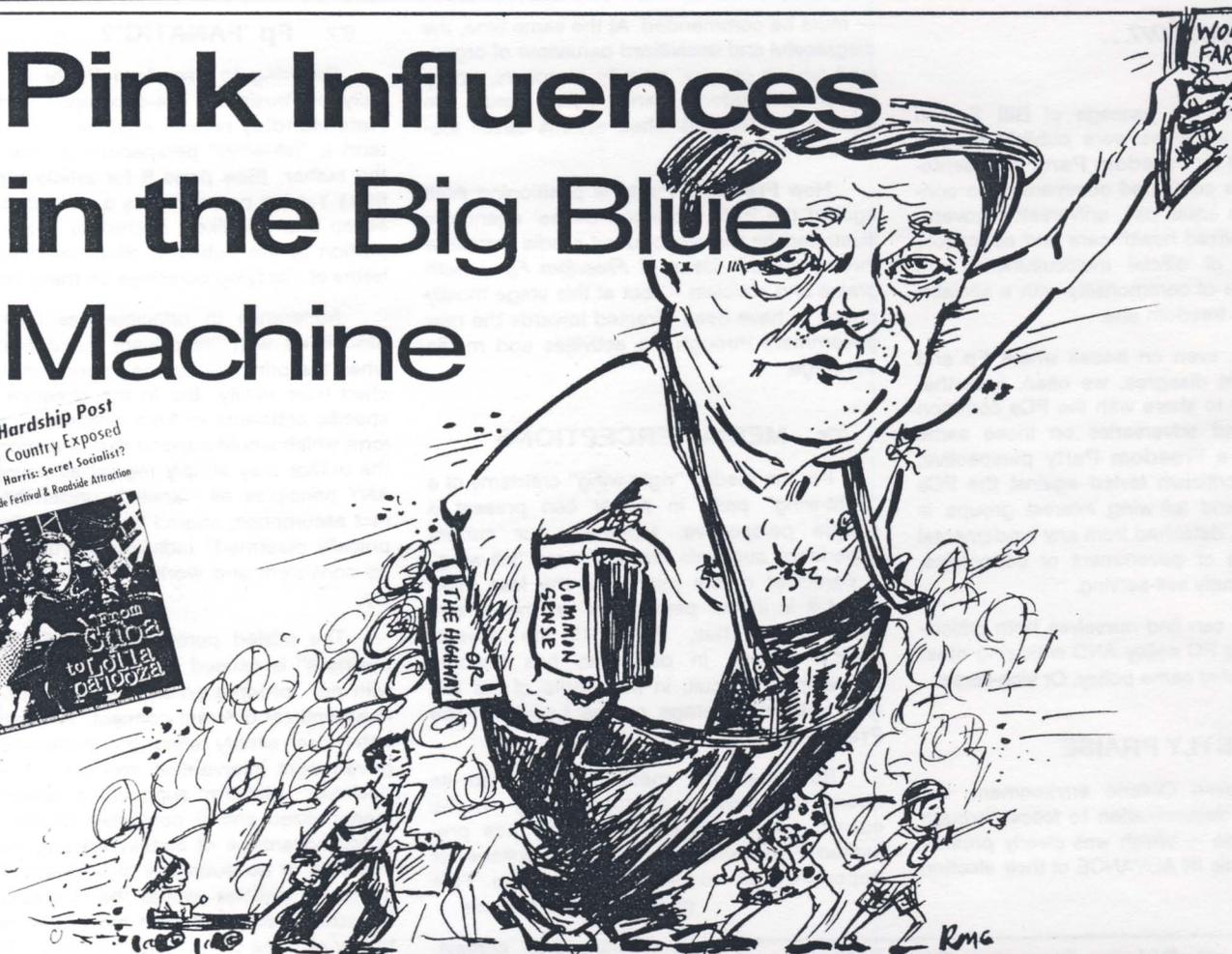
Party Time!

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Pink Influences in the Big Blue Machine

FEATURES



Some capitalist proposals for Mr. Harris

by Nate Hendley

"I fear the U.S. is headed for socialism, which means, of course, every increasing interference in the business of each citizen. Whatever happened to the glorious frontier, of minding one's own business? The word liberal has come to stand for the most damnable tyranny, a snivelling, mealy-mouthed tyranny of bureaucrats, social workers, psychologists and union officials. The world of 1984 is not even 30 years away."

- William S. Burroughs, letter to Jack Kerouac, 1950

Do reds run the big blue machine? On surface it seems a ludicrous question, especially in light of newly elected Mike Harris propensity for drastic budget

slashing. According to Robert Metz, leader of the fanatically pro-business, pro-capitalism Freedom Party of Ontario, premier Harris is in fact little more than an ineffectual left-winger, while the Tory party is doing more for the cause of socialism than then socialists themselves.

"The Tories have completely bought the socialist argument that capitalism is greedy and selfish," Metz, whose laissez-faire capitalist beliefs are as rock-hard as his London, Ontario based Freedom Party is obscure. "That's based on a false moral premise. There's nothing more greedy than socialists, because they want to take money that wasn't earned by them."

Agreed, but does that make the Conservatives a bunch of pinks in blue suits? According to Metz, it does.

"The PCs are still committed to spending other people's money for other people," he says. "Mike Harris is still committed to universal programs which are not sustainable. I call them the Socialist Conservatives, not Progressive Conservatives."

Which would come as news for Mr.

Harris, the former golf pro turned politician, though Metz's angry accusations do make more sense after you hear his definition of socialism.

"Socialism," Metz says, "is the use of government force to enact any kind of government objective - often a benign objective, such as helping the poor."

Metz further clarifies his definition by adding "socialism means robbing Peter to pay Paul... the philosophy of all collectivist governments."

Metz's classification of Harris as "leftist" is supported by other figures who make up part of the amorphous body politic vaguely known as "the right wing." Although he might be offended at being labelled "right," Hill Cox of the Libertarian Party of Canada, like Metz, also fanatically believes in a pure capitalist system, with as little government interference in the lives and livelihoods of the citizens in the province. This apparently is also what Mike Harris believes in though Cox doesn't think so.

Cox defines socialism as "a system that promises a free lunch. Promises you something that someone else will pay

for. Communism without the guns." He agrees with Metz's depiction of the Harris Tories as a left-wing force.

Most critics of Harris, however, would suggest the premier is promising anything but a "free lunch" to the denizens of the province, especially those with low incomes. Harris' finance minister Ernie Eves has announced cuts to government programs in the neighbourhood of \$1.96 billion. In an attempt to keep the province's estimated \$8.7 billion deficit for the current fiscal year from rising, the Tories have chopped significant funding from public housing, pay equity programs, subsidized day-care and, most controversially, welfare. As announced on July 21, welfare recipients will be receiving a cut of over 20% on their payments, a situation that has led to heated protests across Ontario from people on social assistance.

None of which impresses Cox or Metz much.

The nearly two billion in cuts Eves has announced will basically cover the drop in federal transfer payments for next year, Cox says.

id Magazine August 3 to August 16 1995

Post-election...

The Blue Machine cont'd

In any case, Cox would like to see the welfare system - along with unemployment insurance, and the Workman's Compensation Board - completely privatized, and out of government hands. To his mind, "The best way to help the poor is to lower their taxes," not increase their welfare rates, he claims.

Harris has in fact promised to slash income tax, but Cox and Metz feel this is a political bluff which he will be unable to accomplish without significantly lowering the deficit first. And he won't be able to lower the deficit without some drastic overhauling of the system.

To be fair, Harris has promised some pretty major changes to the welfare system, mainly in the form of the

it takes jobs from other people who already have them. Also, where exactly is this money coming from for workfare?"

Unmentioned by its supporters is the fact that workfare would merely replace one inefficient government bureaucracy with another, as welfare bureaucrats took to administering training and job placement programs instead of doling out checks. State run enterprise and money-making efficiency are usually not synonymous terms. As the *Economist* magazine has pointed out, administering workfare might end up costing even more money than the current system of welfare.

If workfare then is a farce, announced cuts to day-care subsidies are not. Writing in the *Toronto Star* under the provocative headline, "Smashed: the hopes of countless women and children" Michele Landsberg writes of how the day-care subsidy cuts will have a massively negative impact on women who work in day-care centres

The best way to help the poor is to lower their taxes, not increase their welfare rates,

says Hill Cox of the Libertarian Party of Canada.

program known as "workfare." Workfare is, depending on your political perspective, either cheap forced labour or a way make freeloaders work for a living. Those who take the latter view consider workfare a brilliant conservative program that will save huge tax dollars currently given out in the form of free money for welfare recipients.

Ultra pro-capitalist Metz however, doesn't support workfare at all.

Workfare is "destructive," he states. "Number one, it hands jobs that don't exist to people and number two,

and kids who attend them. The "meagre pay" of female day care workers, "averages about \$28,000 in Metro" Landsberg notes. Landsberg, we can assume, has not applied for any entry level positions in the workforce for some time for she considers this a poverty-level salary and is horrified that these wages might go down even further in the face of Tory cuts. While her reaction to the reality of salary levels in the mid-90s might be a little off, Landsberg does accurately point out that cuts to day-care subsidies will hurt low income parents who rely on gov-

ernment support to keep their kids in day-care.

"Let's assume there's an element of truth there," Cox says of Landsberg's column. "She wants the government to help out. But government has to make other people poor to

education will be guaranteed." Beyond that, Harris has not proposed any truly radical measures for education. Metz and Cox have a few of their own, none of which are likely to be adopted by premier Harris any time soon. Metz suggests granting parents

"Workfare is 'destructive.' Number one, it hands jobs that don't exist to people and number two, it takes jobs from other people who already have them."

- Robert Metz of the Freedom Party of Ontario

help the poor."

Robbing Peter to pay Paul, in other words.

Cox continues, "The state should not become the parents of kids. The best way to help single parents is to make sure that the money a single parent worker makes is worth something, not subsidizing day-care. In other words, make it so a single parent doesn't have to pay as much in taxes."

Once those kids are old enough to leave day-care, they face a public education system that is hardly running at peak performance. The Common Sense Revolution book says very little about schooling, except for the banal statement that "classroom funding for

the right to direct their children and their educational taxes to the institute of their choice. Teachers, he believes, should also be able to start their own schools if they so desire. Cox, for his part, wants to see education privatized.

Actually, Cox and Metz would like to privatize just about everything, from health care down. Cox even suggests services such as water companies be run on a private business basis.

The logic behind their fierce belief in the private sector is rooted in the libertarian ideal of getting government off people's backs, for real, and the fact that the province, and nation as a

(...POST ELECTION cont'd from pg 5.)

talism is based upon definitions written by capitalism's enemies. For others, the term is not much different from "pro-business", as described above. It is only among economically and politically literate individuals that the concept of capitalism as a social system which protects the institution of private property, and thus individual freedom, is usually understood. For these reasons, "FREEDOM" is by far the best word with which to market Fp's political ideal.

FREEDOM'S CHALLENGE

In the collectivist environment in which Ontario unfortunately finds itself, the task of opening doors for freedom is always one of eternal vigilance and hard work. To that end, members, supporters, and friends are reminded that **Freedom Party's** accomplishments and influence in Ontario's political arena depend entirely upon their volunteer and financial support.

<END>

Pages 6, 7 (above), and 8: reproduced from *id* Magazine, Aug 3-16, 1995. Article by Nate Hendley reflects early reaction to, and a broader perspective on, the Common Sense Revolution by Fp president Robert Metz and leader of the Libertarian Party of Canada, Hill Cox.

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Post-election...

FEATURES

whole, is basically going broke. Cox in fact, predicts a somewhat gloomy financial scenario whereby the province hits a "debt wall" sometime before the year 2000, at which point we default on our debt payments and Moody's downgrades our credit rating to a Gentleman's "C" or lower. This would in turn mean the province couldn't off-load their bonds, affecting the Canadian dollar, which would

wall," as Cox puts it. The socialist Labour party who were ruling at the time were forced to implement "the most conservative [economic] measures," says Metz, "and they worked. They had billboards on hospitals, on police cars." As detailed in the fall 1989 edition of *Fortune* magazine, "Controls on foreign exchange, as well as extensive wage and price strictures, were scrapped. Tariffs and taxes were and portable." Instead of trying to lure high-tech firms, who might move out in a couple years, Ontario should try to maintain its manufacturing base, Cox says. To do this, the province should "cut universality of social programs, eliminate the minimum wage and set up free trade zones in the province."

None of which, of course, Mike Harris is prepared to do.

dressed by "private insurance companies."

Cox says free trade zones are coming soon, regardless of whose party occupies power at Queen's Park.

Whether such proposed free trade zones would be the economic salvation of the province, or turn into neo-Dickensian pits of wage slavery, or both, remains to be seen. For the moment, however, both Metz and Cox argue that the fuel which drives Mike Harris' "conservative" financial policy has more to do with public opinion polls which reflect a growing right-wing attitude in the province than deeply held economic ideology.

"Harris' party is based on being in control," Cox says. "Based on power. In that, his party is no different than other parties. Harris will be as left as he wants to be, or as right as he wants to be to be elected. Bob Rae follows the same thing."

"There is, in fact, no recognized principle by which the propriety or impropriety of government interference is customarily tested. People decide according to their personal preferences. Some, whenever they see any good to be done or evil to be remedied, would willingly instigate the government to undertake the business; while others prefer to bear almost any amount of social evil rather than add one to the departments of human interests amendable to government control."

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* 

Critics of the Tories agree that the fuel which drives Mike Harris' "conservative" financial policy has more to do with public opinion polls which reflect a growing right-wing attitude in the province than deeply held economic ideology.

collapse, destroying million of people's savings. "There will be some rioting in the streets when this happens," Cox predicts.

This isn't just fiscal ranting from the leader of a party which will probably never win any seats in the House of Commons.

Cities, states, even whole countries can and do go bankrupt, or come close to it. Orange County, California, through a combination of disastrous stock market speculation and financial mismanagement, recently announced bankruptcy. Public services in Orange County have been drastically slashed, not for any ideological reasons but simply because the county is broke. Ten years ago, New Zealand sailed very close to the economic abyss. This happened after the New Zealand government tried to artificially support the agricultural sector with subsidies, following a drop in sales of agricultural products to Europe.

The New Zealand economy "hit the

cut and a host of government corporations from Petrocorp, the state oil company, to Air New Zealand, were privatized." The agricultural sector lost many of their subsidies and "sheep farmers did riot, but now the agricultural business there is very lucrative," Cox says. The *Fortune* magazine article did note that the "festival of deregulation has had one unhappy side effect: an unemployment rate of 9%, the highest since the 1930s" but through these measures New Zealand saved itself from financial insolvency. Cox expresses the opinion that such a fiscal near-disaster along the lines of the New Zealand experience could come to this province, especially in light of the fact Ontario has been gradually losing its manufacturing base, traditionally the main source of wealth for the province. High-tech industries such as computers and computer software are not adequate replacements for manufacturing concerns, he says, being industries that are "very volatile

Cox's free trade zone idea however, remains an intriguing capitalist suggestion, one that the supposed free market supporter Mike Harris might be apt to study.

A free trade zone would be an area in which "you would have no G.S.T., no P.S.T., no trade taxes, no manufacturing taxes. No government taxes at all. People could work there voluntarily." There would also be no worker safety and pollution regulations, though Cox feels these concerns could best be ad-

 **ABOVE:** -conclusion of *id* Magazine article from pages 6 and 7, Aug. 3-16, 1995

 **AT RIGHT:** -from the *St. Marys Journal-Argus*, December 6 1995. See below for commentary.

SMINK SUPPORTS 'TOUGH LOVE'

ST MARYS (December 1995) - In support of what might be termed a dose of political "tough love", Freedom Party Perth Constituency Association president **Robert Smink** targeted his editorial (reproduced at right) specifically to those caught in the mindset of the poverty trap. Smink's support of the Harris government's spending cuts was, in part, based on his understanding that the very people who see themselves being hurt by the cuts are the ones who stand to gain the most by them. However, unless personal responsibility and initiative are exercised, the odds of gaining by the cuts are proportionately diminished.

Holding the "poor" accountable for their own situation in life has become politically incorrect. As a consequence, such viewpoints are highly controversial and subject those expressing them to charges of being uncaring or unsympathetic. Evidence is abundant, however, that welfare entitlements do little but INCREASE the ranks of the "poor". Rather than becoming independent and self-supporting, many welfare recipients become dependent and then begin to view any cuts to their entitlements as cruel and uncaring.

This same theme was expressed by Fp leader **Jack Plant** in an editorial published in the *London Free Press* on November 18, 1995. (See page 10.)

<END>



Freedom Party (not) in the news...

PUBLICATION OF EDITORIAL A "MISTAKE", SAYS FREE PRESS EDITOR

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Lavish spending

SPEAKER'S CORNER



Robert Smink is a London businessperson.

Most of Canada's social engineering programs have proved to be costly and counterproductive efforts.

By Robert Smink

In Canada, misdirected efforts, we call, economic programs provide the means required. If you're nature's way you're doing it right. If you're doing it wrong, it's nature's way of telling you that you're doing something wrong. If you consider yourself poor, you should change the way you're doing things instead of blaming the rich or 'society' for your problems. No one on this planet owes anyone else a living. It has to be earned. Throwing money at poverty has never and will never solve the problem. Extorting tax dollars "to redistribute the wealth" is even worse.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Lavish spending has failed to eradicate poverty

SPEAKER'S CORNER



Robert Smink is a London businessperson.

Most of Canada's social engineering programs have proved to be costly and counterproductive efforts.

By Robert Smink

In Canada today, despite the years of misdirected efforts of poverty activists, we still have enough political, economic and social freedom to provide all the fundamental ingredients required to foster prosperity. If you're poor in this country, it's nature's way of telling you that you're doing something wrong. If you consider yourself poor, you should change the way you're doing things instead of blaming the rich or 'society' for your problems. No one on this planet owes anyone else a living. It has to be earned. Throwing money at poverty has never and will never solve the problem. Extorting tax dollars "to redistribute the wealth" is even worse.

Unfathomable billions have been spent in trying to eradicate poverty in this country in the last 30 years. Yet, according to statistics and the left itself, today we have more unemployed and people on social assistance — in short, a larger percentage of poor people than at any time in our history. One must conclude, then, that most of these social engineering programs are not only extremely costly, but also counterproductive, a tangible example of the old adage that the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

LEGISLATION: Governments cannot legislate people out of poverty. If they could, every developing country would simply pass laws proclaiming that each citizen has a new house, a car, three meals a day and presto, it would be so. It hasn't been done because, as our example illustrates, it cannot be done, and so it should not continually be attempted. We are plundering and squandering our wealth and general prosperity in the quest for equality — an equality of result instead of equality of opportunity. The morality of individual responsibility is lost on the NDP, Liberals and other share the wealth believers. It isn't enough for them that government agencies take more than 54 per cent of the average person's income in various taxes each year. Penalizing the productive and rewarding the unproductive is a sure recipe for disaster, as a yearly \$10-billion-plus provincial deficit attests to.

The old philosophy which created the incentives that made this country great was "to each according to his ability" and it worked. Governments were small and unobtrusive. Taxes were low, deficits, by today's standards were practically non-existent. Families stuck together and prospered and helped each other.

The new altruistic philosophy promoted by the left and socialists of today is "to each according to his need." Not only doesn't it work, but it is immoral. People run to the government for help, and a result, the bureaucracy is huge and expensive, taxes are outrageously high and deficits are astronomical. Families have become expendable, and dependence on government has become acceptable. These people don't realize that money doesn't grow on government trees, and that someone else has to go out and produce the wealth they feel entitled to.

To all the taxpayer-funded social engineers, I say that millions of mismanaged immigrants (like my parents) who came to this country with nothing, some not even able to speak the language, are now prosperous. The boat people and other Asians who practically swim the seas to get here are making it, so what's your excuse? The fact is, there is no excuse for not achieving success in Canada.

MEDIA COVERAGE: With the necessary and ongoing spending cuts of the Harris government, the left-leaning media seems to be giving an inordinate amount of coverage to the bloated social services sector. Most media coverage is dedicated to the impact on social services while little is presented to balance this reporting by mentioning off-setting benefits in any other areas. Every person I've spoken to in an interview keeps a similar story.

Most of the comments are: "It's about time or it's nice to see a politician who follows through on promises." It's no surprise Harris is more popular now with voting taxpayers than he was when elected. There is something to be said for tough love, especially in the political arena. Before the 1960s it was the predominant moral philosophy of this nation and it produced levels of poverty and unemployment much lower than today.

The majority of Ontarians, Mr. Harris is becoming a hero, because he has stuck to his commitment to cut government spending and paternalism. People shouldn't be throwing eggs at him, they should be throwing roses.

Freedom Party letterhead, identified as having originated from Freedom Party on the faxed transmission to the paper, and signed by Smink as "President, Perth Fp Constituency Association". The introduction to the article read: "Robert Smink is a London businessman and was Freedom Party's candidate during the last provincial election in Perth. He has an honours degree in philosophy and history from the University of Waterloo."

(cont'd next pg...)

At Left: -from the London Free Press, December 29, 1995. This reduced editorial is essentially the same as the one below, published in the St. Marys Journal-Argus, but with the author's identity as a Freedom Party representative deleted.

Opinion

Don't throw eggs at Premier, throw roses

By Robert Smink
In Canada today, despite the years of misdirected efforts of poverty activists, we still have enough political, economic and social freedom left to provide all the fundamental ingredients required to foster prosperity. The way I see it, if you're poor in this country, it's nature's way of telling you that you're doing something wrong. If you consider yourself 'poor', you should change the way you're doing things instead of blaming the rich or 'society' for your problems. No one on this planet owes anyone else a living. It has to be earned. Throwing money at poverty has never and will never solve the problem. Extorting tax dollars "to redistribute the wealth" is even worse. Unfathomable billions have been spent in trying to eradicate poverty in this country in the last 30 years. Yet, according to statistics and the left itself, today we have more unemployed and people on social assistance, in short, a much larger percentage of 'poor' people than at any time in our history. One must conclude then, that most of these social engineering programs are not only extremely costly, but also counterproductive, a tangible example of the old adage, 'the

road to hell is paved with good intentions.' Governments cannot legislate people out of poverty. If they could, every third world country would simply pass laws proclaiming that everyone have a new home, a car, three meals a day and presto, it would be so. It hasn't been done because, as our example illustrates, it cannot be done, and so it should not continually be attempted. Can't legislate wealth or poverty You can't legislate wealth or poverty in a free country any more than you can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. But this reality, and the morality of individual responsibility behind it, is lost on the NDP, Liberals and other 'share the wealth' believers. It isn't enough for them that governments already take more than 54 per cent of the average person's income in various taxes each year. Penalizing the productive and rewarding the unproductive is a sure recipe for disaster, as a yearly \$10-billion-plus provincial deficit attests to. For over 500 years, since its discovery, the country that eventually became Canada did very well thank you without all the government-sponsored social engineering programs. This relative period of freedom (up to the Pierre Trudeau era) is

what actually created the infrastructure, wealth and general prosperity which we are now plundering and squandering in the quest for 'equality' — equality of result instead of equality of opportunity. Modern taxation really began in 1917 as a temporary wartime measure. An income tax of 2 per cent was introduced. If the present rate of escalating taxation continues, it will take less than 40 years until we pay 100 per cent of our incomes to government. Then, I suppose, no matter the individual's effort, we'll all get a guaranteed minimum income and we'll finally have the egalitarian nirvana that all the freeloaders and socialists dream of. Old philosophy 'made this country great' The old philosophy which created the incentives that made this country great was "to each according to his ability" and it worked. Governments were small and unobtrusive. Taxes were low, deficits, by today's standards were practically non-existent. Families stuck together and prospered and helped each other out. The new altruistic philosophy promoted by the left and socialists of today is "to each according to his need." Not only doesn't it work, but it is immoral. People run to the government for help. As a result, the bureaucracy is huge and expensive, taxes are outrageously high and deficits are astronomical. Families have become expendable, and dependence on government has become acceptable. These people don't realize that money doesn't grow on government trees and that someone else has to go out and produce the wealth they feel entitled to. Actually, the social activist's ideas of poverty are laughable. They should visit India, Nigeria or any of a number of third world countries to see real poverty. Some of these countries have per capita incomes of less than \$300 per year. No excuse for not achieving success To John Clarke and all the taxpayer-funded social engineers, I say

that millions of transplanted immigrants (like my parents) who came to this country with nothing, some not even able to speak the language, are now prosperous. The 'boat people' and other Asians who practically swam the oceans to get here are making it, so what's your excuse? The fact is, there is no excuse for not achieving success in Canada today. If you don't have the burning desire to better your life (and I don't mean getting more government handouts for less effort) you're cheating yourself and your loved ones with phony excuses. You are choosing a level of life that's poor compared to what you could have with the extra exertion of which you are capable. It's all on your shoulders and there's no way you can shift any of the responsibility. Unless you do this and start operating at your full potential you'll never reach the quality of life within your reach, and which you desire. Left-leaning media With the necessary and ongoing spending cuts of the Harris government, the left-leaning media seems to be giving an inordinate amount of coverage to the bloated social services sector. For example, out of a total of \$1.9 billion in Harris first round of cuts, only \$167 million, or a paltry 11.4% was cut from the community and social services sector. Yet daily most

media coverage is dedicated to the impact on social services while little is presented to balance this reporting by mentioning off-setting benefits in any other areas. Every person I've spoken to is extremely happy with the cuts. Most of the comments are: "It's about time" and "It's nice to see a politician who follows through on his promises". It's no surprise that Harris is more popular now with the voting taxpayers than he was when elected. There is something to be said for 'tough love', especially in the political arena. Before the 1960s it was the predominant moral philosophy of this nation and it produced levels of poverty and unemployment that were much lower than they are today. To a majority of Ontarians, Mr. Harris is becoming a hero, because he has stuck to his commitment to cut government spending and paternalism. People shouldn't be throwing eggs at him, they should be throwing roses. Editor's Note: Robert Smink is a London businessman and was Freedom Party's candidate during the last provincial election in Perth. He has an honours degree in philosophy and history from the University of Waterloo.

E4

rebut
v.t. force back;
refute, disprove. rebuttal n.

REBUTTAL

Funding poverty a bad idea

People should have the right to decide where their money is spent, and on which charities.

By Jack Plant

The writer is leader of the Freedom Party of Ontario.

Social programs are not what define Canada.

In his diatribe against government cutbacks, *When vandals get elected* (Nov. 4), Jeffrey Schlemmer argues that Canada's social system is, "more than any other characteristic, (what) uniquely defines us as Canadians."

This belief is an insult to our heritage as a free people. The values of freedom (individualism, individual rights, responsibility, choice, voluntarism, and reason) define my Canada.

The relative values of socialism (collectivism, group rights, dependency, force, relativism, and mysticism) have almost destroyed Canada, and may yet. We are all witnessing the process — and being forced to participate in it.

We allowed our freedom to be eroded by unscrupulous people who have abused our love and charity. We have surrendered to them the responsibility of judging right from wrong and now we are facing the consequences.

Huge government bureaucracies, ministries and grants have produced a whole class of people who live off funds provided (by us!) to support them and their advocacy on behalf of their victims. That's where Schlemmer comes in. A lawyer specializing in welfare law. I can well understand his interest in the "human impact" of government cutbacks.

ADVOCATES: But he is not alone. Schlemmer, Susan Eagle, Megan Walker, Julie Lee, Marion Boyd and literally hundreds of others, such as John Clarke, Buzz Hargrove, Bob Rae, all want to convince us that welfare cutbacks are a bad thing. They're wrong. Cuts are a good thing, and should proceed even more quickly.

Funding poverty through government is a bad idea. It's not charity. But it is big money for those who can cash in on a system that promotes, not reduces, poverty — at our expense.

Our forebearers did not fight for that. They fought for freedom, and cared for the truly disadvantaged. I hardly think they would have applied that term to the likes of welfare recipients such as the one cited in the accompanying "welfare mother expense account." If we consider someone impoverished or destitute when they have a home, a car, RESP's and credit cards, something is wrong with our values.

When there are some who we believe may not deserve our support, we must "harden our hearts" to those who would abuse our virtues for personal gain. It's understandable that for any recipient of a benefit, cuts will always be unwelcome, while for the payer cuts can never happen fast enough.

It's a moral issue. Who has the right to decide where to spend our money? Ourselves, or others?

Freedom Party (not) in the news...

(...cont'd from prev. pg.)

However, on December 29 when the article was published, Smink was described only as "a London businessperson".

Smink called the Free Press on that day to inquire whether or not the editorial staff at the London Free Press was aware of his affiliation with **Freedom Party**, and if so, why he was not properly identified in the article. He was informed by staff writer **Paul Berton** that the editorial staff was indeed aware of Smink's affiliation with **Freedom Party**, and that it was editor Helen Connell's decision to delete **Freedom Party's** identity from the article. Unfortunately, Connell had just departed for holidays and could not be immediately contacted to follow up on her decision.

CONNELL DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF Fp AFFILIATION

In a follow-up conversation with Connell on January 31, Fp president Robert Metz questioned her decision to delete **Freedom Party's** identity from Smink's article. Connell repeatedly noted that she "didn't realize it was a **Freedom Party** piece," and told him that she did not "have enough space to start giving it over to political parties."

"Well, you're still giving the SPACE," replied Metz. "You're just withholding the proper identification of the author."

Connell reiterated that she did not realize it was a **Freedom Party** piece, and in defending the paper's "reluctance" to print political editorials, mentioned that she had placed the last six pieces submitted by Liberal party leader **Lyn McLeod** on hold.

SURRENDER CHOICE: When we surrender our power of choice to government, we surrender our morality, and we surrender our humanity. We were not made to be sacrificial animals for each other — or to each other. We were meant to aspire to greatness.

Governments dedicated to "helping" others have produced a quite different result than the simple act of one individual helping another. They've produced people like Schlemmer. His world of special privilege (and government funding) is a world of racism, sexism and poverty, and how to make it work to your advantage.

If we are to forget the prejudices of the past then we must create a proud new culture of freedom, reason and responsibility, one that we can all share in, and one that perhaps has not existed at any time, anywhere in the world. Traditional cultural values which are negative must be abandoned. Specifically, the status quo that Schlemmer is ironically defending, must be abandoned. His ends do not justify our means.

There may still be time to escape repetition of past disasters but we must all resist the false prophets of socialism and remember our commitment to the greatest "social" virtue of all: freedom.

This prompted Metz to pursue the issue of misrepresentation: "I would think that it would be very important to both yourselves and your readers to identify the perspective someone's coming from."

"Well, HIS perspective is SO CLEAR!" replied Connell. "I mean, HIS perspective is SO CLEAR."

Connell reiterated that she didn't realize that Smink's writing was "fronting **Freedom Party** pieces." She concluded that Smink's article "shouldn't have gone in. That's the mistake we made."

Metz agreed.

FREE PRESS TO TIGHTEN UP ON POLITICAL PARTIES?

Connell suggested that the *London Free Press* would have to tighten up "on the stuff coming in from political parties" and that she planned to discuss the matter with other editors at the paper to come up with a consistent policy.

As a follow-up to Connell's comments, Fp vice-president **Lloyd Walker** wrote Liberal party leader Lyn McLeod to inform her of the paper's policy towards political editorials, and about the number of McLeod's submitted editorials that were not published as a consequence of that policy.

"I am saddened to think that the *Free Press* is taking this action," wrote Walker. "I look forward to your articles, and those from other political parties, and the open discussion that they promote."

Walker requested that **Freedom Party** be placed on the Liberal party's mailing list for media releases.

<END>

At Left: from the *London Free Press*, November 18, 1995. Fp leader Jack Plant's rebuttal to London lawyer Jeffrey Schlemmer's editorial against the Harris government's cutbacks addresses the self-interest motivating Schlemmer's point of view.

Principle.

FP

December 11 London labour protest...

'IMPOTENT UNION LEADERSHIP' CRITICIZED, CONDEMNED BY Fp COUNTER-CAMPAIGN

LONDON (December 6 - 11, 1995) - In a media release responding to the **Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL)**-led plan to target London for an illegal one-day strike, **Freedom Party leader Jack Plant** described the action as evidence that unions are, in practice, "political lobby groups which have become impotent as representative organizations for their members." He called upon **OFL president Gordon Wilson** to cancel the planned walkout in favour of a more positive and constructive approach to labour concerns.

Led by the OFL, a coalition of unions targeted London for the illegal strike on Monday, December 11, as a protest against the Harris government's recent changes to Ontario's labour legislation. News reports suggested that up to 10,000 union members from other cities converged on the city that day, though the figure was in dispute.

✉ 15,000 BULLETINS DELIVER Fp MESSAGE

Despite the preceding week of unusually cold weather, **Fp** volunteers hit the streets and managed to deliver 15,000 **Ontario Information Bulletins** bearing the headline: "'Impotent' Union Leadership To Vent Frustration On Londoners" to selected areas across the city.

Referring to the OFL's tactic as "evidence of a dying movement", **Fp** leader Plant condemned the action as a disservice to its own members: "To conceal the lack of support coming from their grass-roots membership, they've been forced to target a single city. That way they can import union members from outside the community to create the APPEARANCE of widespread support. I don't believe that most union members think an illegal walkout is the right thing to do. Why pick on the public, workers, and business? It's suicidal for the labour movement."

Plant's sentiment was echoed by many community leaders and citizens.

The **London Chamber of Commerce** called the December 11 protest an event that "will cost workers money, force them to break the law, and will damage relations with local employers. And all of this to protest a democratically elected government fulfilling its election promises." (*Business Advocate*, December 10/95)

"They make no sense even from the standpoint of organized labor's own economic and political interests," said **Fp** member and **University of Western Ontario History pro-**

fessor Kenneth Hilborn, in a December 7 letter to *Western News*.

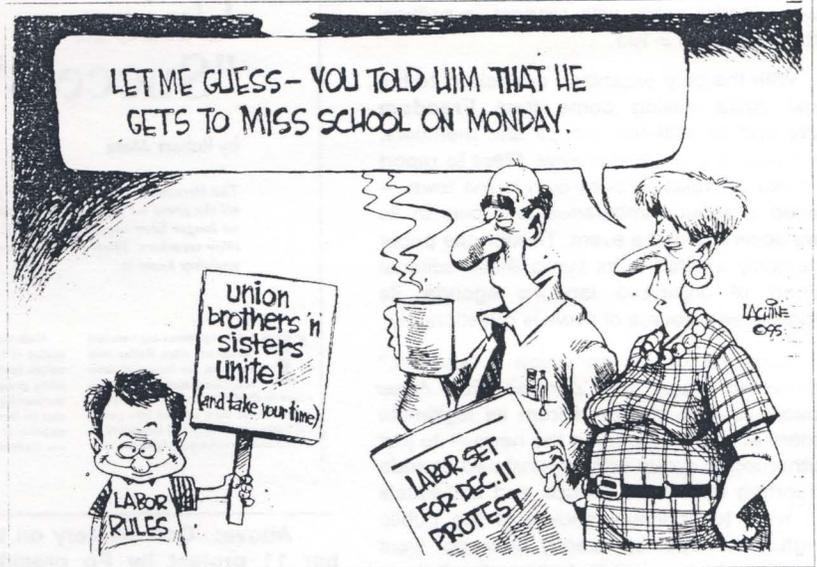
"Being on the losing side in an election, and thus in the making of government policy, provides no justification for any person or organized element in a democratic society to obstruct society's normal functioning," he concluded. "By defying this principle... the consequences of their conduct will be exactly the opposite of what they supposedly want."

That very principle was also the subject of Plant's December 4 letter to OFL president **Gordon Wilson**:

"As leader of **Freedom Party**," Plant wrote **Wilson**, "I'd like to let you know that we, like yourselves, have many differences with the **Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario**. However, we are fundamentally committed to the concept that the cornerstone of any free society is the right to peacefully disagree with one another. We use persuasion, and not confrontation, to get our points across to the public and to governments."

"It is in this spirit that **Freedom Party** is launching a door-to-door information campaign reflecting our concerns with what we believe to be a misdirected effort on the part of the OFL. It is our hope," said Plant, "that reason will prevail over anger and confusion."

In **Fp's** distributed *Ontario Information Bulletin*, **Fp vice-president Lloyd Walker** reiterated the futility of the action. He pointed



to the irony that in an era when people should be looking for "win-win" situations, the OFL and its coalition of unions grabbed hold of the only "lose-lose-lose" option available.

"(The union leaders) have allowed their anger and frustration to make their decisions for them," said Walker.

In addition to calling for cancellation of the walkout, **Fp's** bulletin challenged the mandate of union leaders to undertake an illegal strike by reprinting many unsupportive comments publicly made by union workers themselves. The bulletin also contained a brief excerpt from a radio open-line debate in which **Fp president Robert Metz** challenged **Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) president Buzz Hargrove's** claim that he represented "all" working people. (See pg 12.)

✉ MEDIA REACTION

Media response to **Freedom Party's** campaign was excellent. **BBS** television cameras followed volunteers delivering **Fp's** bulletins door-to-door, while interviews and debates featuring **Fp** representatives were broadcast on various radio and television stations.

The notable exception to media coverage of **Fp's** campaign was, once again, the **London Free Press**, which chose neither to mention our efforts even once, nor to publish a

December 11 London labour protest.

(cont'd from prev pg)

submitted commentary on the strike by Fp president Robert Metz. (The commentary was, however, published by other media, including the Jan 11-24, 1996 edition of *id*, reproduced at right. See also our related story on *Free Press* editorial policy with respect to political parties on pages 9-10.)

With the only organized opposition to the illegal strike having come from **Freedom Party** and its affiliated groups and members, the failure of the *London Free Press* to report on these activities --- in its own home town --- created a serious imbalance and bias in its news coverage of the event. Though the paper is certainly entitled to its sympathetic editorial support of organized labour's agenda, its credibility as a source of news is questionable.

"Like the unions on which it reported," commented Metz, "the *London Free Press* appears to have devolved from its legitimate primary activity --- reporting the news --- to just another lobby group with an unstated agenda supporting only those groups and individuals who want to continue feeding at the public trough. The paper apparently does not want its readers to be aware of alternate choices, options, opinions, or activities which threaten the status quo."

HARRIS ASKED TO CHALLENGE RAND FORMULA

In a December 12, 1995 follow-up letter on the London strike to **Premier Mike Harris**, Fp vice-president Lloyd Walker suggested that the London "Day of Protest" was clear evidence that unions and the OFL are political lobby groups.

Walker called upon Harris to "pass legislation that makes forced support in the form of mandatory union dues illegal. Every other lobby group has to get their money from their supporters voluntarily. Union lobby groups should be no different. It's time to 'level the playing field.'" <END>

More on the December 11 London labour protest on page 14.

OPINION

Another Great Union "Success"

by Robert Metz

The December 11 London labour protest was all the proof we needed that Ontario's unions no longer have anything concrete to offer their members. Their days are numbered, and they know it.

That's why unions don't act like unions any more. Rather than focus on the issues of their individual members as they relate to their specific place of employment, unions have evolved into political lobby groups that just happen to do a little collective bargaining on the side.

Unfortunately, the Ontario Federation of Labour and its coalition of unions have an advantage that most lobby groups do not have - a forced membership which has no right to prevent its forced dues from being spent on political activities. That's how union leadership is able to advance a



self-destructive ideology at the expense of their own members, regardless of whether those members agree with them or not.

Originally, we were told by union representatives that the December 11 walkout was going to be a protest against the repeal of certain provincial labour laws by the Harris government. Why then, was there not even a single mention of any of these labour issues (ie. Bill 7, Bill 40) in the handout distributed by the "London Committee for December 11" which organized their protest in London?

According to the handout, union protesters were now apparently lobbying against government spending cuts to hospitals, schools, women's shelters, child protection services and other "essential" services. They hit every issue under the sun, from "single mothers" to "low income housing" to college and university tuition. This was a LABOUR protest? "There is no other avenue to express our differences," said OFL president Gord Wilson to the editorial board of the *London Free Press* before the walkout. "We're going to use an old tactic..."

Well, at least he got that right. Intimidation and disruption ARE old tactics. But while an honest admission that he didn't have any new ideas or approaches to offer was refreshing, it cannot compensate for the injury and insult he directed at Londoners by tar-

getting them for his "old tactic." The harm done to the labour movement itself by its frustrated and misguided leadership is incalculable. The harm done to society and the community at large verges on criminal.

Many have suggested that we should "just ignore" the OFL's targeted walkouts and it will all blow over. I disagree. Ignoring or compromising with labour leaders who foolishly pursue illegal strike actions today will only encourage them to become louder, more intimidating and dangerously confrontational the next time around.

If, as OFL president Wilson has stated, the objective of his tactic was simply to "shut down the community," then he and his coalition of unions weren't entirely successful. Buses weren't running, many unionized plants were shut down for the day, municipal services were cut, and Londoners in general were inconvenienced at most.

Another great union "success." Robert Metz is president and a founding member of the Freedom Party of Ontario

The harm done to the labour movement itself by its frustrated and misguided leadership is incalculable. The harm done to society and the community at large verges on criminal.

Above: Commentary on the December 11 protest by Fp president Robert Metz appear in the Jan. 11 - 24, 1996 edition of *id* magazine.

Submissions are welcome and should be addressed to Opinion Page c/o *id*, 69 Wyndham St. N #211, Guelph, ON, N1H 4E7.

Labour protests...

METZ DEBATES HARGROVE, MANNERS

LONDON (September, 1995) - In two separate open-line conversations aired on CKSL AM Radio's **Andy Oudman Show**, Fp president **Robert Metz** debated **United Auto Workers (UAW) president Buzz Hargrove** and **Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) president Earl Manners** on the ideology fuelling their agendas.

The issue was specifically raised by Manners when he publicly attacked privatization as an "ideological issue, not based on substance," and accused "interest" groups of undermining the education system as we know it. The accusations were made as part of the OSSTF's "campaign to spread some of the good news and the facts about education."

Metz acknowledged that the issue was ideological, but challenged Manners to identify the difference in VALUES reflected by the two ideologies in conflict: the values of those who support a state-enforced and state-paid education versus those who support freedom of choice in education.

CHOICE IN EDUCATION?

"You know," said Manners, "'choice' is an interesting word. But as you know, choice is very much dependent on how wealthy you are and what your income is. We're all free to choose whether we want to buy a limousine or not, when we're buying our next car, but most of us choose to buy what we can afford." He accused private schools of "segregating" people and of leaving "a number of people by the wayside" in terms of educational opportunities restricted by financial costs.

(cont'd next pg...)

Labour protests...

(cont'd from prev pg)

"Precisely what's wrong with our education system is that it teaches what you're preaching right now," responded Metz. "You think that private schools exist to segregate people. Along what lines? Racial lines? Don't private schools teach values? Of course they do!"

At this point, the conversation was quite revealing:

METZ: "That's why parents are taking their children OUT of the public school system, because it teaches NON-values. It teaches that every value and every idea and every culture is equal to the other when that just simply is not the case. That is what creates intolerance, and that is what creates misunderstanding and conflict."

MANNERS: "Well Bob, you just said that all people aren't equal, and we may have differing abilities, that's true, but I think we all as citizens of this province have an equal right to access to a free and compulsory education system. I think we all have a right to equal opportunities."

METZ: "Did you say a 'free' and 'compulsory' education system?"

MANNERS: "...free in the sense that there aren't any user fees or additional fees on top of what we pay in our taxes which is the price of civilization."

METZ: "Excuse me? Taxes are the 'price of civilization?' My goodness! (This is) a perfect example of the kind of thinking we have to get away from. If taxes are an (indication) of civilization, then obviously a 100% tax rate would make us the most 'civilized' people on the face of the earth! In fact, we know that it would make us a totalitarian country that has no values, no respect, no property rights, none of the things that our schools should be teaching."

The debate wound up with Manners reiterating his support for a "public school system" (his euphemism for a GOVERNMENT-run school system), with parents "getting involved" in issues like "the discipline policy".

Metz concluded by reminding listeners that "Mr. Manners is representing one of the largest unions in the country, (and) has a tremendous vested interest in maintaining a very high rate of pay for his members. If I've heard anything (from Manners) today, it's been a half hour of excellent arguments FOR the privatization of education right across the board."

HARGROVE BUZZES ALONG

The same reminder was reiterated by Metz in his September 26, 1996 open-line conversation with UAW president Buzz Hargrove.

Hargrove was forced to defend his mandate by claiming he represented ALL "working people. I represent people who work with their hands for a living..."

mothers on welfare get their benefits cut by 20%?" Hargrove asked Metz.

"Taken from who?" Metz responded.

HARGROVE: "From every person who bought a car or a car part..."

METZ: "Excuse me, those people were not forced to buy those cars. And the fact that you can speak in those terms attests to something quite..."

HARGROVE: "...Well in your simple world it might not make sense, but in mine it makes a lot."

METZ: "You (cannot) transfer wealth from the poor to the rich, since the poor are poor. They have no 'wealth' to 'transfer'..."

HARGROVE: "Paul Martin cut \$13 billion out of public programs --- out of unemployment insurance, out of education, out of medicare, out of social assistance, and what happened? (Meanwhile), the rich investors that hold the bonds of the country, (had) their interest payments which were \$42 billion last year, increased to \$50 billion! \$8 billion from the pockets of poor people into the pockets of the wealthiest people in the world! What do you call that, if not a transfer of wealth?"

METZ: "There's no connection. That's not a transfer of wealth. If I do something that

happens to make money and I create a product that's cheap for a lot of people and they choose to support me and I get wealthy because of that, I got wealthy because I did them a favour, and I saved them money in the process. I did NOT get wealthy because I 'robbed' them."

UNION?

If nothing else, both conversations with Hargrove and Manners were clear evidence of their mandates which extend well beyond a bargaining table. Clearly, unions must be identified in terms of their actions and ideology. Both are destructive to the labour environment in Ontario today. <END>

GET THE DETAILS! Unedited transcripts of both debates are available to Fp members and supporters on request. Please see green box on back cover for details on how to contact us.



“
Our focus is to shut down the community and employers.
”

**Gordon Wilson,
 president, Ontario
 Federation of Labor**

(London Free Press, November 14, 1995)

"...who only want to work at a certain level of pay or higher," retorted Metz. "You despise workers who are willing to work under that level..."

HARGROVE: "...not true. Not true..."

METZ: "...you call them SCABS. You call them every name in the book!"

HARGROVE: "Not true. Not true. I call a scab a scab, but I have great respect for working people..."

METZ: "...then it IS true!"

(Later in the radio program, when asked what the major agenda item on his itinerary for the day was, Hargrove responded that it was the "scab labour" issue!)

Hargrove blamed the government's debt and deficits on everyone except "the poor or the working poor or the people on welfare." He argued that government cutbacks represented a "transfer in wealth" from the poor to the rich.

"Do you think Frank Stronach should have taken \$40 million last year while single

December 11 London labour protest...

NATIONAL ATTENTION FOCUSED ON TAXPAYERS' COALITION COUNTER-PROTEST TO UNION SHUTDOWN

LONDON (December 11, 1995) - Fp members Jim Montag and Craig Stevens were catapulted into the national media spotlight when they organized a one-day project, designated "Londoners Transporting Citizens", as a "constructive protest designed to show support for the Harris government spending cuts."

"Our LTC project is only secondarily a protest against the illegal strike action instigated by labour leaders," emphasized Montag in repeated interviews and media statements.

Montag and Stevens are the chair and vice-chair of the London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition (LMTC), which officially sponsored the project. (Other executive members of the LMTC include Fp president Robert Metz and Fp secretary Robert Vaughan. Montag was also a Freedom Party candidate in Election'95.)

Because London's public buses (run by the London Transportation Commission (LTC)) were shut down due to the illegal walkout, the LMTC rented vans and sought out

volunteer drivers and additional vehicles from the community to transport citizens on December 11 at no charge. Two designated "bus routes" were established, along which drivers traversed for the entire day, from approximately 7:15 am to 7:00 pm.

MEDIA OVERWHELMING

From the moment the LMTC publicly released its intentions to stage a counter-

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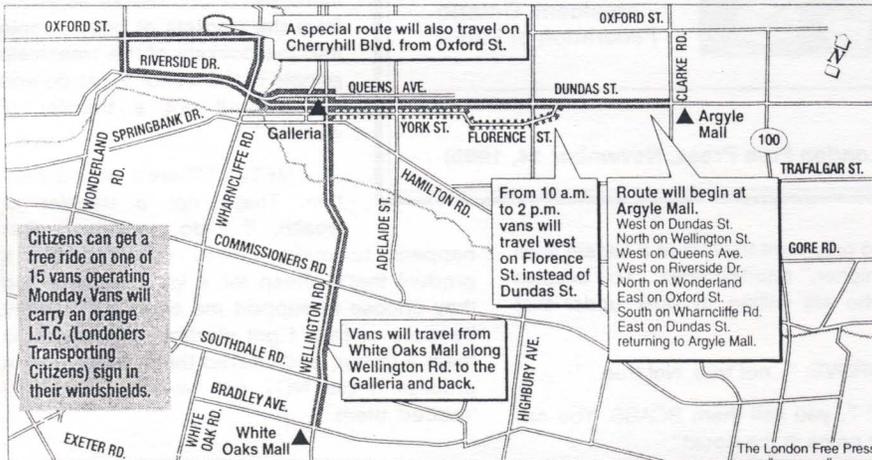
SATURDAY, December 9, 1995

THE LONDON FREE PRESS

A3



Day of Protest: WHAT TO EXPECT



Free transit service picks up another route, additional minivans

Rides will be provided to citizens who want to get downtown from the city's east and west ends, and from White Oaks Mall and the Cherryhill complex.

By Eva Janssen Free Press Reporter

larily risky since many people already share rides with friends, relatives or co-workers, city officials said.

Nevertheless, the coalition has \$1 million in liability insurance and all vans will be fully insured, said Jim Montag, who chairs the coalition.

Each will have a cellular phone and surveillance equipment will be placed in several vans.

VOLUNTEERS: Since the coalition's announcement Thursday, many people have volunteered to drive, said Craig Stevens, the coalition's vice-chair.

By late Friday, the coalition had 30 volunteers.

"We've got more volunteers than vehicles," said Stevens.

"It's crazy here." Drivers who sense there may be problems will travel on side streets but homemaker Janet Fridman, who volunteered to drive, said she's not afraid.

"We're out there trying to do some good for somebody — that's it."

Labor officials insist the majority of protesters will be residents of the city and will cause only minor inconvenience to citizens.

A committee organizing the day is working closely with London police and training 500 marshals for the event.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Citizens wishing to volunteer and/or donate to the coalition may contact Jim Montag at 439-7744 or Craig Stevens at 473-0802.

WHAT'S OPEN, WHAT'S NOT

COMMUNICATIONS The London Free Press: regular publication is planned for Monday and Tuesday editions. TRANSPORTATION London Airport: Staff and airlines are expected to be operating normally. No disruptions are anticipated. Rail: Via Rail and CP Rail officials say they will follow regular schedules and no disruptions are expected. London Transit: Buses cancelled but paratransit service continues. London-Middlesex Taxpayers Coalition plans to run a restricted alternative service with fleet of minivans. FEDERAL SERVICES No change in service is expected with the following: Citizens' En...

City Police: Chief Julian Fantino has stated police service will be modified but not compromised. Bob Wilson, administrator for the London Police Association, didn't return a telephone message. OPP: Inspector John Carson of West Region headquarters in London expects no disruptions to service. He said it would be "illegal" for on-duty police officers to join the demonstration, adding that he'd be surprised if off-duty officers joined. Sergeant John Slack, chair of the OPP Association, couldn't be reached for comment. Elgin-Middlesex Det... Centre: De...

HEALTH CARE Hospitals: No change in service is expected. Emergency departments will be open. Day surgeries and all other procedures booked will proceed as planned. Outpatient clinics and doctors' offices will be open as usual. University-Victoria Hospital help line: A phone line — 685-8469 — will be staffed Monday from 4 a.m. to 7 p.m to help hospital staff arrange transportation to work if they normally rely on public transit and are having trouble making alternate arrangements.

LONDON-MIDDLESEX CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD The board has closed three schools: Catholic Central High School, John Paul II and St. Mary's Choir School (347 Lyle St.). Staff at these schools will be advised where to report for work. All other schools are open and all staff are expected to be on the job. Some schools bus service has been cancelled. Picket sites: The following sites were to be picketed by the CUPE-M...

Above: from the London Free Press, Dec. 9, 1995

(cont'd from prev pg)

protest to the union shutdown, coast-to-coast media attention on the campaign was intense and consistent for the entire week preceding the planned union shutdown.

Virtually all national television and radio networks, as well as most major newspaper dailies, attended the LMTC's media conference held on Thursday, December 7, 1995 (11:00 am) at the London City Press Club. Their cameras and attention focused on the many volunteer drivers who attended to sign up and schedule themselves in for the routes to be covered. Security measures were discussed, and questions fielded by the media generally related to fears of union violence that could disrupt the LMTC's efforts.

Both Montag and Stevens repeatedly reiterated their commitment to avoid confrontations at all costs, and advised volunteer drivers to steer away from any possible situations that might look threatening.

In addition to the general media coverage given the event, Montag reports that he conducted interviews and commentaries with media from coast-to-coast, including: **Talk 640 Radio** (Toronto), **CBC Calgary** (Ann Petrie), **CBC TV** (Toronto), **Toronto Star**, **CITY-TV** (Toronto), **CITY Pulse** (Toronto), **CBC French TV All News Network**, **CBC French coast-to-coast national network**, **CBC (French, Windsor) Radio**, **CKCO TV Kitchener**, **CKSL Radio London**, **CBC Radio Toronto**, **CKLW Radio Windsor**, and **CHOW Radio Toronto**.

While locally, the **London Free Press** was generous with its space allotted to the announcement of the LMTC's transit service in advance of the event, a December 9, 1995 editorial commentary by **Morris Dalla Costa** accused groups like the LMTC of "fostering confrontation between workers and government"!?! (Dalla Costa did not attend the LMTC's media conference, and has in past directed similarly uninformed commentaries against the LMTC and, in particular, against the personal motivations of LMTC chairman Jim Montag.)

"They profess to care about the worker," wrote Dalla Costa, in reference to the LMTC, the London Chamber of Commerce, and some members of London council.

"In reality, they don't give a rat's butt about the worker or the fact they may lose a day's pay. All they care about is preventing labor from using this day as a sounding board that would pillar the agenda of their god and saviour, Mike Harris," he concluded.

By December 11, twenty vehicles and thirty drivers were selected and scheduled into their respective "bus routes". There were more volunteer drivers available than necessary, so

some had to be turned away. Citizens wishing to get a ride would simply have to wait at a regular bus stop along the route, where they would be picked up by flagging the vans and cars which were identified by an 'LTC' sign.

While the national media was devoting its lead stories to the LMTC's counter-protest on December 11, the *London Free Press* devoted only about two lines to the LMTC's efforts, with the balance of coverage that day given to union protestors and their issues. No further mention of the LMTC's campaign or its impact was made by the paper.

However, other media cameras and reporters followed drivers and their vehicles from their starting point at a London mall early in the morning. Over the day, "Londoners Transporting Citizens" managed to give rides to about 1500 people, including a group of protesting strikers who were headed home after their day of protest.

"To the credit of protest organizers," remarked Montag, "there were no problems experienced at all. They did an excellent job of keeping things under control."

In addition to having transported people inconvenienced by the OFL labour shutdown, the LMTC's campaign offered a positive alternative to traditional protests and opened many doors of opportunity for future political influence with the current government.

Organizers and volunteers of "Londoners Transporting Citizens" deserve a warm round of applause for both their courage and their efforts.

<END>

Helping innocent not being a scab

I drove one of the vans donated by the London Middlesex Taxpayers Coalition on Dec. 11.

While driving by the rally at the Western Fair grounds, a striker/picketeer yelled "scab" at me. This seemed to imply that this was, in fact, not just a rally or protest against the Harris government, but a strike against the citizens of London.

Among the people I had provided rides for were a man with an appointment for a job interview, a student who needed to get to Fanshawe College and another going home after filling in at his sister's store. I didn't get all their stories but the rest of those appreciative people were divided between elderly coming and going from shopping and others trying to get to work.

I am sure many protesters would not call me a scab just for trying to help those who didn't participate get through the day, to help a few of the innocent victims who too often suffer when the powers that be play on the fears of the public and take their battle to the streets.

PAUL BLAIR
London

Dec 23/95

Above: from the *London Free Press*, Dec. 23, 1995. London firefighter and Fp member Paul Blair reacts to being called a 'scab' for his participation in the LMTC counter-protest.

Freedom.
Responsibility.

Inseparable.



Bill 26 hearings...

COMMITTEE SAYS 'NO!' TO FREEDOM PARTY

TORONTO (January 8, 1996) - For the first time in its 12-year history, **Freedom Party** was refused an opportunity to address the government in power through government-sponsored public hearings.

Even though **Fp's** request to appear before the **Standing Committee on General Government on Bill 26** was submitted weeks before the first ads inviting the public to participate in the January 9 London hearings appeared in the press, it was not until the day before the hearings that the committee could confirm that **Freedom Party** was not welcome.

Because such presentations take time to research and prepare, **Fp** president **Robert Metz** contacted several different people (including **Tonia Grannum** and **Douglas Arnett**) at the Clerk of the Government Issues committees in Toronto, during the period from mid-December to January 8. Each time, Metz requested some written information on the mandate of the hearings, as well as on the criteria of selection before the committee. Each time, the answers could not be provided.

Worse, committee spokespersons continued to lead us on that there was still a possible opportunity to get selected, if not for the first set of hearings on January 9, on the second set scheduled for January 16. And again, it was not until the 15th of the month that we were informed that **Freedom Party** was not welcome at the second hearings as well.

✉ NO SPACE LEFT?

When Metz was finally informed that **Freedom Party** would not be allowed to make a presentation to the committee, he was told that the reason was a "lack of space."

Ironically, on the same day, Metz received a phone call from **Fp** member and **London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition** (LMTC) chairperson **Jim Montag**. Having earlier informed Metz that he had received a call from **Ernie Eves'** office requesting that the LMTC apply to appear before the committee, Montag told Metz that when the committee contacted him, he was given total choice as to what time he wished to make a presentation.

Thus, only minutes before Metz was informed that there was no more room to schedule presenters before the committee, Montag was told by the same committee spokespersons that there were NO slots taken as yet.

✉ BY INVITATION ONLY?

Metz then phoned committee clerk Tonia Grannum to demand the criteria by which submissions to the committee were being selected. He suggested that it was "rather strange" that an officially-registered political party would be turned away from government-sponsored hearings. During the conversation, Grannum explained that the groups "invited to appear" would be the only ones contacted by the committee and that if any applicants were not contacted by them, it could be assumed that they would not be able to appear.

"So appearances before the committee are by invitation only..." responded Metz.

Grannum immediately retracted her statement, suggesting that her use of the word "invitation" was inappropriate. She explained that the three people responsible for selections

were **MPPs Gerry Philips** (Liberal), **Frances Lankin** (NDP) and **Tony Clement** (Conservative). Metz attempted to contact Clement and left a message on his answering service, but the call was never returned.

At Metz's request, Grannum faxed him a list of presenters to the hearings, revealing that the **Communist Party of Ontario** had already made TWO presentations before the hearings in Toronto (one of them made by its party leader as an individual), and that the vast majority of presenters were recipients of government subsidies and special legislation.

The matter has yet to be followed-up satisfactorily, but we intend to continue pursuing it. However, the very notion of calling the Bill 26 hearings "public" was completely without merit. Both the committee's mandate AND the process of selection were entirely political, while any impact by the hearings on *Bill 26* itself was already precluded before they began.

<END>

TWO SUBMISSIONS PRESENTED BY LMTC

LONDON (January 9 and January 16, 1996) - In an unprecedented action, the **London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition** (LMTC) was invited to make two separate presentations to the Ontario government's **Standing Committee on General Government on Bill 26**.

The first of the two submissions (January 9), dealing with the NON-health-related aspects of Bill 26, was jointly presented by LMTC chairperson **Jim Montag** and vice-chair **Craig Stevens**. The second submission (January 16), dealing exclusively with health-care aspects of the bill, was presented by Montag and **Fp** president **Robert Metz**, who also happens to be on the LMTC's executive.

✉ GROUP GREED

In the first LMTC submission, Montag charged that the vast majority of groups appearing before the committee suffered from the 'NIMBY Syndrome' --- 'Not In My Back Yard' --- and urged the government not to listen to protesting self-interest groups.

Despite many faults with Bill 26, Montag commended the government's proposed \$2.8 billion deficit reduction as a "worthwhile goal".

Montag referred to many of the protest groups as "whiners", but did not hold them exclusively responsible for the government's high debt, taxes, and deficits.

"I repeat," Montag told the committee, "we in varying degrees are ALL responsible and surely we should all share in the solution."

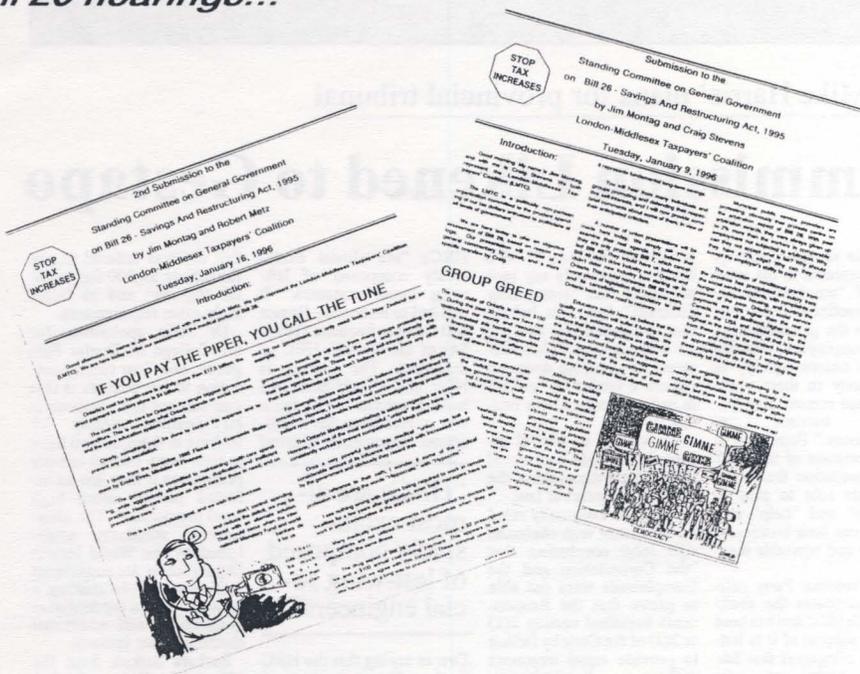
✉ TOOL TIME FOR ONTARIO

Meanwhile, Stevens cautioned the government to "clearly define, in advance, the expanded inventory of license and user fees available" to municipalities, referring to the government's own description of these measures as new "tools" for municipalities.

Calling Bill 26 the "fiscal equivalent of the War Measures Act," Stevens predicted that it would "forever and indelibly alter the landscape of municipal politics" in Ontario. He criticized the bill's "concentration of authority in the Minister's hands, the lack of clearly-defined 'direct' taxes, the exemption of police boards from municipal control, and the undefined audit and review procedures relating to the efficiency and effectiveness of municipalities' operations."

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Bill 26 hearings...



(...cont'd from prev. pg.)

IF YOU PAY THE PIPER...

In his second submission to the committee on January 16, Montag accused the **Ontario Medical Association** of operating just like a union which "has consistently worked to prevent competition and keep costs high. Once a very powerful lobby, this medical 'union' has lost a considerable amount of its influence when faced with increased control by the government, and obviously they resent this."

"When health-care and treatment is free," Montag concluded, "ways must be found to control the unlimited demands placed on a limited service. After all, if you pay the piper, you call the tune."

CAUGHT IN THE SAFETY NET

Montag's theme was further expanded upon by Metz, who attacked the principle of "universality" as being the very thing that is destroying the government's ability to help those most in need.

"Under universal medicare," he explained, "the concept of directing help to those in need is completely abandoned. Universality PRECLUDES helping just those in need; it's for everybody!"

To the visible shock of committee mem-

bers **Lyn McLeod** and **Frances Lankin**, Metz argued that the test of whether someone is sincerely interested in helping the needy is to ask them whether or not they support universality. If their answer is "yes", he explained, then what such people are really interested in is a common "desire to continue their existence at the public trough."

OTHER OPTIONS

In directing his comments towards government healthcare, Metz suggested three key options:

(1) Re-introduce some form of 'extra-billing' and user fees.

"For example," he explained, "with car insurance, those insured expect to pay a deductible for small and/or routine matters. In this way we can rest more assured that more funds will be available to cover the costs of catastrophic illness that might otherwise lead to financial ruin."

(2) Eliminate government funding of many elective procedures, from cosmetic surgery to abortions, which should be paid for on a user-pay basis or by a private insurance plan.

(3) Insure the **PATIENT**, not the **SYSTEM**.

"By this," said Metz, "I mean that patients should receive copies of all medical billings relating to their claims on the system, and that they should authorize them before payments for (doctor's) services are rendered."

Politics

on a higher plane.



FINAL OPTION - PRIVATIZATION

"It must be said," concluded Metz, "that fundamentally the LMTC supports a totally private medical system, with government assistance directed only to those in demonstrable need."

"However, our preceding comments acknowledge that this final and ideal option is not within the purview of Bill 26, nor within the mandate of this government. Nevertheless, we urge you to avoid painting yourselves into a funding corner with no options, by preparing yourselves for the inevitable future."

"We hope that our suggestions would perhaps, in addition to offering alternative within the government medical monopoly, plant the seeds for future debate and consideration of this most worthwhile final option."

<END>

NEWS

Critics question Mike Harris' plans for provincial tribunal

Human Rights Commission Likened to Gestapo

Timothy Bloedow
QUEEN'S PARK

"The Ontario Human Rights Commission (HRC) is possibly the closest thing Ontario has ever had to its own official Gestapo. With the exception of shooting people on sight, the HRC already has virtually most of the powers that were exercised by the Gestapo," said Robert Metz.

Having become embroiled in part of a four year, eight month HRC hearing from mid-1993 to the end of 1994, the president of Freedom Party Ontario believes he has a solid foundation from which to speak about the Commission. His most earnest message at present is for Ontario's Premier, Mike Harris, to reconsider his support for the institution.

"[Mike] Harris [possesses a] lack of commitment to conservatism," charged the latest issue of *Freedom Flyer*, Freedom Party's official newsletter.

The Flyer reported on a closed-door meeting between Mr. Harris and "organizational leaders, writers, and public advocates," including Mr. Metz. It stated that "PC organizers repeatedly emphasized that their 'Common Sense Revolution' was strictly a FISCAL plan." It adds that "they were incredibly vague on social policy, referring only to a 'sharing of common values' that were left undefined." The Ontario government's support for the HRC is cited as an example of its rejection of social conservative ethics.

Mr. Harris' election campaign literature documented the PCs intent to increase government spending on the Commission and makes a commitment to introduce "reforms . . . to make [it] a more effective vehicle for the promotion and development of equity in Ontario." Additionally, "the Commission will be given the added mandate of providing advice and expertise to employers for hiring and promoting practices."

According to Mr. Metz, Mr. Harris has not reneged on this promise. In the closed-door meeting he stated that he supports the HRC because it "keeps the courts unclogged," and because it "prevents discrimination."

Mr. Metz, on the other hand, believes the preservation of individual rights and

freedoms depends on preventing the "government [not citizens] from discriminating along certain criteria."

The power and influence of the HRC grew significantly under the past five years of NDP leadership in Ontario. In 1992, a task force was set up to review the Commission. It reported on June 26 of that year with 88 recommendations. Recommendation 8 attributed to the HRC the role of "public conscience" in discrimination matters.

Recommendation 29 was that "a permanent, full-time Equality Rights Tribunal be established to deal with human rights, pay equity and employment equity cases." Recommendation 38: ". . . it will not be bound to follow strict legal precedent."

Recommendation 46: "The Tribunal should be able to accept any evidence which it believes is reliable and relevant whether it is allowed as evidence in a court or not."

Recommendation 54: "Compensation for mental anguish should be provided to victims of discrimination."

The HRC is faced with a "lengthy backlog" of cases, according to Mr. Harris; a backlog caused by the Commission's effective activism and the greater breadth of authority it has gained over the past five years, reports REAL Women.

Mr. Harris, throughout his election campaign and subsequent to his Ontario victory, affirmed his

"With the exception of shooting people on sight, the HRC already has virtually most of the powers that were exercised by the Gestapo."

commitment to abolish the NDP's employment equity legislation. His pre-election alternative proposal was a six-point plan that was marketed as a merit-based program and led many to believe Harris would champion the cause against what Mr. Metz calls "reverse racism."

The PC plan, however,

maintains an active role for the government in the oversight of "employment equity" practices. Point two commits the government to "help employers develop plans to ensure equality of opportunity in their workplaces and remove any systemic barriers to employment." Point four is the affirmation of the HRC as an institution that has a legitimate role to play to "educate" and "help" employers run their businesses in a just and equitable manner.

The Freedom Party officially advocates the abolition of the HRC and has used the PCs support of it to buttress its allegation that Mr. Harris' party are only "semi," if not "pseudo-conservative."

Mr. Metz' defence of a London landlord against allegations of racism affirmed, in his mind, the need to rid Ontario of the Commission.

Elijah Elieff was alleged, in the *London Free Press*, to have stated that his Asian tenants were "little pigs." Professional lobbyist and United Church minister, Susan Eagle, immediately used the allegation to advance what the Freedom Party called "a coldly-calculated plan to ruin his reputation and devalue his business."

Mr. Elieff denied making the remark and the *Free Press* was unable to produce the evidence, eventually denying its existence. Mr. Elieff's nine witnesses, including two former superintendents and four former and present tenants, defended the landlord's character.

The complainant had three witnesses. The first was the complainant, Chipping Hom, herself, whom Mrs. Eagle admitted to pushing into that role. The second was Mrs. Eagle, "whose interest in Elieff's Cheyenne Avenue apartment buildings included self-admitted plans to have them turned into co-op housing," reported *Freedom Party's Freedom Flyer*. The third witness was Greg Van Moorsel of the *Free Press*, whose article included the unverifiable quote from Mr. Elieff.

Mr. Metz chose to represent Mr. Elieff at no charge. In his arguments he accused the HRC of changing basic word definitions and using "illogical assumptions and non sequiter arguments." As an example of the latter, Mr. Metz stated that the HRC did

not prove that Mr. Elieff's behaviour towards any race of people was "measurably different" from his behaviour to anyone else and did not even attempt to do so because its mandate does not require a verdict of "guilty" in order to proscribe a penalty.

He pointed to several aspects of the case that would have led to a dismissal of the charges in a court of law.

The HRC eventually ruled on the matter with chairman Ajit John concluding that "the Commission and the Complainant were not able to prove that the Respondents breached section 2(1) or 2(2) of the Code by failing to provide equal treatment without discrimination based on race in accommodation at the Cheyenne (Ave.) apartments." But even though Mr. Elieff was found innocent of racism, Mr. John did not dismiss the complaint.

Mrs. Eagle pushed Ms. Hom to complain and the HRC prolonged a twelve day tribunal over a four year, eight month period, waiting ten months instead of the proscribed thirty days to bring down a ruling after closing arguments were heard. Nevertheless, Mr. John, declaring that "Ms. Hom has suffered injury to her dignity and considerable mental anguish ever since she filed her complaint with the Commission," ordered Mr. Elieff to pay her "\$2,500 as general and punitive damages."

Mr. Metz accused the HRC of being "a blatantly racist organization [that] regards all members of 'visible minorities' as being weak, vulnerable, and intrinsically inferior to whites, and proceeds to enact legislation based on this racist belief." He added that human rights legislation is responsible for the divided state of Canada today "with French against English, English against French, each of these against Aboriginal groups, East against West."

REAL Women also advocates the abolition of the HRC, claiming that it is militantly activist, while advancing causes that violate the values of mainstream Ontarians. It has documented statements and rulings of the HRC that it believes reflect strong feminist sentiment, pro-homosexuality bias and left-wing ideology.

Reality, REAL Women's publication, reported that

HRCs "are almost exclusively composed of left-wing social engineers." It pointed to Rosemary Brown and Carmen Paquette (1991-94) of the Ontario HRC as examples. The former is NDP and a "self-described lesbian activist." The latter was quoted from the homosexual newspaper *Capital*

"HRCs are almost exclusively composed of left-wing social engineers."

Xtra as saying that the HRC displays "an atmosphere of dispassionate neutrality" even though the commissioners are passionate activists."

Reality also reported that "those charged with Human Rights violations are required to establish their innocence at their own . . . expense, while the complainant's costs . . . are underwritten by the taxpayer," adding that "members of the HRC are unaccountable to the electorate."

In Alberta, the Alberta Federation of Women United for Families (AFWUF) is leading a campaign to abolish the Alberta Human Rights Commission. It has found support from a variety of sources including the weekly magazine *Alberta Report* and several members of the Alberta PC Legislature.

The Ontario HRC is in the hands of Marilyn Mushinski, Minister of Citizenship. Her office refused to comment on the provincial plans for the Commission, saying no mandate has been developed regarding human rights. The Premier's office redirected questions to the Minister of Citizenship.

Two HRC rulings have generated publicity in the past month. The latest involved Imperial Oil and an employee [see "OHRC Fines Imperial Oil"]. The other addressed a conflict between a dentist and an HIV-positive patient.

In August the HRC ruled against a dentist for donning an extra — disposable paper — gown for protection while treating an HIV-positive patient. Most details of the matter have been kept confidential including the name of the dentist. *The Ottawa Citizen* did report, however,

that she was ordered to pay the patient \$8,000 for "mental anguish" and to fulfill eight other requirements.

Dr. Stein, spokesman for the College of Dental Surgeons, said "our recommendation to our dentists is that you can not tell someone is HIV-positive simply by looking at them, so you have to treat every patient in your practice as if they are an infected patient using high level precaution." The international standards, established by the World Health Organization, are considered sufficient, thereby making it unnecessary for the dentist in question to add additional clothing to her uniform.

Barbara Selkirk from the office of Jim Wilson, the Ontario Minister of Health, also affirming the international standards — "gown, gloves, mask" — said the Ministry did not intervene in the case.

According to former orthopedic trauma surgeon, Dr. Lorraine Day HIV is much more dangerous than reported by most health and political sources. In her book, *AIDS: What The Government Isn't Telling You*, she documented research from internationally renowned professional journals revealing that the HIV virus can survive on dry surfaces for as long as seven days, that HIV has survived freezing, and that it can be transmitted through saliva.

Dr. Day, once Chief of the Orthopedic Surgery Service at San Francisco General Hospital, resigned from her duties on February 1, 1990 because of what she deemed to be unsafe working conditions and a hospital bureaucracy more committed to what she calls "AIDSspeak" than to her health and safety.

She said that, based on the medical research available, the "international standards" are often not sufficient. She pointed to the case of Kimberley Bergalis, a young American woman who died of AIDS. The only identifiable contact she had with the HIV virus was treatment she received from an HIV-infected dentist.

Ms. Selkirk said the Ontario Ministry of Health was unaware of the research reported by Dr. Day.

Robert Metz believes that decisions by the OHRC like these, and Mr. Harris' support for the tribunal, will disillusion conservatives with the Premier and bode well for his own political ambitions.

Freedom Briefs...

(...BRIEFS cont'd from page 3)

cal parties as observers at all Commission meetings. The issue had been raised at several meetings between the Commission and the alternative political parties (see past issues of *Freedom Flyer*).

In rejecting Vaughan's request, the Commission argued that it "does not have the statutory authority to appoint observers to the Commission," and encouraged the alternate parties to "discuss their concerns with their MPPs". The Commission pointed to its "history of behaving responsibly", but noted that "unrepresented registered political parties are completely subject to the policies adopted by the Commission".

However, the most alarming issue raised by the Commission in its response to Vaughan's request was in reference to the **Statutory Powers Procedure Act**:

In its February 21, 1995 minutes, the Commission reported that:

"The Statutory Powers Procedure Act has been amended to provide for PAPER HEARINGS RATHER THAN FACE TO FACE HEARINGS. (Emphasis ours.) This amendment was designed to simplify the process. Although the Commission does not have a statutory obligation to hold hearings, it ensures that when it decides issues that affect the significant rights or interests of those involved that appropriate procedures for ensuring procedural fairness have been observed."

What makes the Commission's statement particularly disturbing is the fact that there ARE NO DEFINED RIGHTS OR INTERESTS for Ontario's officially-registered political parties. There are only "limits", prohibitions, and regulations designed to control political fundraising in Ontario. As a consequence, there are no guaranteed avenues of appeal to Commission

decisions and rulings. All "rights" and "procedures" depend upon the whim of the Commission.

The Commission pointed to its practice of having "occasional informal meetings with representatives of registered political parties without representation" as proof of its openness to the concerns of the parties it regulates.

The Commission decided to "consider the concerns of political parties without representation" on an "ad hoc" basis, and that any deliberations on items of concern to the parties -- "particularly policy matters" --- would "continue to be conducted in private."

✉ STILL NO JUSTICE FOR ELIEFF

LONDON (March 1996) - Despite an August 24, 1994 ruling by the **Ontario Human Rights Commission** (HRC) that there was no evidence to support a racism complaint against London landlord **Elijah Elieff**, the consequences of the action against him have yet to be rectified.

Elieff was represented before the Commission by **Fp** president **Robert Metz**, who, after observing the landlord attempt to defend himself, took on that challenge on the fourth day of hearings before the HRC Board of Inquiry. (Metz is not a lawyer, and represented the landlord free of charge.) Complete details of the issue have been extensively reported in previous issues of *Freedom Flyer* and *Consent*, while an excellent re-cap of some of the fundamental issues involved in the case is included in the **Ottawa Times** news article reproduced on page 18 (at left).

As a result of publicity generated by the **London Free Press**, and as a result of that paper's complicity and involvement with **United Church** minister **Susan Eagle's** campaign to have Elieff's apartment buildings converted --- at taxpayer expense --- into co-op housing, Elieff has lost his apartment

buildings, his submarine sandwich shop, and his public reputation as a responsible Canadian citizen.

Efforts have been undertaken by both **Fp** executive members and by **Fp** members and supporters to obtain the necessary legal expertise with which to pursue Elieff's justifiable recourse against those who were directly responsible for his plight. So far, what legal advice we have received has not been comforting. We have been informed that it will be very expensive for Elieff to seek redress in the courts. A case such as his is highly complex from a legal standpoint and would take many years to resolve.

Since Elieff has no money left with which to launch applicable lawsuits, he must rely on the assistance of others who might be willing to take on the challenge of redressing the injustice to which he was subjected. This is doubly tragic, given that the consequence of the events which caused his plight (a loss of his income) is the very thing that prevents him from being able to do anything about it.

While those who brought unfounded complaints and charges upon Elieff had their cases subsidized by taxpayers, Elieff is forced to defend himself at his own expense at every stage of the process.

Elijah Elieff needs our help. Anyone able to offer assistance in obtaining the necessary legal expertise, assist with funding, or otherwise be of help to his cause is encouraged to contact **Freedom Party** offices.

✉ MONTGOMERY TAVERN SOCIETY CONTINUES TO GROW

TORONTO (January 1995 - March 1996) - Since its first informal founding meeting in January 1995, the **Montgomery Tavern Society** (MTS) has continued to grow and exert its sphere of influence accordingly. (See *Freedom Flyer*, April 1995.)

Individuals and groups represented under the MTS umbrella have included: **Robert Metz**, **Lloyd Walker**, and **Robert Vaughan** of **Freedom Party**; **Dick Field**, **Vaughan Byrnes**, **Marc Racine**, and **Rita Bucher** of **Voice of Canadians**; **Thom Corbett** of **Ontarians For Responsible Government**; **George Meekins**, **Dick Butson**, **Grenville Rogers**, and **Walter Sitnick** of the **Confederation of Regions Party**; **Ron Leitch**, president of the **Association for the Preservation of English In Canada** (APEC); **Craig Chandler** of the **Progressive Group for Independent Business** (now part of **Voice of Canadians**); **Doug Hindson** of the **Ontario**

✉ **AT LEFT:** -from the *Ottawa Times*, September 1995. Using references to past issues of *Freedom Flyer*, Queen's Park correspondent **Timothy Bloedow** brings **Freedom Party's** warning of the dangers inherent in so-called "Human Rights Commissions" (HRC) to the Ottawa area and beyond. Citing **Fp** president **Robert Metz's** successful defence of London landlord **Elijah Elieff** before an HRC Board of Inquiry, the article also helps bring the plight of individuals like Elieff to the public's attention. Most importantly, the article reaffirms that opposition to HRCs is shared by other groups and individuals. Members and supporters interested in obtaining background information on this vitally significant issue can do so by contacting **Freedom Party**. (See green box on back cover for details of how to contact us.)

Freedom Briefs...

(...BRIEFS cont'd from prev. page)

Taxpayers' Federation; John Thompson, executive director of the Mackenzie Institute; John Furedy of the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship; Al Walker and Ken Parsons of Employment Excellence; authors Joe Armstrong and William Trench; Morris Gates of Canadians for Equality; Hill Cox of the Libertarian Party; Judy Anderson of REAL Women; Jack Edwards of Communications Corp.; Jim Liscumb of English Language Rights; Jim Montag of the London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition; Gordon Domm and Jim Garrow of Citizens' Coalition Favouring More Effective Criminal Sentences; independent and affiliated activists Bill Bolt, Ted Wiwchar, Jim Abbott, Richard Hummel, Bud Pfaff, Richard van Seters, Paul Sedstrom, and Tim Waterous.

After seven meetings over the past fifteen months, participants have not only come to know each other better, but have generally come to an understanding on which issues they do and do not agree. By setting aside areas of disagreement, the groups have focused their efforts on a handful of issues where there appears to be almost unanimous agreement (see brief, following). Together, they have brought these issues to the attention of MPs, MPPs, other government officials and members of the public. On March 28, 1995 members of the MTS met with Mike Harris to bring five provincial issues of concern to his attention. (See *Freedom Flyer*, July 1995.)

Future MTS meetings and events are already scheduled and in the works. Watch for future updates in *Freedom Flyer*.

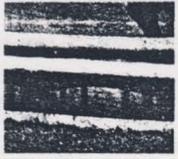
GROUPS MEET WITH HARPER

TORONTO (February 17, 1996) - Members of the **Montgomery Tavern Society** (MTS) met with **Reform MP Ed Harper** to discuss Reform's commitment to key principles and issues shared in common with the groups represented. Together, the groups facing Harper represented over 100,000 members, supporters, and constituents. The meeting was held to help the leaders of the various groups determine to what degree they might be of assistance to the Reform Party --- both in the upcoming federal byelections and in the next general election.

Five key areas of concern were earlier agreed upon by the MTS members before



our community press



Neighborhood news
from St. Thomas, Port Stanley, Ayr, Sparta, Shedden and area

The **INSIDE** Story

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1995

JACK RICHARDSON
*On trek with On Track
pagetwo*

IT'S A RINGER!
*Married duo
backbone of sport*



**HE'S NOT
SQUARE
...HE'S 75!**

Former provincial
Freedom Party candidate
Ray Monteith leads Anna
Chapman in a square
dance at his 75th
birthday party at his St.
Thomas area home
Sunday. "It's great to be
75...I feel like 55, even
younger," the spry and
always quick with a
laugh Monteith said in a
speech before the vittles
were served. Ken
Monteith (Ray's cousin
and former MP) and
Hugh MacGinnis (Dutton
reeve and Ray's
unsuccessful NDP
opponent in the last
election) as well as
Freedom Party brass
attended as well as
dozens of family and
friends. "I'm really
honored you showed up
for my birthday -- I
really mean it," Monteith
said with tears flowing.

CRAIG BRADFORD
OUR COMMUNITY PRESS

➡ **At Right: Our
Community Press,
August 23, 1995,
featured Fp's
Elgin riding
representative
Ray Monteith on
its front page.
The event? Ray's
75th birthday!**

their meeting with Harper: (1) Official Multiculturalism, (2) The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, (3) Taxes, Debt, and the Deficit, (4) Canadian unity, (5) Justice. Fp president **Robert Metz** and vice-president **Lloyd Walker** represented **Freedom Party** at the gathering, and focused on three of these issues in their discussions with Harper.

Drawing from **Freedom Party's** Election '95 platform, Metz described Fp's position to Harper on several issues ranging from Fp's opposition to gun control to its support of a 'Taxpayer Protection Act' and flat taxes.

"We are prepared and willing," Metz told Harper at the MTS gathering, "as we have done in the past, to endorse to our membership, and to support wherever possible, all groups and individuals working to achieve these objectives."

{During the last federal election, **Freedom Party** endorsed the **Reform Party** when it published "Winds of Reform", a transcribed discussion between Metz and Walker about their differing reasons for supporting Reform (along with some of the things they didn't like about Reform) in the October 1993 issue of *Consent*.}

Walker told Harper that the reason he voted Reform in the last federal election was because of the party's "Zero-In-Three" pledge

to reduce the federal deficit to zero within three years. Harper quickly made it clear that such an option is no longer viable, given the Liberal government's spending since the election.

"'Zero-In-Five' might be possible," explained Harper, "but don't count on it."

Other MTS members bringing their concerns to Harper included: **Dick Field** (Voice of Canadians), **Judy Anderson** (Real Women), **Jack Edwards** (Communications Corp.), **Bud Pfaff**, **Gordon Domm** (Citizens' Coalition Favouring More Effective Criminal Sentences), **Ron Leitch** (APEC), **John Furedy** (SAFS), **Morris Gates**, and **Jim Montag** (LMTC).

Harper responded to each participant's concerns individually, and made it clear that on most issues, the **Reform Party** was fully supportive.

"The Liberals think they won the election on their 'Red Book'", commented Harper, "but they're wrong. They won it because of the tremendous backlash against the Mulroney government."

On a number of broader issues, Harper expressed his distress that parliament has legitimized an illegal process --- the next Quebec referendum, but explained why it was

(cont'd next pg...)

Freedom Briefs...

(...BRIEFS cont'd from prev.page)

too late to turn back now. On government decentralization, he commented that it will continue to happen, regardless of which political party was in power. He also cautioned MTS members not to let themselves be misled by the left-wing media because it is no longer relevant to the political reality in Canada today.

Citing his expectation that Reform will perform even better in 1997 than it did during the last federal election, Harper ended the session on a positive note by thanking MTS members for inviting him to the meeting, and by letting them know that, from the available options, their concerns would be best addressed through the *Reform Party*. On that point, all attendees parted in agreement.

✍ **Below: from the *Ottawa Times*, August, 1995. A comparison of viewpoints on the subject of rent control provides more justification for Fp's advocacy of an end to the practice.**

✍ **METZ KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT PGIB/VOICE OF CANADIANS MERGER**

BURLINGTON (September 13, 1995) - Between 40 and 50 people turned out for a \$30 per plate dinner to witness the merging of the **Progressive Group for Independent Business (PGIB)**, founded and led by **Craig Chandler**, with the larger **Voice of Canadians** under the leadership of **Dick Field**.

Keynote speaker at the event was Fp president **Robert Metz**, who addressed the business-oriented group about his expectations under the new Harris government.

Citing a "sense of complacency" among conservatives and other like-minded individuals caused by the election of the PCs, Metz reminded attendees that Ontario is still very much entrenched in a politically socialist environment and that the struggle to reverse our political direction is far from being addressed.

"Because Ontario's political and moral environment is still a socialist one, despite the election of Mike Harris and the PCs," warned Metz, "I'm not quite ready for any post revolution celebrations yet."

"We must take care not to place our faith in a political platform that reflects, not principled leadership and direction, but a pragmatic

response to the calamitous effects of not-so-common-sense policies endorsed in the past.

"The choice before us is not between left and right," concluded Metz at the end of his one-hour speech, "it is between freedom and totalitarianism."

Judging by the applause and response of attendees, Metz's message was well-received.

Alarming, Metz's presence at the event was not even mentioned once in two separate **Burlington Post** articles (September 15 and 17, 1995) covering it. Although his presentation took up 90% of the event's time and content, writer **Tim Whitnell**, who remained for Metz's entire speech, only referred to the fact that the audience "also included members of the **Freedom Party** of Ontario!"

Instead, his articles focused on PGIB president Chandler's move to Calgary and on membership levels of *Voice of Canadians*. He described "the mostly middle-aged audience" as members of an "ultra-conservative lobby group", and quoted Burlington city council member **David Trueman's** personal disagreements with Chandler.

Chalk up another one for objective left-wing reporting!

(More Briefs cont'd on page 25...)

Home Builders Await Rent Control Fate

Timothy Bloedow
QUEEN'S PARK

Mike Harris' promise to eliminate NDP rent control legislation has taken a back seat in the past month to the subsidized housing controversy, but now that Ontario's government has made its decision regarding that matter, rent control is once again rearing its head.

David Horton, executive director of the Ontario Home Builders Association said "there is a strong belief that the core problem with housing in this problem is rent control."

The amount of rental housing in Ontario has decreased—NDP critics say "dramatically"—in the Ottawa area over the past four years.

Linda Lalonde, chairman of the Social Assistance Recipients' Council of Ottawa-Carleton, blames free

enterprise, stating that "the reason we have social housing is because the private market is not providing for it."

The Conservatives and Liberals, however, hold the former NDP government responsible for legislation that, they say, provides many disincentives to landlords.

Drawing on research from the Fraser Institute, a political and economic think tank, Freedom Party (Ontario) predicted such a situation in a 1991 proposal to former NDP housing minister Dave Cooke: research in six countries revealed, "in every case, government intervention produced a mix of housing deterioration [and] a reduction—often to zero—in apartments available for rent."

In 1995, NDP rent control legislation prevented landlords from increasing their rent by more than 2.9 percent

per year, Lyn McLeod's Liberals claim. The limit in 1992, prior to this legislation, was 6 percent. Although landlords could apply for an additional 3 percent increase to reclaim capital expenditures, significant restrictions existed.

For example, landlords are unable to increase their rents to recover costs from interest rate charges, mortgage renewal costs or insurance.

The Liberals claim that "65% of Ontario's rental units are over 20 years old, and the cost of repairs needed to these units is between \$7-11 billion. Under NDP legislation, it would take landlords over ten years to pay for such periods."

Individuals, lobby groups, and municipal politicians are asking housing minister Al Leach what the PCs plan is to provide housing for the 11,000 people who were on waiting lists for subsidized

housing.

Landlords and home builders insist that eliminating rent control is the answer because the costs and red tape associated therewith discourage people from becoming landlords, putting rental housing units on the market.

In the past, reports Freedom Party, governments tried to rectify problems caused by rent control by introducing additional policies such as subsidized housing.

Andrew Falby and his partner believe they are victims of such policy, reported *The Financial Post*. They own 100 rental units in Sarnia, and fear they will soon have to declare bankruptcy due to Rae's policies.

Rae's government introduced 700 subsidized units to Sarnia, which has a total of only 6,500 rental units.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Sarnia has

the fourth highest vacancy rate in Canada today at about 10 percent. "Highrisers have been devalued by 5%-7% per year [25-35% in the past five years]," Mr. Falby added.

There is even a rumoured vacancy rate in subsidized units—of 8 percent, wrote *The Financial Post*, adding that "this is another example of government enterprise syphoning taxes of the private sector then competing against it by providing goods or services that the private sector is providing."

The Conservatives introduced rent control to Ontario in 1975—as a temporary measure. Twenty years later, they intend substantially to restructure it—eliminating it on all new housing, John Baird (PC, Nepean) said.

Mike Harris believes that private investors have the capability to offer better housing than does his—

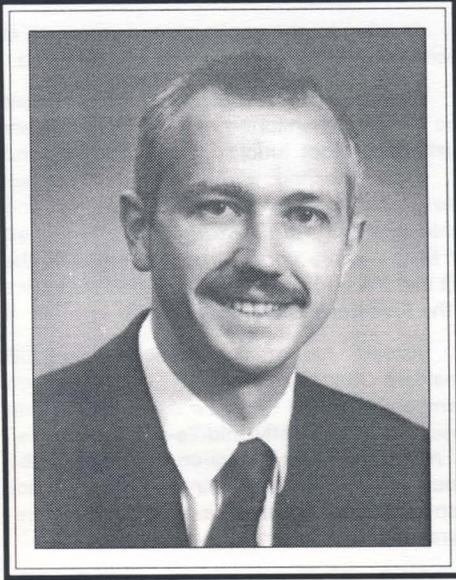
any—government, but at the same time he is committed to ensuring that rental housing meets security and fire standards, and preventing "unfair" and retroactive rent increases, Mr. Baird told *The Ottawa Times*.

Saying that landlords should only receive a "reasonable return" on their investment, the Liberals affirm support for rent control in principle. The Family Coalition Party, however, demands an end to it.

Freedom Party also opposes it, arguing that "governments are the problem," not landlords, citing "high property taxes, development fees, inflationary monetary policies, land transfer taxes, high interest rates, zoning regulations, [and] arbitrary building codes and standards" as "primary causes making housing unaffordable for an increasing number of people."

Profile...

VAUGHAN GENERATING CONTROVERSY AS PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE



LONDON (November 14, 1994 - March, 1996) - When elected by a resounding majority to London Public School Board Trustee on his platform of quality education and affordable taxes, Fp secretary **Robert Vaughan** advocated clear education standards and objective student evaluations, an emphasis on the basics including the teaching of phonics, and a call for standardized testing and grades. (See *Freedom Flyer*, December 1994.)

Since the November 14, 1994 election, Vaughan has found himself on the opposing side of many of the decisions supported by a majority of trustees on the board.

Vaughan voted AGAINST the 2.56% increase in the board's 1995 budget, and challenged the board for not protesting the Rae government's equity policy (Bill 79). (See reproduced press article, below.)

SCHOOLS NO PLACE FOR CONDOM MACHINES

He also did not support the reinstallation of condom machines in high-school wash-rooms, arguing that the presence of condom machines in schools sends mixed messages when the Board's policy is supposedly one of abstinence. He contended that there is no such thing as 'safe sex' and that condoms are no assurance against pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases.

On another front, Vaughan tried unsuccessfully to re-open for further discussion a London high-school (Beal) reconstruction project, projected to cost \$45 million, but which has now been placed on hold by the new provincial government under its one-year across the board moratorium on capital projects. In the face of massive cutbacks in provincial funding, he also voted against the spending of an extra \$4 million of taxpayer money for cafeteria and other nonessential reconstruction projects at Clarke Road high school in the city.

(cont'd next page...)

✂ Above: Fp secretary and London Board of Education trustee **Robert Vaughan**.

✂ Below: -from the *London Free Press*, May 17, 1995.

THE LONDON FREE PRESS

B5

LONDON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Equity policy 'racist, sexist,' trustee says

Robert Vaughan assailed the board's hiring policy objectives as a 'repulsive' example of reverse discrimination.

By **Burt Dowsett**
Free Press Education Reporter

A section on employment practices in the London board of education's new equity policy is based on legislation that is racist, sexist and reverse discrimination, a trustee on the board's program standing committee charged Tuesday night.

"Basically this section stems from Bill 79, which in my interpretation is in itself discriminatory, racist, sexist, unfair, unequitable," trustee Robert Vaughan told the committee.

Vaughan said Bill 79 governs

the principles of employment equity that apply throughout Ontario. Quoting from the legislation, he said it stipulates that every employer's work force should "reflect the representation of aboriginal people, people with disabilities, members of racial minorities and women in the community" at all levels of employment.

QUOTAS: "There's only one interpretation of that particular section and that is quotas, that is reverse discrimination, that is racism, sexism and unfair hiring practices," Vaughan charged, "and there is no way I will ever

support anything like that or anything that will ever come from that."

The section of the board's anti-racism and ethnocultural equity policy dealing with hiring was separated from the rest of the motion. Vaughan voted against it, but voted in favor of the remainder of the policy. Both motions passed, and the policy will now go before the entire board for approval.

"Having seen the thin edge of the wedge here of quotas, of unfair hiring practices, of discrimination, there is no way I'll support it, and I would hope that when this goes to the board or committee of the whole that this section is also segregated out so that I would not be able to throw the baby, so to speak, out with the bath water, because this section to me is repulsive."

Trustee Marilyn Joselyn, in moving that the policy be approved, argued that it was simply a further move in the direction the board has gone for many years.

IGNORED: Joselyn said if the first directive on employment equity issued by "the government of the day" had been met, "I don't think we'd have the legislation that we've got. The recommendation was ignored by many, including the government of the day."

In other business, the committee approved a three-part motion calling for the pilot project on report cards to continue, with some revisions, in participating schools in 1995-96.

Those schools not currently involved will also be given the chance to participate.

(...cont'd from prev. page)

More recently, Vaughan has suggested that the Board investigate the option of selling the Board of Education office and land, in favour of more suitable accommodation. Presently, the London Board of Education is run from a refurbished high school, complete with a double-gym, sports fields, and auditorium, facilities not required by trustees or administrators. Vaughan suggests leasing or buying office accommodation more suitable to running the business of the board. He admits that this option is something for the long-term benefit of taxpayers, not the short term.

PHONICS FUNDAMENTAL

However, despite the Board's opposition to all the above, Vaughan was in tune with other Board trustees on issues such as opposition to year-round schooling. Most significantly, Vaughan introduced a motion which effectively changed the board's policy on phonics and the basics of literacy.

His supported motion changed the focus of literacy from one where phonics was simply treated on a equal basis with other reading strategies, to one that identified phonics as a fundamental component of literacy.

It should be noted that trustee Vaughan has received consistent support for most of his motions from trustee **Thomas McClenaghan**, while he has received intermittent support from trustees **Rob Alder**, **Ab Chabhar**, and **Marlene Patten**.

Congratulations Robert! --- and keep up the great work!

<END>

May 14 Canadian Census...

'MARK ME CANADIAN' SAYS VOICE OF CANADIANS COMMITTEES

TORONTO (March, 1996) - **Freedom Party** is putting its support behind **Voice of Canadians'** upcoming **MARK ME CANADIAN** campaign. To that end, we are spreading the word and encouraging our members and supporters to participate in their protest.

Led by **Dick Field**, *Voice of Canadians* is a national affiliation of citizen committees dedicated to issues such as decreased taxation and spending, the elimination of official multiculturalism and official bilingualism, and an end to political correctness through the protection of freedom of speech.

CENSUS BY RACE?

That's why *Voice of Canadians* has launched its **MARK ME CANADIAN** campaign. For the first time in Canadian history, Canadians will be forced to provide racial information about themselves in the upcoming **MAY 14 CENSUS**.

Section 29 of Canada's **Statistics Act** provides for a fine not exceeding \$500 or three months in jail --- or both --- for "knowingly giv(ing) false or misleading information" on the census forms, whether caused by "refusal or neglect, or false answer or deception."

Without the alarm sounded by groups like the *Voice of Canadians*, "CANADIAN" may not have been among the available responses on the 1996 census forms. Fortunately, that option is now available.

WHAT A DISGRACE!

"Surely one of the most offending actions to be taken by the Liberal government of Canada must be the intent of the government to ask all Canadians their racial origin on Census 1996," says Field. "Why is this dictatorial government doing this? Here is why, in Statistics Canada's own words: 'This information is required for programs under the **Employment Equity Act**, which promotes equal opportunity for everyone.'

"Let us tell this arrogant government that Canadians will not stand for any attempt to divide us by race, ethnicity, or any other designation. It is offensive and against our most deeply held values.

"Spread the word. Say NO! to race based Census 1996! Say YES! to 'Mark me Canadian!'"

To that end, *Voice of Canadians* has prepared posters, "cling" stickers, postcard sets, lapel ribbons, and mail stickers to help Canadians voice their objections to the government's racist agenda.

Anyone interested in supporting the census campaign is encouraged to contact:

Voice Of Canadians Committees, P.O. Box 88512, Swansea Postal Outlet, 34 Southport Street, TORONTO, Ontario M6S 4Z8. Tel: (416) 766-0895 Fax: (416) 766-2270.

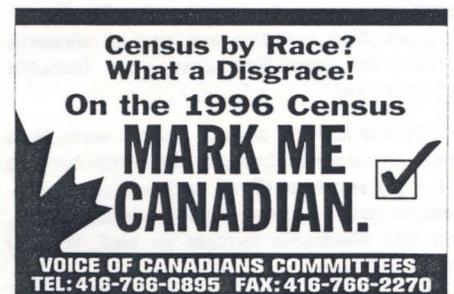
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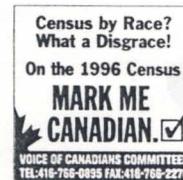
Postcard 5.6" x 4"



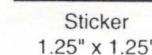
"Cling" Sticker 9" x 3"



Poster 12" x 18" or 18" x 24"



Lapel Ribbon 1" x 4"



Sticker 1.25" x 1.25"



Postcard Backs

DESCRIPTION	PRICE
STICKERS - 1 1/4" x 1 1/4"	\$.05 each
LAPEL RIBBON - 4" x 1"	\$.40 each
POSTCARD SET - 4 CARDS	\$.40 per set of 4
"CLING" STICKERS - 9" x 3"	\$.80 each
POSTER - 12" x 18"	\$.50 each
POSTER - 18" x 24"	\$.80 each

'Windows' Ready...

ELECTRONIC EDITIONS OF *CONSENT* NOW AVAILABLE

LONDON (March, 1996) - To get Fp's message out to a larger audience, Vice-president **Lloyd Walker** has been busy moving our sister publication, **Consent**, into the computer age. **Consent: The Electronic Edition** is now available. Every issue of *Consent*, from #1 to #24 and including our special edition on Democracy, is ready to move onto a computer screen near you.

Lloyd has created self-contained programs that run under **Windows**. They are easy to install (type 'setup' and sit back) and easy to use (just follow the menu choices). All of the articles are there for you to read. Even the quotations found at the bottom of the pages of *Consent* (a popular feature) are displayed at random at the bottom of the screen.

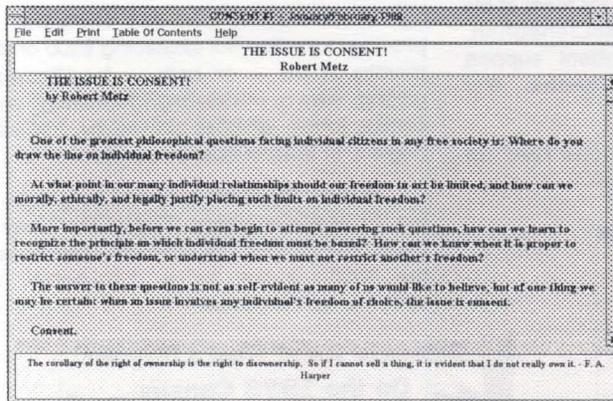
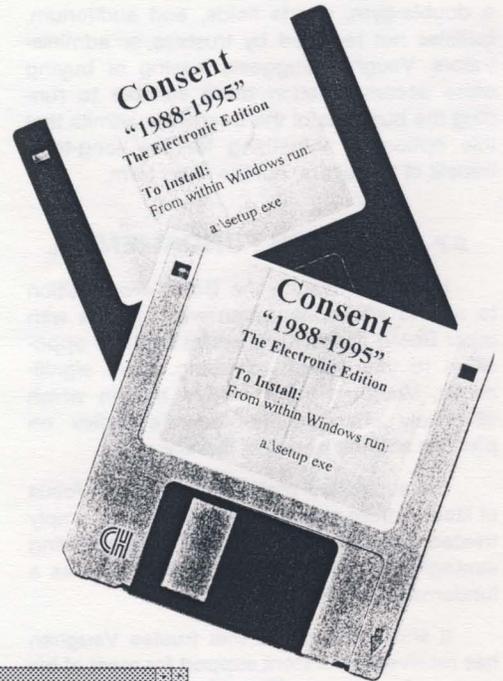
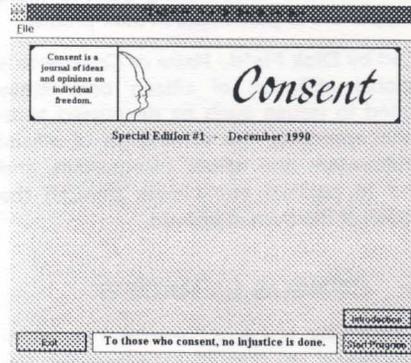
IT'S NOT ALL WORK...

Lloyd has also created a game. **Slots** is a simple gambling game that, win or lose, gets **Freedom Party's** message of fiscal responsibility through loud and clear. It's guaranteed to make Fp supporters laugh and to make socialists pull the plug on their computer. Finally there's a **StopWatch** that allows you to run up to five different timers at once. It was one accessory left out of *Windows* that proved very helpful for timing speeches during the last election.

All of the programs have been kept small to allow them to fit on a single diskette and to make uploading or downloading quick and easy. A single disk contains all 24 *Consent* issues and, as a bonus, the Fp StopWatch program. Also available are 'zipped' versions, suitable for uploading onto your favourite bulletin board.

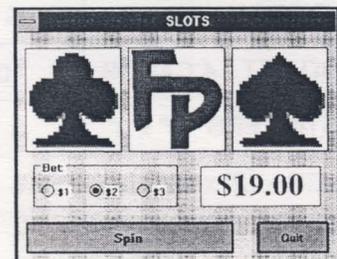
This is just the start of Lloyd's work. He's already searching through our computer files to bring **Freedom Flyer** and our other publications (issue papers, presentations, reports, etc.) into electronic formats as well. We will keep you posted.

<END>



Above: Freedom Party's *Consent* newsletter, launched in 1988, is now available in a 'Windows ready' format. Single copies are FREE on request to Fp members and supporters who have contributed a minimum of \$25 within the past year. Otherwise, copies are available at \$5 each, ppd.

Below: Fp's *Stopwatch* accessory is a bonus feature included on the *Consent - The Electronic Edition*. *Slots* is available on a separate disc and is a FREE bonus available on request to all those who order the electronic edition of *Consent*.



Freedom Briefs...

(...BRIEFS cont'd from page 21)

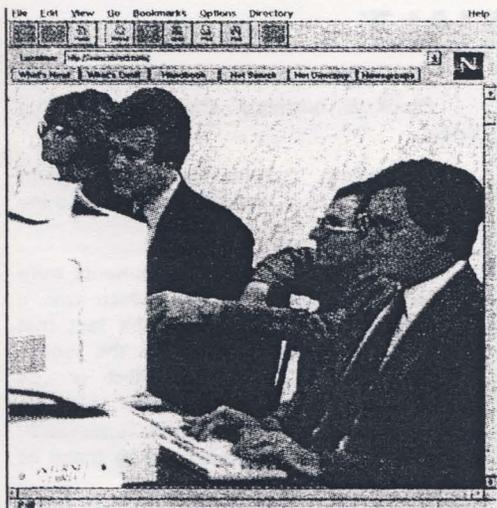
**COMING SOON ---
FREEDOM PARTY ON THE
INTERNET**

ONTARIO (March, 1996) - Preparations are already under way to bring **Freedom Party's** philosophy and record of action to the world via the **Internet**.

The first step in the process has been to have **Fp's** literature and publications prepared in electronic versions and formats. As of this writing, our alternate newsletter, *Consent*, has already been prepared in electronic form for *Windows* (see page 24, at left, for details), and is ready to be loaded into our upcoming **Web Page**.

When we are ready and prepared to go on line, visitors to **Freedom Party's** Web site will be treated to a wide range of electronic products (including our publications and newsletters), links to sympathetic organizations, and regular updates on our activities.

Stay tuned for future announcements.



Above: -from CITY-TV's live on-line election debate during Election'95. **Fp** leader **Jack Plant** (center left) and **Fp** president **Robert Metz** (center right) answer questions fielded by users of the **Internet**.

**FRAMPTON AND
FRAMPTON ADDRESS
APEC**

OTTAWA (February 29, 1996) - **Fp** regional vice-president **William Frampton** and past-**Fp** candidate **Cathy Frampton** shared their views on the possibility of Quebec's separation with 30 members of the local chapter of **APEC**. While **Cathy** shared personal insights and experiences with French-speaking Canadians, **Bill** emphasized the constitutional legalities and offered specific recommendations as to what the federal government should do.

Bill suggested that the federal government declare its refusal to participate in any future referendums on separation, and that there be a public recognition of the right of all loyal Canadians to be able to remain in Canada without having to move. He suggested that applications should be made to the Supreme Court to have the referendum law declared unconstitutional.

Frampton argued that all administrative agreements between Canada and Quebec which would suggest that Quebec is anything other than a province should be cancelled.

"They should never have been made in the first place," he concludes.

Readers interested in reviewing **Bill's** perspective in more detail are directed to his April 1992 essay, "How to deal with Quebec", which appeared in *Consent* #16.

**CENSUS USED
AGAINST US, METZ
TELLS VOICE OF
CANADIANS**

TORONTO (February 8, 1996) - In an address to about 85 members of the **Voice of Canadians Committees** at the Swansea Town Hall, **Fp** president **Robert Metz** warned the audience that the "census information collected by our government will be used against us, to the detriment of our individual well-being, and ultimately to the destruction of our country."

His subject matter coincided with the *Voice of Canadians' Committees* launching of their **MARK ME CANADIAN** campaign, the details of which are outlined on page 23 of this newsletter.

Metz elaborated on how the collection of statistics has become a government industry, and on how those statistics are used as justification for many of the government's social engineering programs. He also attacked

the inclusion of "unpaid labour" as a legitimate statistic on the census.

An edited version of his address to the audience will be featured in an upcoming edition of *Consent*. Watch for it!

**VAUGHAN, STEVENS,
SUPPORT EDUCATION
CUTS**

LONDON (January 26 & March 8, 1996) - **Fp** members **Robert Vaughan** and **Craig Stevens** each took a turn to join forces with **Scarborough West MPP Jim Brown** in defending the Harris government's cuts in education grants to municipalities. **Brown** is a member of the government's **Caucus Advisory Committee On Education**.

Appearing on **BBS TV's Inquiry** program, they debated trustees, teachers, and union representatives who decried the 3% cuts as being destructive to the education system. On the first debate in January, **Vaughan** (who is also trustee on London's Board of Education) and **Brown** squared off with **Heather Wice**, chairperson of the London Board of Education's Budget Committee, and with **Randall Lobb**, a Goderich high-school teacher. On the second debate, **Stevens** (who is also vice-chair of the **London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition**) and **Brown** entered into a lively debate with **Bill Brock**, Chairperson of the London Board of Education, and with **Rod Heikkila**, president of the Elgin branch of the **Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)**.

Video copies of each debate are available to those interested. Please contact **Freedom Party** for details.

**SEARCH FOR
UNDERSTANDING
PRODUCES LIVELY
DISCUSSION**

LINDSAY (January 24, 1996) - With his local 'Search For Understanding' cablecast program, host **Jim McKee** has also been busy searching for the people and issues through which to shine that light of understanding to his community. To that end, his four guests gathered to discuss the labour movement's protests against the Harris government included: **Fp** president **Robert Metz**, **Family Coalition Party (FCP)** leader **Don Pennell**, Chairman of the **Victoria County Coalition for Social Justice David St. Jean**, and president of the **Lindsay District Labour Council, Rick Denier**.

The lively half-hour discussion surprisingly covered a great number of fundamental issues including the right to work, minimum

Freedom Briefs...

(...cont'd from previous page)

wages, the purpose of unions, and the basic differences in philosophies between labour, business, and government.

Once again, video copies are available to those interested. Just contact **Fp** for details.

30 MEET TO DISCUSS FREEDOM PARTY

GLENARM (March 12, 1996) - **Fp** president **Robert Metz** took advantage of local activist **Jim McKee's** kind offer to visit his home and meet with members of the community to discuss **Freedom Party** and its perspectives on the issues. Accompanied by **Fp** Perth county constituency president **Robert Smink**, Metz described **Freedom Party** to the thirty attendees as a political party which is dedicated to individual rights, not group rights.

Metz stressed that all **Fp** policies are tempered by its recognition that "government is force," and that force, even when exercised by government, is only justifiable in self-defence." On specific issues ranging from welfare to Quebec separation, Metz fielded questions for about two hours. The evening ended with coffee and snacks and some one-on-one discussions with people in attendance.

We wish to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to Jim McKee, not only for his hospitality, but for his efforts aimed at creating an informed electorate in his community.

Fp EXECUTIVE CHANGES

LONDON (March, 1996) - Citing considerations related to accommodating **Freedom Party's** growth, **Fp** vice-president **Lloyd Walker** announced his resignation of his executive status to **Fp's** executive at their March 17 executive meeting. Lloyd will, however, continue to work on the various **Fp** projects he has undertaken.

Another change in **Fp's** executive occurred at its previous executive meeting on February 21. As of that date, **Robert Vaughan** is no longer provincial secretary, but continues to be an executive member as **Freedom Party's** education critic, a role that better parallels his increased obligations and work as trustee on London's Board of Education.

We invite anyone interested in considering getting involved at **Freedom Party's** provincial executive level, in any capacity, to contact Robert Metz at **Fp's** London offices for further details. Getting involved is easier than you may think.

WALKER OFFERS NEW DIRECTIONS FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION REFORM

TORONTO (March 8, 1996) - In response to the provincial government's **Discussion Paper on Workers' Compensation Reform**, **Fp** vice-president **Lloyd Walker**, on behalf of **Freedom Party**, submitted a 32-page presentation to the Honourable **Cam Jackson**, Minister Without Portfolio, Responsible for Workers' Compensation Reform.

Among Walker's 32 specific recommendations were the following: a return to the concept of accident insurance as opposed to social assistance, premiums based on risk and performance, premium discounts for meeting specific and stated accident prevention programs, curtailment of the expanding mandate

of WCAT, introduction of a deductible, and the use of the "Dutch Clock" principle as an incentive to return to work.

Walker's recommendations were made under the assumption that the government was not in any hurry to privatize *Workers Compensation*. However, he did offer that option as a final solution to the problems that plague the program.

"Government is not an insurance company," he concluded. "While this should be obvious, it does need to be stated. We must strongly suggest that the business of accident insurance be turned over to the private sector."

Copies of **Freedom Party's** submission on *Workers' Compensation Reform* are available to readers on request. Please call or write.
<END>

Education Budget Hearings...

HOSTILE REACTION TO METZ PRESENTATION GRINDS HEARINGS TO A HALT

LONDON (March 6, 1996) - In the middle of his presentation to **London Board of Education** trustees on their 1996 operating budget, **Fp** president **Robert Metz** was suddenly cut off and prevented from continuing by the chair.

Heather Wice, chairperson of the Board's **Budget Committee**, interrupted Metz by warning him to refrain from "attacking a particular individual" on the board. Although Metz's written and oral presentation neither attacked nor mentioned any trustee by name, he was stopped when he quoted from the budgetary philosophy of the Board's chairperson as delivered in his inaugural address: "Programs should not be driven by the budget; programs should drive the budget."

It was the second time that Metz was prevented from continuing a presentation before the Board, the last being on March 28, 1992 when then-budget chair **Bill Brock** attempted to prevent him from discussing costs related to the "child-centered" method of teaching, known loosely as "whole language." (Written transcripts of that confrontation are available on request.)

Brock is currently chairperson of the Board.

Fortunately, trustee **Robert Vaughan** (also **Fp's** provincial secretary) challenged the chair's decision.

Wice argued that Metz's comments were not related to budget issues, which was a remarkable charge in light of the fact that previous submissions made to the board included children singing, interest groups pleading their cases for continued funding, and one group that even used "Lifesavers" candy projected on an overhead to make its case for continued funding!

A vote was taken to determine whether trustees supported Wice's decision to prevent Metz's referring to the chairperson's inaugural address. It was supported by all, with the exception of trustees **Vaughan** and **Thomas McClenaghan**.

Discussion ensued and eventually Wice permitted Metz to continue, provided that he "refrain from personal attack", even though no such attacks were ever implied in any way.

(cont'd on back cover...)



At Right: -two separate articles on health care and Freedom Party, from the *London Free Press* (September 27, 1995) and the October 1995 *Ottawa Times*.

NEWS

Cutbacks, closures, waiting lists forcing moves towards free-market reforms

Experts Consider Alternatives to Medicare

Timothy Bloedow
HEALTH

The value of choice has been thrust into the forefront of political debate about Canada's socialized medical system with the recent report of Canadians dying in record numbers waiting for surgery at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. The conflict between Federal Health Minister, Diane Marleau (Sudbury), and the provincial health ministers seems also to be consolidating around the issue of freedom as discussion goes deeper than the expected verbal bantering over one or two.

In the past 17 months, 27 Canadians have died whilst waiting for heart surgery at the Civic, contributing to questions about the morality of Canada's medical system as people try to find someone, or something, to blame. Waiting lists have 320 names while operating rooms sit dark and empty two days a week because of lack of funds. The average cost of heart surgery is

\$11,700 and the \$3 million requested by the hospital from the provincial government could take 150 people off the waiting list.

Today's medical system is the legacy of Pearson's Liberal government which provided national legislative force to the principle of universality first established provincially in Saskatchewan. In 1984, the federal Liberal government legislated the Canada Health Act, which Stephen Brooks, spokesman for Dr. Grant Hill (Reform — MacLeod), Reform Health Critic, said was instituted essentially to "blackmail" Alberta for extra-billing, but also entrenched the government's opposition to privately provided essential services.

In the light of the present escalation in deaths of people awaiting heart surgery (the average number previously was four to five per year), however, Dr. Wilbert Keon, director of the Ottawa Heart Institute, has challenged the ethic of eliminating this free choice from

Canadians. He declared that governments that can not or will not fund health services, but also will prevent people from seeking independent alternatives within the country, are "condemn[ing] those patients to death."

The Heart Institute advises patients who want to do so to register with other hospitals that have shorter waiting lists in neighbouring cities like Toronto. Danielle Côté, Community Relations Officer for the Institute, however, said that it is not in the practise of advising patients to consider travelling to the U.S. where they could get treatment almost immediately.

The debate over responsibility for such tragedies has not yet reached the federal level. Mrs. Marleau said recently that "the Canada Health Act [CHA] is alive and well and able to take on the challenges of the future," adding that it is "one of Canada's proudest achievements . . . an affirmation of Canada's commitment to human dignity."

Her commitment to the CHA led her to order the provincial governments to bring their medical systems in line with the Act by October 15. She has persisted with that demand, refusing to confirm reports broadcast on September 24 that, in order to fend off confrontation with Alberta, she would begin to permit private clinics to offer fee-based services to people who do not want to stand in line at government facilities.

Mrs. Marleau's challenge was essentially in response to reports coming out of Alberta about its willingness to permit a growing number of private, fee-based health services. Mrs. Marleau is concerned that market-based health service, in particular facility fees, "impede access to medically necessary services."

Ironically, some of the criticism of Canada's medical system comes from Saskatchewan, where Steven Lewis, CEO of the Saskatchewan Health Services Utilization and Research Commission, said that standards in the public system may well be forced up, with the competition of a parallel private system.

The Reform Party has also been attacking the present system, with Mr. Hill condemning the federal government for withdrawing funds from health care without permitting private individuals to provide replacement services to those willing to pay the price. In an article published by *The Globe and Mail*, Mr. Hill said that during his medical career he regularly heard people declare their wish for choice in the area of health care.

Robert Metz, president of Freedom Party (Ontario) suggested that most Canadians would be willing to pay for health care if their only other choices were medicare or death. Left with this choice a growing number of Canadians are dying prematurely today, he added.

The matter of choice in medical service provision is a fundamental moral obligation, according to Mr. Metz. He said that if we do not have the freedom of choice in such a crucial area of human life, we can hardly consider ourselves to be a free people. "Since money is not infinite, medical services along with everything else must be rationed." In the view of Freedom Party supporters, the free market is a more be-

nevolent rationing agent than is the average bureaucrat.

The Reform Party's "Medicare Plus" proposition affirms the need for medicare, which Mr. Hill said, "must be nurtured and treasured as Canada's health-care safety net." But it challenges the idea that medicare equals health care, a concept which Mr. Brooks said is "a hang-over from the 60s." Mr. Hill said that health care includes medicare, but is so much more. "Should the government continue to oppose such reform, it will find itself increasingly out of step with Canadians' desires for a sound, reliable, world-class health care safety net, and Canadians' desire for choice," he declared.

Mr. Hill said he is glad to see more open debate taking place now about the possibility of incorporating choice into the system. He pointed to recent discussions at the annual general meeting of the Canadian Medical Association. He wants the debate to address real, substantive issues, rather than remaining in the realm of ideological bantering about one and two-tier systems and how we do not want Canada's system to look like that of the U.S., which is invariably characterized as a free market model.

In fact, conservative critics argue that the American system is over 40% government controlled and far from being exemplary of a free market approach to health care. The debate still rages over whether it is the government or the free enterprise component of the system that is responsible for the rising costs and other problems.

Mr. Hill has also criticized the present medical system for chasing "three hundred medical schools worth of highly trained doctors" out of the country each year. He wrote about one doctor in Sault Ste. Marie who, after years of fighting the system to set up a privately-funded clinic to address essential needs not met by medicare, had made up his mind to leave the country. He told Mr. Hill that he was blocked at every turn so he wanted to go somewhere where he could use his professional skills "to meet needs and accommodate choices."

Provincial health ministers are now discussing new options for paying doctors which could significantly affect the future provision of

health care services. Until now payment has been on a "fee for service" schedule. A doctor is paid based on the number of patients he sees. His financial incentive has, therefore, been to see as many patients as possible. In England this incentive program led to a situation in which the average length of a doctor's visit was less than five minutes, according to the American Foundation for Economic Education.

The leading alternative being considered by the health ministers is a "population-based" salary model. This approach, which has also been tried elsewhere, is not without its problems either, say critics who charge that the incentive here is to do as little work as possible, since one's income is constant. The benefit of the idea is that it encourages doctors to keep their patients as healthy as possible, to limit the amount of work necessary in treating them. On the other hand, doctors have been known to engage in "cream-skimming." This is the practise of keeping as many healthy patients as possible while rejecting those who are chronically ill.

Mr. Metz, appealing once again to free enterprise, argues that, although allowing market forces to dictate doctors' wages is also not without problems, it provides the most moral incentive structure because it makes the doctors accountable to their patients, not to bureaucrats.

Mr. Metz said that if Canadians were willing to look beyond the myths to the true nature of health care in Canada it would not be difficult to re-introduce choice. As an example, he noted that the country does not provide universal access. People living in rural areas do not have the same access to medical treatment as most individuals living in cities.

Adding that the government has never been able to fund Canada's medical system alone anyway, Mr. Metz noted the number of fund-raisers hospitals use to generate charitable dollars. Associations and societies for diseases such as Cancer, Muscular Dystrophy and Diabetes, have also been set up to raise money that the government cannot afford to put in to the medicare system. "Since universality is a myth and does not work," concluded Mr. Metz, "it is past time to introduce freedom to the system."

MEDICINE

SEP 27 1995

A new way to fund health care

SPEAKER'S CORNER

It's time to fix the medicare problem.

By Murray Hopper



Murray Hopper is manager of special projects for the Freedom Party of Ontario.

A 1983 publication called Preserving Universal Medicare, by Monique Begin, then the federal health minister, revealed problems with government delivery of that service.

At that time, I accurately described the medicare scene in the London Metro bulletin:

"Medicare in Canada has become the object of a national shouting-match; federal politicians bicker back and forth with their provincial counterparts about the sharing of ever-escalating costs; the health-care bureaucracy and the man in the street castigate the 'wicked' doctors for daring to extra-bill or require user fees; doctors, in their turn, resent growing government intrusion into matters medical; and above all the chaos, hell-bent for election on her white medicare charger, rides Monique Begin, who by advocating further coercive legislation, seeks to paper over the cracks, end the tumult, and restore domestic tranquility."

Twelve years later, it's *deja vu*: It was chaos and coercion then; it is confusion and compulsion now. And it could not have been otherwise, given the totalitarian origin of our health-care system.

In the 1880s, as part of a plan to create a special brand of socialism for Germany, Otto von Bismarck introduced government medical care, and before the end of the century had put in place all the other apparatus of the welfare state. His avowed purpose was to make

all Germans so dependent on their government they would obey, without question, any order of the Kaiser and his military machine.

It is a bitter irony those very "isms" (socialism, communism) we then fought against have entered Canada through the back door, giving us a system that can only be described as a semibenevolent fascism. No wonder we're in trouble.

Consider the defects of OHIP, a poor excuse for a health-insurance plan, bereft of all essential actuarial principles such as (1) a premium that covers payout; (2) a premium that reflects experience; and (3) a deductible that would require Canadians to pay directly for ordinary day-to-day medical expenses. Our first priority should be restoration of these principles.

Let's set up a "Canadian assistance with medical expense organization," a private agency to (a) pay premiums for those unable to do so, and (b) protect everyone against medical catastrophe. Finance this by allowing taxpayers to give to it, say, 10 per cent of their income tax payable for a 100-per-cent tax credit.

Canadians would accept these changes, since we are already used to the deductibles required by the companies that insure cars or houses. We understand without that deductible, first-dollar coverage would be unaffordable.

Since the inception of our flawed medicare system, it has declined year by year, staggering from crisis to crisis, and will continue to do so until corrective measures are introduced.

And remember this: We probably do not have another 12 years.

(BUDGET continued from page 26)

The Age Dispatch, Strathroy, Ontario, June 21, 1995 — 5

After his address, board trustees were visibly hostile when they challenged Metz on a number of issues. Trustee **Joyce Bennett** criticized him for not referring to the Board's **Costing Analysis Reports**. Metz responded by saying he was under no obligation to do so, and reminded the trustee that "it's not my job to do your job."

"The issue is this," he continued, "Ultimately, WHICH of these or other cost-saving measures you choose will depend on the predominant budgetary philosophy of the Board. That's what's important to taxpayers and the public. What we need to know from each individual member of this Board is this: do you share the chair's vision, or was the chair's inaugural speech only one trustee's position?"

(That question still remained unanswered when, on the open-line radio program **Talk of the Town** hosted by **Jim Chapman** (CJBK AM radio) the next morning, Metz directly asked chairperson Bill Brock whether or not he was speaking for the Board. Brock did not address the question and instead deflected the discussion to other issues.)

At one point, Metz was forced to ask permission from the chair to respond to a question posed by another trustee. The question could only be answered by reference to the chair's inaugural address. After about twenty minutes of other attacks against his position, including trustee Marilyn Joslyn's charge that he "doesn't care about kids", Metz left the public input session disgusted with both the budgetary philosophy and the behaviour of most of the trustees.

It should be noted that trustee Brock did not speak once during the entire presentation.

Copies of **Freedom Party's** controversial presentation, "**Boarded Windows**", are available to readers on request.

<END>

Education changes needed

The Middlesex County Board of Education has been granted a 2.5 percent increase in levies coming through the front door. Given the low level of inflation, our representatives deserve credit. Or do they?

What about the \$1,182,626 from the federal infrastructure program (Source: June 15, 1994 and Oct. 11, 1994 news release - Canada Ontario Infrastructure Works)? Thus, with a \$32,880,217 (Source: The Middlesex County Board of Education) 1995 tax requisition and the back door money, the 2.5 percent increase is actually a 6.2 percent hike. This is unacceptable.

Many of the Middlesex ratepayers are farmers who have struggled with a decrease in commodity prices over the last decade. At the same time, education rates increased 18.97 percent in 1990, 7 percent in 1991, 8.13 percent in 1992. This is made worse when noting that property taxes are a key determinant in assessing education levies.

As for the teachers federation wish for a 9.3 percent (13 percent) increase, they must enjoy playing chicken. The taxophobic general public is fed up.

Support for the 13 percent increase was also endorsed from the president of the Women Teachers Association. How do education rates transpire into a woman's issue?

Why has funding for education increased so drastically? Annexation is used as a common scapegoat. No doubt, annexation has made things more difficult for the short term. But why the pre-annexation increase is 18.97 percent in 1990? The school board is loaded with more excuses than a Toronto Maple Leafs fan.

Did the summation of quality of education, inflation, and level of enrollment warrant an 18.97 percent hike? Inflation was around two percent, enrollment was virtually constant. Thus, the question is did the quality of education increase by 17 percent? Absolutely not. Attempts to quantify the quality of education are forbidden. Comparisons between schools and school boards are outlawed because the teachers unions may get upset when they have to face a dose of reality. What needs to be done?

First, a complete repeal of the NDP labor law and a clawback of

Guest column

by Alex Gubbels

any previous damaging laws. It should be an employee's work ethic and standards that determine who gets hired and who gets fired, not their union card or years of seniority. Hire the best, fire the rest.

Second, school boards must be more open. The fax I received from the Middlesex County Board of Education on past tax requisitions stated, "Confidential Notice:...any disclosure, copying, or distribution of the information, or taking of action in reliance on it, is strictly prohibited by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act." It's a sad day when our public institutions have overstepped their bounds and whined to lobbyists and politicians to enact such ridiculous legislation. We paid for it, we have every right to know.

Thirdly, is a decentralization of the school boards. During the recent provincial election, the Family Coalition Party and Freedom Party had good platforms on education. "Parental choice in education by means of a voucher system (FCP flyer). "...The right of taxpayers to direct their education taxes to the school(s) of their choice, including private options. Within the public system, we propose clear education standards..." (Freedom Party flyer). Candidates Dr. Jamie Harris and Barry Malcolm deserve credit for their efforts and positive input.

Decentralization of the public school system and allotment of competitive school boards is certainly better than a provincial system that functions poorly everywhere.

If you believe that decentralization of the public education system is a good way of building a quality, publicly-funded system that ensures sufficient use of tax dollars, then contact your new MPP Bruce Smith.

(Alex Gubbels is a resident of R.R. #1, Mt. Brydges. We invite anyone with an opinion on any issue of public interest to submit a guest column we may consider for publication.)



Above: from the Strathroy Age Dispatch, June 21, 1995

FREEDOM FLYER

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FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

Freedom Party of Ontario is a fully-registered Ontario political party. Contributions are tax-creditable. **Statement of Principle: Freedom Party** is founded on the principle that: *Every individual, in the peaceful pursuit of personal fulfillment, has an absolute right to his or her own life, liberty, and property.* **Platform:** that the purpose of government is to protect individual freedom of choice, not to restrict it. **Annual Membership & Support Level:** \$25 minimum (tax-creditable); **Provincial Executive:** Ontario President: Robert Metz; Regional Vice-president, Eastern Ontario: William Frampton; Chief Financial Officer: Patti Plant; **Executive Officers:** Barry Malcolm, Robert Vaughan; **Party Leader:** Jack Plant.

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