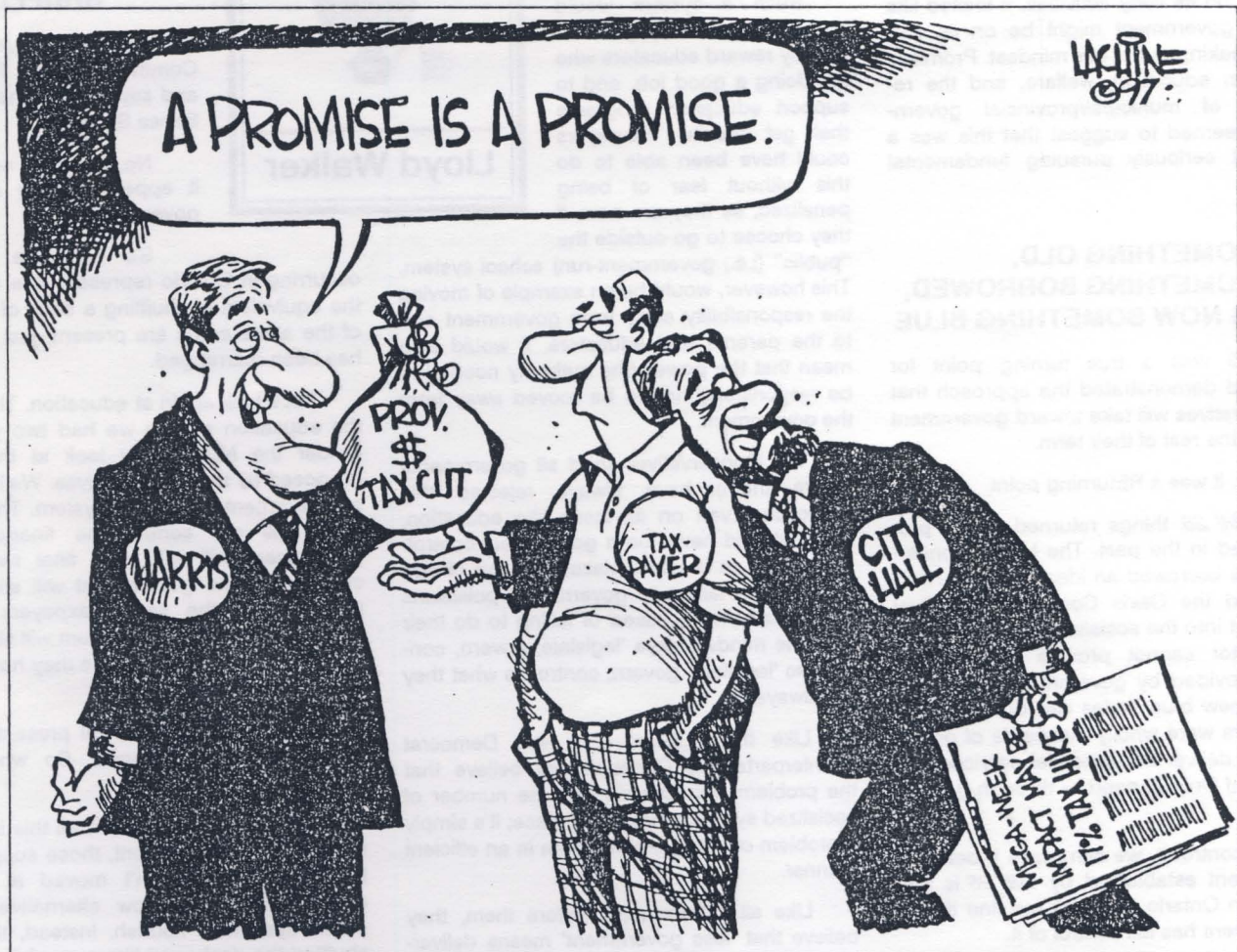


FREEDOM FLYER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

APRIL 1997 - #31



the Common Sense Shuffle

Openers...

THE NEW DEALERS

- Lloyd Walker

(Lloyd Walker is Freedom Party's Manager of Special Projects.)

Mike Harris' Conservative government has taken control of Ontario and made an unprecedented number of dramatic changes. At least that's what we're being told in the papers and news stories every day.

But is it really so? Or are we actually witnessing a process quite different from what is being reported?

A few years ago in this column ('Mindset' - *Freedom Flyer*, December 1994), I pointed out how all the major political parties shared the same vision of what they are elected to do. They all believe that their role is to govern and control the people of Ontario, rather than to provide a framework within which we, as individuals, can govern our own actions.

Based on its early activities, it looked like the Harris government might be on its way towards breaking out of this mindset. Promises of reform in education, welfare, and the restructuring of municipal/provincial governments all seemed to suggest that this was a government seriously pursuing fundamental change.

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING BORROWED, IS NOW SOMETHING BLUE

Bill 26 was a true turning point for Ontario, and demonstrated the approach that the Conservatives will take toward government throughout the rest of their term.

In truth, it was a REturning point.

With *Bill 26*, things returned to the process followed in the past. The Harris Conservatives have borrowed an idea from the NDP, Liberals and the Davis Conservatives. They have bought into the socialist premise that the private sector cannot provide the services currently provided by government, but, lucky for us, the new blue Tories can do what their predecessors were wholly incapable of doing: continue to deliver the essential services that the people of Ontario need --- through government.

"If we control it, we can make it better..." The precedent established by *Bill 26* is that everything in Ontario will work out fine if only the government has full control of it.

Let's take education for an example. Here was a fantastic opportunity to make fundamen-

tal changes to education in Ontario that could have brought educators, parents, and students a direct say. Instead, we will still have a system where the only voice that will matter is the one belonging to the government. Although the plan includes parent councils and boards that will make recommendations to the government, rest assured that the government will not allow anything that could violate its newly established control.

Rather than shuffling the existing system (which will do nothing to improve the quality of education in Ontario), the government could have brought in a system where taxpayers could direct their education tax dollars to the school of their choice.

Such a system would have allowed taxpayers to directly reward educators who are doing a good job, and to support education programs that get results. Taxpayers could have been able to do this without fear of being penalized, as they are now, if they choose to go outside the "public" (i.e., government-run) school system. This however, would be an example of moving the responsibility away from government and to the parents and educators. It would also mean that the power (the authority needed to be responsible) has to be moved away from the government.

The Conservatives (and all governments before them) have always rejected this approach. Even on an issue like education, which should never be a government-controlled service in the first place, allowing choice smacks of a failure to govern, and politicians don't like being accused of failing to do their job. The mindset says 'legislate, govern, control', so 'legislate, govern, control' is what they will always do.

Like their Liberal and New Democrat counterparts, the Conservatives believe that the problem with Ontario isn't the number of socialized systems that are in place; it's simply a problem of not operating them in an efficient manner.

Like all governments before them, they believe that 'less government' means delivering the same (or greater) amount of 'government', but doing it with less people. That's

what 'efficiency' is all about.

The great danger in this approach to government is that it leads many people to believe (and this is a widely held belief by many small-'c' conservatives) that this brand of 'less government' will also lead to 'more freedom.' While that would be a wonderful thing to hope for, it's a little like saying that if you were being held hostage by 30 armed men and the quantity of guards was cut in half (because they had begun controlling you more efficiently), you would now be 'more free.'

THE COMMON SENSE SHUFFLE

Say goodbye to the Common Sense Revolution, and say hello to the Common Sense Shuffle.

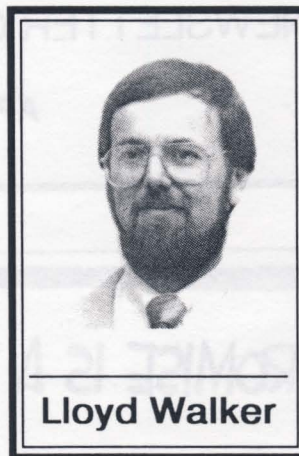
No, it's not a new dance. It appears to be a form of government.

So far, the changes occurring in Ontario represent little more than the equivalent of shuffling a deck of cards. All of the same cards are present, just the order has been rearranged.

Let's look again at education. Think about the education system we had two years ago (under the NDP). Now look at the system proposed by the Conservatives. We'll still have a government-run school system. The government will still control the financing. The government will still have final say on the curriculum. The government will still get the money from the same taxpayers. Anyone opting out of the public system will still have to pay for it AND the alternative they have sought out.

The same cards are all present, just the order has been changed. So where's the revolution?

The significant factor in all this is that the Conservative government, those supporters of free enterprise, haven't moved at all in a direction that will allow alternatives to the public system to flourish. Instead, they have shuffled the deck, and like a magician using a



Lloyd Walker

Working For Freedom...

FREEDOM BRIEFS

POLITICS AND POVERTY

LINDSAY (November 28, 1996) - Anti-poverty activist **John Clarke**, of the **Ontario Coalition Against Poverty**, debated Fp president **Robert Metz** in a lively exchange moderated by host **John Panter** on the **Cable 10** program, **Search For Understanding**.

"Our theme for the next half hour is politics and poverty," Panter began, "and the impact of the Mike Harris government on the economy of Ontario. We're going to ask the question: 'what can government do about poverty?', and we might even try to define what poverty is."

"Poverty represents a conscious attack on working people by governments," argued Clarke, "and Mike Harris is the prime example, the cutting edge, of that agenda."

Metz suggested that the proper role of government with respect to minimizing poverty would include policies of lower taxes, an end universality in social programs so that limited resources can be directed to those in need, the right to work legislation, and an easing up on labour legislation and labour monopolies that restrict jobs.

"Mr. Metz, ten years ago, would have been regarded perhaps as someone crying in the wilderness," said Clarke. "But I'm struck by hearing him speak how far governments over the last ten years have moved precisely in the direction he's talking about. Deregulation, privatization, the removal of programs, the weakening of things that were regarded as social rights a number of years ago."

Metz and Clarke spent the balance of the half-hour disagreeing on every issue raised, but the debate did end on one point of agreement: both opposed the concept of workfare, though for entirely different reasons.

Readers interested in obtaining a video copy of the debate are invited to get in touch with us. See the green box on the back cover for details of how to contact us.

CONFERENCE FOR CONCERNED CANADIANS A SUCCESS

NAPANEE (November 30, 1996) - Concerned Canadian and Fp supporter **Ralph Gentile** was the driving force behind a highly successful gathering of Canadians who met to share their unique perspectives on the state of the Canadian political scene. Held at the *Napanee and District Secondary School* on

Belleville Road, the full day event's entrance fee of \$25 included lunch and refreshments for the day.

"I'm trying to make it a non-partisan event, a day of education on how Canadians feel about social/political issues," Gentile told the local media a month earlier.

24 organizations were represented among the 70 attendees. Though others were invited, **Freedom Party** was the only political party officially participating. Both Fp president **Robert Metz** and Fp Regional Vice-president (Eastern Ontario) **William Frampton** addressed the audience during the morning session of the all-day event.

There was never a dull moment during the entire day. With a strictly-timed agenda that did not permit speakers to exceed their five to ten minute speaking limit, participants were forced to focus on their most urgent priorities, and to state their case and cause as succinctly as possible. For the audience, the pace was lively and stimulating, as they listened to individuals and group representatives who were often as humorous and entertaining as they were informative.

Ron Leitch of the **Association for the Preservation of English in Canada (APEC)**, was given a well-deserved standing ovation following his turn at the podium. Attendees also heard from Canadian author and historian **Joe Armstrong** (see *Freedom Brief*, following), **Dick Field**, of the **Voice of Canadians**, **John Thompson**, of the **MacKenzie Institute**, **Janet Hicks** of **Dialogue Magazine**, **Paul Fromm**, of **Canadians for Foreign Aid Reform (C-FAR)**, **John Furedy**, of the **Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship (SAFS)**, **Tom Giglione** of the **Progressive Group for Independent Business (PGIB)**, and from many, many others.

"What does freedom have to do with the various political issues that you've heard raised here today?" asked Fp president **Robert Metz** during his address to the audience. "Everything. Freedom of choice is at the heart of every political issue: official bilingualism, high taxes, official multiculturalism, and even our healthcare and education issues. In fact, freedom of choice is usually the solution to the problem."

Our unofficial award for the most entertaining presentation of the day (and the only presentation allowed to run overtime) must go to **Ronald Wilson** of **Kitchener**. Mr. Wilson singlehandedly took on the unions in Ontario when he formed 'Taxpayers For Harris' in reaction to their forced shutdown of his com-

munity. While humorously relating his often scary adventures to the audience, **Wilson** changed garb from his civilian clothes into his 'union-fighting uniform', complete with helmet and shrill whistle to sound an alarm if attacked by union thugs. We leave the rest to your imagination.

Our appreciation for his efforts and hard work are extended to **Ralph Gentile**, the man behind the day's event. Congratulations on a tremendously successful day; we look forward to yet another in the not too distant future.

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH JOE ARMSTRONG

LONDON (December 12, 1996) - In a unexpected event arranged on a last-minute basis, about 30 Fp members and supporters gathered at the home of Fp president **Robert Metz** for a fireside chat with Canadian author and historian **Joe C.W. Armstrong**.

Armstrong, who was touring the south-western Ontario region to promote his book, **Farewell The Peaceful Kingdom**, delivered his message with a sense of urgency and passion.

"I think the Liberals are going to rule this country for the next thousand years, if the opposition and dissent --- those of us who believe what WE believe in --- can't get our act together in some very different and significant way."

Citing his extensive travels across the country, Armstrong lamented the erosion of individual freedom as a fundamental value in Canada.

"It's very difficult to get it back," he stressed. "For every year of socialist, statist society, it takes exactly that length of time, and more, to turn things around. I know it's discouraging, and sometimes very discouraging."

"We have to get just ONE idea across," Armstrong explained. "Any of the great ideas start with slow movements of groups and individuals who consistently believe in principles and articulate them under the most difficult of conditions. That's why I'm talking here tonight to **Freedom Party**."

Following his message, it became a two-way exchange while Armstrong fielded questions from attendees. By evening's end, everyone seemed to have not only learned something, but thoroughly enjoyed themselves as well.

Racism...?**COURT 'POISONS' ONTARIO ENVIRONMENT, FINES LONDON LANDLORD FOR DISCRIMINATION**

LONDON (December 4, 1996) - In a fifteen-page judgement, justices **Southey, Saunders, and Jenkins**, of the **Ontario Divisional Court**, dismissed fourteen of the fifteen grounds under which the **Ontario Human Rights Commission (HRC)** appealed a 1994 Ontario **Board of Inquiry** ruling. (See *Freedom Flyer*, November 1996.) That ruling found that there was no evidence to support a racism complaint against London (former) landlord **Elijah Elieff**, although the Board levied a \$2,500 fine against Elieff nevertheless.

The original \$2,500 fine was awarded, not for any charges of racism, but for "damages" attributed to "reprisal", a contravention ground which was added near the end of the original proceedings and which was never argued or spoken to. Because the complainant accused Elieff of attempting to evict her for non-payment of rent during the course of the Board of Inquiry hearings, this was deemed "reprisal", even though the process of eviction was entirely legal and would have been appropriate under any other circumstances.

Although the HRC's appeal to have the fine for reprisal raised to \$10,000 was dismissed, J. Southey, who authored the judgement, criticized the Board of Inquiry for referring to the original fine "as damages... ..the object of the Code is not to punish but to provide relief and promote understanding."

POISONED LOGIC - POISONED ENVIRONMENT

In a bizarre twist of logic, Southey supported the Commission on its eleventh point of appeal --- that the Board of Inquiry "erred in concluding that a racially poisoned environment did not exist."

Arguing that the media coverage "as reported by Mr. **Van Moorsel** in the **London Free Press** created a poisoned environment," Southey directed the Board of Inquiry to "vary its order by increasing the amount of the payment to be made by the respondents to the complainant from \$2,500 to \$6,000, with interest provisions in the order to apply to the increased amount."

Because of this "poisoned environment", Elieff would now be deemed guilty of "discrimination" against his Cambodian tenants, wrote Southey, "even though all other tenants who were not Cambodians were subject to the same deplorable conditions."

NOT ASIAN?

The Divisional Court's conclusion that Elieff specifically discriminated against 'Cambodians' presents another bizarre leap of discriminatory logic, given that this word was never attributed to Elieff in the original *Free Press* article acknowledged as the source of the "poisoned environment", and that the tenants in Elieff's buildings were a mix of various Asian races, including many from Viet Nam.

In the original Board of Inquiry ruling, chairperson **Ajit John** specifically concluded: "Neither the Commission nor the Complainant produced a witness who suggested that non-Asian tenants were given more favourable treatment than Asian tenants..."

Now, Elieff has been declared guilty of 'discrimination' against 'Cambodians' in particular, which was not the racial focus of the original hearings. Indeed, all participants before the original Board of Inquiry had to exercise particular discretion by referring to Elieff's tenants as 'Asian'. This was understandable, given that most government racial policies operate on the 'visible' difference factor, not on any ethnic or cultural distinctions within a particular 'visibly different' group.

It was the so-called 'Asian' community (led by non-Asian **Rev. Susan Eagle**) who campaigned to recruit a complainant against the landlord. It was mere chance that it happened to be a Cambodian tenant, **Chiphpheng Hom**, who agreed to file a complaint against the landlord.

In her filed complaint with the HRC, Hom wrote that "I learned of comments reportedly made public by Mr. Elieff that he felt his tenants of Cambodian ancestry regarded cockroaches as pets and that as Cambodians, 'They're like little pigs. They think they're still living in the jungle.'" Hom later contradicted this written statement before the Board of Inquiry when she testified that Elieff made the comments directly to her.

Both statements were untrue.

What the original November 8, 1989 **London Free Press** article ACTUALLY reported was: "Elijah Elieff largely blamed his tenants and their children --- mainly Asian immigrants --- for conditions at the two buildings. 'They're like little pigs,' he said Tuesday, 'They think they're still living in the jungle.'" The single reference to 'Cambodians' occurred mid-way through the article: "Elieff's apartments, home to many Cambodian families,

have a history of complaints..."

Ironically, the decision that Elieff specifically discriminated against 'Cambodians' technically means that he did NOT discriminate against any of his Vietnamese tenants. Yet, they were part of the supposedly 'offended' community who originally helped seek out Hom as a complainant on their behalf.

EVIDENCE IRRELEVANT

Most disturbing in the Divisional Court's decision is the fact that there is not one single reference to, or acknowledgement of, any fact or argument which was presented by Mr. Elieff in his defence. There was certainly no need whatsoever for Mr. Elieff to even have attended court proceedings.

Of the fifteen pages in the court's decision, six and a half were exclusively devoted to the "question of whether interest may be awarded as part of a compensatory award." Another five pages were devoted to a historical account of the complaint and the original Board of Inquiry ruling. Only four of the fifteen pages deal with the court's actual ruling and its justifications, as reported above. Nowhere is there any reference to Mr. Elieff's defence.

ABANDONMENT OF JUSTICE?

"Except for the direction that the award be increased from \$2500 to \$6000, as aforesaid," concluded Southey, "the appeal is dismissed."

Though the Divisional Court acknowledged the role of the *London Free Press* in the creation of the 'poisoned environment', no responsibility was assigned to the paper, and no mention was made of the role or actions of Susan Eagle or of her direct connections with the *London Free Press*.

This is both tragic and unjust, since the evidence is incontrovertible that their 'community' campaign to smear Elieff's public reputation, not only as a landlord with respect to his tenants, but "as a businessman" with respect to his other business ventures, was the sole cause of an innocent man's downfall.

"Unfortunately, details such as this seem to be irrelevant to a justice system which values politically-correct agendas above justice," says Metz. "The very concept of justice demands that individuals be held responsible

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

for their OWN actions, not for the actions of others. The Divisional Court's ruling on this case illustrates once again that this is not the kind of justice which exists in Ontario today."

GET THE DETAILS!

Background information and documentation, including copies of the original and subsequent rulings on this case, are available to **Freedom Party** members and supporters on request! See green box on back of this newsletter for details on how to get in touch with us. {END}

COURTS

Tenants rejoice at racism decision

Landlord Elijah Elieff had been absolved of a discrimination charge. An appeal tribunal reversed the ruling.

By Michelle Shephard
Free Press Reporter

It was a celebration of her dignity, rather than the \$3,500 award.

Chippeng Hom and supporters said Thursday night that they had finally won their seven-year battle with landlord Elijah Elieff.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission and Hom won an appeal of a board of inquiry decision that had absolved Elieff of discrimination against his Cambodian apartment tenants.

The controversial landlord was accused seven years ago of discriminatory treatment of the Asian tenants of his cockroach-infested apartments.

The board of inquiry said his actions weren't discriminatory and awarded Hom \$2,500 for general and punitive damages.

Three justices of Ontario court, general division, heard the appeal in October and released their decision Thursday. They said the action was

Media bias...

FREE PRESS DEFENDS LACK OF BALANCE

LONDON (December 6, 1996) - The **London Free Press**, which was both a catalyst and hostile witness in the racism complaint against London landlord **Elijah Elieff**, reported the Divisional Court's appeal ruling as an event worth celebrating, with the December 6, 1996 headline: 'Tenants rejoice at racism decision.'

The headline reveals the paper's ongoing bias, given that no tenants were present during the two-day appeal hearing before the **Ontario Divisional Court**, and that the only evidence of 'rejoicing' was on the part of **Reverend Susan Eagle**, who is not a tenant. Moreover, ALL of the tenants who appeared before the original **Board of Inquiry** (with the exception of the complainant, who was recruited by Eagle) spoke strongly in favour of the landlord, and chose to testify specifically because they were very upset and disgusted with the unsubstantiated bias of *London Free Press*.

'One would think that an outcome worth celebrating would be one where discrimination was found NOT to exist,' says **Fp** president **Robert Metz** in reaction to the London Free

Press coverage. "But instead, some people actually seem happy that discrimination exists! What does that tell you about their motives?"

NO BALANCE

Unfortunately, even though Metz introduced himself as a contact for Elieff to Free Press reporter **Michelle Shephard**, the paper's coverage of the ruling did not include any reaction from Elieff's side of the issue.

This was more than an oversight, since Metz made it a point to inform Shephard that he had represented Elieff before the original Board of Inquiry and that he would be available for background information, reaction, or comment. He made it clear that Elieff's current occupation as a transport truck driver kept him out of town most of the time. In addition to providing his business card containing a phone number, fax number, e-mail and website address, Metz also provided Shephard with copies of **Fp**'s 'Final Argument', as it appeared in *Consent 21*.

Despite these efforts, the paper reported that Elieff was "not available for comment".

Left & Below: reprinted from the *London Free Press*, December 6, 1996. We're not sure which tenants were 'rejoicing', since none were at the appeal tribunal, and since those of Vietnamese origin were not found to be discriminated against.

TENANTS: Ruling reversed

► From page B1

DEC 6 1996

discriminatory, creating "a poison environment" and awarded Hom \$6,000 — \$3,500 more than ordered by the board of inquiry.

"The racial slurs against the one group constitute the differential treatment," the decision said.

A board of inquiry had originally cleared Elieff of any discriminatory action since all tenants were subjected to the deplorable conditions of the buildings.

Elieff had blamed minister and community worker Susan Eagle and London Free Press reporters for organizing a campaign against him.

"This is an acknowledgement of the wrongdoing of the landlord and it shows that people cannot treat their tenants like that without legal action," Eagle said Thursday.

Elieff claims he has lost about \$90,000 since the complaints in 1992. He was out of town Thursday night and not available for comment.

Tenants had complained about remarks Elieff had made to a Free Press reporter. He was quoted as saying his tenants were, "like little pigs... they think they're still living in the jungle."

Cynthia Harper, representing Hom, said she was "pleasantly surprised" by the outcome.

However, with predictable bias and regularity, the Free Press was quick to seek out and print the comments of Reverend Susan Eagle: "This is an acknowledgement of the wrongdoing of the landlord..."

Eagle, another hostile witness before the Board of Inquiry against Elieff, was, and still is, the driving force in the campaign against him.

The London Free Press not only failed to make even a minimal effort for balanced coverage, but went so far as to reject a direct offer of balance by Metz in a letter to the editor.

ANOTHER 'SPIN'

In his letter, Metz put his own 'spin' on the Divisional Court ruling, by using direct quotes from the ruling to illustrate that there was no victory for the Human Rights Commission, and that the balance of the

See **RACISM** page B9 ►

(BIAS... cont'd next pg)

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

appeal was dismissed.

"Moreover," wrote Metz, "the judgement acknowledged that 'it seems clear that the complaint and these proceedings resulted from articles published in the London Free Press in November 1989', and that the racially 'poisoned environment' at the former Cheyenne Ave apartments was a direct result of reporting in the London Free Press."

OFFENSIVE DEFENCE

"My own reading of the decision is at variance with your interpretation," responded Free Press associate editor Gary May in an unexpected February 3, 1997 letter to Metz. He then went so far as to accuse Elieff of being "the instigator" of the whole affair.

"Surely you would not condone the Free Press ignoring such inflammatory comments made by Mr. Elieff?" he challenged.

May's unexpected personal response to Metz's letter, which was simply intended for publication in the paper's editorial section, would indicate that a raw nerve was struck.

Ironically, the answer to May's question was already made explicitly clear in Metz's original letter:

"As Mr. Elieff's representative before the original Board of Inquiry," wrote Metz, "I can state for the record from my own personal observation that never once did Mr. Elieff utter any reference to anyone's race in his descriptions of conditions at his former cheyenne Ave apartment buildings. All racial references were added, assumed, and emphasized by London Free Press reporters. According to the testimony of Free Press reporter Greg Van Moorsel at the Board of Inquiry hearings, this practice is called 'putting a spin' on the story."

"From the beginning of the Cheyenne Ave controversy to the most recent Ontario Divisional Court decision, the London Free Press has grossly, consistently, and repeatedly misrepresented Mr. Elieff's case to its readers."

Metz invited Free Press readers to visit Freedom Party's on-line Web Site at "<http://www.freedomparty.org/cheyenne.htm>" for a complete accounting of Elieff's story, including London Free Press coverage and excerpts from the original Board of Inquiry transcripts.

"In this way," concluded Metz, "Free Press readers may have an opportunity to see both sides of the story and judge for themselves the merits of this case."

FREE PRESS READERS DENIED BALANCE

"I thank you for bringing your views to my attention," concluded May, "but after considerable investigation and discussion with those involved, I feel it is not necessary for the Free Press to take further action."

May did not identify "those involved" with whom he conducted a "considerable investigation", but they did not include either Metz or Elieff.

As of this writing, Metz's letter remains unpublished.

'THOUGHT CRIME' A REALITY IN ONTARIO

Contrary to Susan Eagle's interpretation of the court ruling, "there was no 'wrongDO-

ING' on Elieff's part," stresses Metz, "since the court remained satisfied that he treated all of his tenants the same, regardless of race. It was solely the court's interpretation of Elieff's THOUGHTS (about tenant cleanliness and responsibility, not race, from Elieff's point of view), and his expression of those thoughts to a newspaper reporter, that constituted Elieff's 'crime' of 'unequal treatment'.

"Thought crime has come to Ontario."

GET THE DETAILS!

Freedom Party members and supporters are similarly invited to judge the merits of this case for themselves. Background information on this issue can be obtained on our website at the above-mentioned address, or can be requested in print by contacting Freedom Party. See green box on back cover for details of how to get in touch with us! {END}

Freedom Briefs...

(...cont'd from pg 3)

Copies of Armstrong's **Farewell The Peaceful Kingdom** are still available through Freedom Party for \$35 (+\$7.50 postage/handling). See the green box on the back cover for details of how to get in touch with us or order directly from Fp's Website at <http://www.freedomparty.org/books001.htm>.

CALENDAR OF CANADA FEATURES HUNDREDS OF HISTORICAL REFERENCES

ONTARIO (December, 1996) - "Despite a popular belief that Canadian history is boring, I found that this is simply not true," said Fp Manager of Special Projects **Lloyd Walker**, upon completion of his very special project, **Freedom Party's 1997 Calendar of Canada**.

Each date in the calendar, published as our second special issue of **Consent**, contains some piece of information taken from the history of Canada. But that's not all. In addition to hundreds of Canadian historical references, the calendar also features exclusive quotes taken from the many authors who have had their ideas and essays published in past issues of **Consent**.

"I am convinced that **Consent** is a very distinguished publication in its own right," explains Walker. "For that reason, I chose not to go outside that publication for thought-provoking quotes."

Walker hopes that the calendar will send readers scurrying to their encyclopedias to find out more about specific Canadian events.

"Perhaps the quotes may prompt some to take a look at the original essays which are their source," he says. "But most importantly of course, I hope people enjoy it."

Freedom Party's contributing members and supporters received free copies of the calendar in the mail during the month of December. Copies of **Consent's 1997 Calendar of Canada** will remain available throughout the year, and are distributed free with any contribution received. For multiple copies, please enquire. See green box on back cover for details of how to get in touch with us.

OUTLOOK OPTIMISTIC

LONDON (November 26, 1996) - Members of the **Optimist Clubs of Middlesex-London and East London** became the first non-members of Freedom Party to see **Consent's 1997 Calendar of Canada**. Fp Manager of Special Projects and Optimist member **Lloyd Walker** performed the calendar research and design. In September, Walker had shown some preliminary work on the calendar to some Optimist members. Their response was so positive he had to promise them that the finished product would be available to them.

Reaction to the calendar was extremely good. Walker hopes that this will push a few of the Optimists who have verbally supported Fp over the edge and into membership. One prospect observed that, since Walker chose all of the quotations and events reported in the calendar, it would tell those reading the calendar "an awful lot" about Walker and Fp. Walker reports that he was happy to hear that. After all, that's the purpose of all Freedom Party literature: to tell the world about our commitment to freedom.

<END>

Freedom of Information...

'NON-EXISTENT' FINANCIAL RECORDS PRODUCED

TORONTO (January 23, 1997) - After initially rejecting **Freedom Party's** June 4/96 request for a listing of financial expenses incurred in pursuing a racism complaint against London landlord **Elijah Elieff**, the **Ontario Human Rights Commission (HRC)** has finally produced financial records it previously said did not exist. (See last issue of *Freedom Flyer*, Nov/96.)

The expense listing was provided to **Freedom Party** despite our having been informed again on October 30/96 that we were not entitled to receive such information:

"Please be advised that the access procedure under the **Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act** refers to 'records' and not necessarily the provision of unrecorded information," wrote **Roger M. Palacio** (Coordinator, Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy, Ontario Human Rights Commission).

FIGURES SUSPECT

Given that the financial listing provided to **Freedom Party** is apparently based upon "unrecorded information", the HRC's figures are highly suspect, to say the least. To make matters worse, the final figures provided were inconsistent with figures provided intermittently throughout the length of our filed request.

On November 20/96 we were informed that "the total figure for the fee of the Commission's counsel in the hearings of the case is \$6272.05. The total disbursement is \$11,210.44."

After clarifying that the two figures were exclusive of each other, thus representing a total of \$17,482.59, the Commission still remained unclear as to what the figures applied to.

Following a December 23 telephone conversation with **Fp** president **Robert Metz** and **Fp** representative **Jim Montag**, Palacio indicated "that interviews with witnesses were carried out in four days in May 1990. Conciliation contacts with the parties and other individuals occurred over a period of about fifteen days in the months of February, March, April, May, June and July 1991."

"The salary scale of a Human Rights Officer in 1990 and 1991 was from \$807.53 to \$966.77 per week (1990) and from \$854.37 to \$1022.84 per week (1991)," he wrote in his letter of December 30.

These expenses were not included in the previously provided figures.

Unfortunately, the disbursement expenses provided in Palacio's Dec 30 letter were not itemized, despite a previous commitment to do so. Also, there was a discrepancy in information regarding the \$6272.05 legal expenses, which we were initially informed included expenses for the Divisional Court appeal, but were now being told was only for the Board of Inquiry hearings.

After requesting further clarification, Palacio finally informed us on January 23 that the legal fees were now adjusted to \$5500 and applied only to the Board of Inquiry, and that the correct disbursements figure was \$13,885.34.

HIGHLY UNREALISTIC

"Your report of \$5500 in legal fees appears highly unrealistic," responded Montag in a February 19 letter to Palacio. "Given 13 full days of hearings before the Board of Inquiry, many of which were attended by more than one legal representative on the part of the Commission, this would mean that the Commission's per diem cost would be \$423, or \$53 per hour."

"It should be noted that these calculations do not include any preparatory time, which was considerable," he added.

In concluding his letter, Montag requested that legal fees for the Divisional Court appeal be provided.

EVASIVE RESPONSE

"You have indicated that the amount appears unrealistic given the number of days of hearings before the Board of Inquiry and the Divisional Court appeal," responded Palacio on February 24. "I am advised that this amount, in fact, includes counsel's fee for the Divisional Court appeal. Ms. Geri Sanson was previously employed with the Legal Services Branch of the Commission at the time she

handled the Board of Inquiry hearings. She subsequently left the Commission to set up a private practice and was retained as external counsel for the rest of the proceedings."

How the employment status of Commission's counsel possibly bears upon the total amount paid for legal fees is a matter that has been left unexplained by the Commission. But the inclusion of the Divisional Court appeal represents a complete reversal of the Commission's previous correspondence, which itself was a reversal of earlier information provided.

Palacio's explanation now implies two things: (1) that we were never provided with the Commission's true legal fees in the first place, and, (2) that the legal expenses provided apply exclusively to the Divisional Court appeal (which would appear to make sense for a two-day hearing).

"Your responses appear evasive, misleading, incomplete, inaccurate, contradictory, inconsistent, and are, to all intents and purposes, worthless as a response to our original Freedom of Information request," wrote Montag in a March 13/97 letter to Palacio. "It may be best if we put aside all previous correspondence, and again ask you to comply with our original Access to Information request, with particular emphasis on accuracy, completeness, and integrity."

Needless to say, at this point we have been left totally confused as to what to believe, and are no further ahead than when our Freedom Of Information request was initially filed. Watch for our follow-up on this situation in the next issue of *Freedom Flyer*.

GET THE DETAILS!

Background information on this issue, including copies of original correspondence, are available to **Fp** members and supporters on request. See green box on back cover for details of how to get in touch with us! <END>

At Right: A list of the HRC's provided expenditures on Elieff's case. It is interesting to note that, according to the Commission, the \$5500 legal fees disbursed on Mar 15/95 includes counsel's fee for its appearance before the Divisional Court in October 1996.

O.H.R.C. BOARD OF INQUIRY COSTS HOM v. ELIEFF INVESTMENTS Printed January 23, 1997				
CASE	DATE	FEES	DISBURSEMENTS	DESCRIPTION
Hom v. Elieff Investments	June 8, 1993		\$ 42.85	Searches
Hom v. Elieff Investments	January 30, 1993		\$ 1163.56	Travel Claim for Board of Inquiry
Hom v. Elieff Investments	December 27, 1993		\$ 379.22	Travel Claim for Board of Inquiry
Hom v. Elieff Investments	January 20, 1993		\$ 268.50	Reporting Services
Hom v. Elieff Investments	December 16, 1992		\$ 108.00	Reporting Services
Hom v. Elieff Investments	September 21, 1993		\$ 597.00	Reporting Services
Hom v. Elieff Investments	November 26, 1992			Travel Claim for Board of Inquiry
Hom v. Elieff Investments	August 26, 1993		\$ 25.00	Professional Services Rendered
Hom v. Elieff Investments	March 15, 1995	\$ 5500.00	\$ 772.05	Legal services
Hom v. Elieff Investments	March 11, 1993		\$ 468.75	Reporting Services
Hom v. Elieff Investments	February 3, 1993		\$ 100.00	Travel Claim for Board of Inquiry
Hom v. Elieff Investments	November 27, 1992		\$ 150.00	Reporting Services
Total:		\$ 5500.00	\$ 4074.93	
Hom v. Elieff Investments - Appeal	March 20, 1995		\$ 2913.00	Reporting Services
Hom v. Elieff Investments - Appeal	March 31, 1996		\$ 4994.56	Disbursements
Hom v. Elieff Investments - Appeal	October 31, 1996		\$ 1902.85	Disbursements
Total:		\$ 0.00	\$ 9810.41	
Total:		\$ 5500.00	\$ 13885.34	

Drug Laws...

Fp CONDEMNS OMA PROPOSAL TO LEGALLY PROHIBIT SMOKING IN PRIVATE HOMES

☞ CIGARETTE POLICE?

LONDON (November 21, 1996) - In the wake of the **Ontario Medical Association's (OMA)** call for a legal ban on smoking in the private homes of pregnant women or small children, Fp president **Robert Metz** was invited to square off against **Dr. Terry Polovoy** of **Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada**, on 'Hot Talk', **Radio 98's** daily open-line program hosted by **Gord Harris**.

"I think the (OMA's) suggestions are a little bit outrageous, to say the least," opened Polovoy in a surprising dig at the medical association, "because they'll never be implemented. It's just blowing in the wind, as far as I'm concerned."

When asked why the OMA would act in this fashion, Polovoy replied, "Because they're angry at the government for not collecting enough taxes and putting (money) back to the healthcare system. They're angry at the cigarette lighters that are being sold now with tobacco logos at your local convenience stores. They're angry at the other doctors maybe, who are taking tobacco company money and no one's saying anything. They're just basically angry."

Referring to the OMA's proposal as "un-conscionable", Metz did however agree that smoking increases risk to health.

☞ DISEASES OF CHOICE?

"I can understand the frustration of the OMA, in trying to accomplish an impossible goal, and that's controlling a 'disease of choice'. Diseases of choice fall into the category of alcoholism, drug addiction, smoking. It's a natural impulse, I suppose, for those who somehow believe that it's their prerogative to restrict the choices of others, to resort to the force of law to do so --- even when the evidence consistently shows that this approach does not work.

"What makes the OMA's proposal unique," continued Metz, "is that they themselves have openly admitted that (their proposal) cannot work. So to whom is the OMA accountable? Do their ends justify any means? There is no natural conflict between civil libertarians and those who would like to see a reduction of smoking or its harmful effects. These are often the same people, as I can personally attest to."

"But there certainly is (a conflict) NOW, because the OMA is recommending a law that

in effect would infringe on a person's right to do what they want to do in their own home," observed Harris.

Polovoy challenged Metz's concept of 'diseases of choice' arguing that "the nicotine level in tobacco is not a choice, it's an addiction. It's perpetrated by the people who own the tobacco companies who lied to people (for) many years, and lied to Congress, and have lied to our government. So it's not a disease of choice. You don't choose to smoke. You're addicted to smoke and it's a physical dependence."

"But you choose to begin (smoking)," retorted Harris.

"Yes, you choose to begin," agreed Polovoy.

"But that doesn't contradict what I said at all," countered Metz. "When you make choices, there are consequences to those choices. As rational human beings, we're all aware of this."

☞ GOVERNMENT ADDICTED?

Polovoy evaded Metz's argument by accusing the government of promoting tobacco because "the government is addicted to taxes."

"Why are you worried about the government being addicted to taxes when you've just said that what the physicians are angry about is that they don't want to see taxes cut?" asked Metz.

As the debate progressed, it became clear that the OMA's call for a smoking ban in the home was really about cutbacks in government funding to healthcare.

"I think doctors do want dollars for hours worked," said Polovoy. "That's the most important issue. They need to have a guarantee that if they work for 90 hours a week, that they'll be paid for it."

At this point, Harris pulled the focus back to the smoking ban proposal. Polovoy suggested that "to be outrageous, maybe we should have a sign in pediatricians' offices (saying) 'If your parents smoke, call this number'."

To illustrate the danger of the OMA's proposal, Metz entertained their notion: "Here are some rhetorical questions for you. What would be the appropriate sentence or fine to levy against an offending smoker? Should it

be a fine? If so, how much? Should it be a jail sentence? If so, how long? What's the charge? Child abuse? Do you base this on a one-time single occurrence, or do you have to prove habitual constant exposure (to second-hand smoke)? What if the pregnant woman herself is the smoker? How do you stop her? Our justice system can't even prevent a glue-sniffing pregnant woman from stopping HER habit even when the evidence of her actions have already been demonstrated! What if the offending smoker is a relative, guest, or friend? Would they be charged, or would the owner in the home be charged? Or should the CAS (Children's Aid Society) remove the children from the custody of their parents? Even if the kids show no immediate signs of abuse or ill health? On what grounds would you base a charge of harm? Should we force drug rehabilitation? Should we force smoking parents into drug rehabilitation centers?

"And then there are the questions of enforcement. Who pays? Smokers or taxpayers? Who enforces it and how? Is it a complaint-driven system? If so, who files? Should we have a forced collection of data like the census, so we could find out where all the smokers are and place increased surveillance on their homes? (What about) powers of entry? Do we need a warrant? Do we have the right to seize children or assets? Perhaps if someone had a collection of tobacco pipes we could seize them.

"We need to REDUCE PROHIBITION in society, not increase it," concluded Metz. "I think prohibition increases any problem that we're trying to deal with."

"Robert, it's child abuse, cut and dry," retorted Polovoy.

"Well, some people think abortion is worse than child abuse," responded Metz. "They think it's murder, and your profession carries them out. So should we invade the homes of doctors?"

"Here's my solution," countered Polovoy. "Every doctor in Ontario (should) find out where tobacco salesmen live and start picketing their (homes) and their wife's social clubs. Start knocking on the doors of their kids at school and tell them that their parents are murderers. That's what we have to do."

"I think the doctors are bang on the money," said **Garfield Mahood** of the **Non-Smokers Rights Association**, who joined the debate at this point. "I've heard several

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

things that suggest to me strongly that people do not understand how law works as it relates to the protection of innocent parties. Our rights are determined by both statutes and the common law. There is no statute or common law anywhere that allows any adult to inflict a health hazard on some other individual, and certainly not on kids.

PURPOSE OF LAW

"So what is the purpose of law? The mistake that people make (is that) they assume that laws are only to create an enforceable sanction, and that's not true. That's a very limited look at the law. In many cases the law is designed in order to point society in a new direction, to set a new social norm. That's a very legitimate purpose of law and you do not have to have enforceable sanctions in order to achieve that."

Mahood justified the use of law as a form of "social pressure" that could be brought to bear upon individuals in order to change their behaviour.

"The purpose of law is to protect individual freedom of choice (amongst) consenting people," began Metz in addressing Mahood's perspective. "But having said that..."

"That's NOT the purpose of law," interrupted Mahood.

"Excuse me, I think it's my turn to respond to what you said earlier," re-interrupted Metz. "I understand that (you) disagree with what I would argue is the purpose of law. That's the fundamental difference between us. We have different philosophies, and it's a matter of philosophy. I do not believe it is the right of any government to force your philosophy on me. Or to force my philosophy on you."

Needless to say, there was no resolution to the disagreements between debaters on the show. Readers interested in obtaining an audio cassette copy of the debate are invited to contact **Freedom Party** for more information. See the green box on our back cover for details of how to get in touch with us. <END>



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World's largest, most
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Drug Laws...

'TELL WASHINGTON TO BUZZ OFF', MONTEITH SAYS ON CANADIAN DRUG POLICY

TORONTO (February 11, 1997) - Fp Constituency Association presidents **Ray Monteith** (Elgin) and **David Pengelly** (Don Mills) appeared as select members of the dozen or so live studio audience on the **Ralph Benmergui Show** (CBC **NewsWorld**). The question of the day: Should we decriminalize all drugs?

"We don't want to decriminalize for the sake of decriminalization," opened **Benedick Fischer**, who coordinates the drug policy at the **Addiction Research Foundation**. Describing drug use as a "medical condition", he added: "Decriminalization must only be a means for public health goals."

Fischer emphasized that the federal Liberal **Bill C7** has no intention of decriminalizing anything, despite public perception to the contrary.

"Marijuana should be not legalized, but decriminalized," agreed **Dr Keith Martin**, **Reform MP** (Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca). "(It should be) removed from the books so that those people caught with a few joints on them are not sent into the courts where they usually get a slap on the wrist and are sent out. A sensible (policy) would be to decriminalize cannabis. People caught with cannabis on them would be fined and would be put into a treatment program as part of their penalty."

How fining people for the use of a substance can be regarded as "decriminalization", Martin did not explain. However, he argued that marijuana is not benign because it causes cancer and "psychological retardation in the frontal lobes", and remarked that tobacco would never have been made legal if it was introduced to the market today.

Neil Boyd, criminologist and author of **High Society - Legal and Illegal Drugs in Canada**, disagreed with Martin.

"Tobacco and alcohol are more dangerous than the drugs which are illegal," he rebutted. He refuted the studies that were used to cite "psychological retardation", but did acknowledge the potential health risk from smoking itself. However, he denied that prohibitory laws were an effective means of addressing healthcare issues.

Martin repeatedly stressed that "this is not a moral issue" but a healthcare issue. If Martin's comment is indicative of *Reform Party* policy on drug use, then his advocacy of fines and forced rehabilitation, which he terms

'decriminalization', would indicate that the *Reform Party of Canada* would willingly violate and restrict individual rights and freedoms in the name of 'healthcare'.

"We're not slaves, so what gives anybody the right to tell us what we can or cannot do with our bodies?" asked Pengelly, whose question made it clear that drug use IS a moral issue.

"Hey, what about our Charter of Rights and Freedoms?" interjected Monteith. "Don't you think that these young people have a RIGHT to make their own decision? They don't need people in Ottawa making all the decisions, and not only that, (but) Washington is actually making the decision. It's time you guys told Washington to buzz off!"

"I think that's a real important point in terms of the legislation," responded Boyd. "Your previous speaker hit the nail on the head."

Boyd went on to emphasize that both **Bill C8** and its precursor, **Bill C85**, were legislation pushed not by the public and politicians, but by the bureaucracy as a consequence of international agreements, most notably with the United States.

MONTEITH WRITES CLINTON

It was this very fact that earlier prompted Monteith to take the matter up with those at the source of Canada's (and much of the world's) prohibitive drug policies.

"God loves both America and Canada because of their freedoms," wrote Monteith in a letter mailed to **US president Bill Clinton** a week before the Benmergui show. "Unfortunately, neither of our two countries respect the rights of citizens who use drugs. They are treated like criminals by the police, and off to jail they go."

"I understand your cost in the US is \$2 billion a year, and that you have promised even more money to fight the 'drug problem'," continued Monteith. He then suggested that the US government adopt a drug policy based on the premise of harm reduction, and do away with its policy of imprisonment.

Video copies of the Benmergui show are available to readers through Freedom Party. See green box on back cover for details. <END>

*Elections Commission...***FREEDOM PARTY REFUSES COMPLIANCE**

TORONTO (January 5 - September 19, 1996) - Following a series of routine questions regarding **Freedom Party's** 1993 annual financial return, Ontario's **Commission On Election Finances** accused the party of "overestim(ing) the value of a contributed item", and demanded a cheque payable to the Commission in the amount of \$1,150 if the official receipt in question could not be retrieved.

The \$1,150 represented the difference between the Commission's estimate (\$400) and **Freedom Party's** estimate (\$1550) of the value of a Sony Super Beta hi-fi video tape recorder (Model SL-HF750), which was contributed to the party. (See illustration, below)

✎ INTIMIDATING STANCE

Failure to comply with Commission rulings may result in the deregistration of an Ontario political party. The Commission's terms of compliance were unusually intimidating and punitive, given that there has never been so much as a single hint of any contraventions in Fp's 10-year relationship with the Commission. It is well within its powers to simply cancel any incorrectly issued receipts directly through Revenue Canada, and to leave it at that.

What made the Commission's stance suspicious was the fact that the Commission, as per its own request, was provided with a copy of a personal receipt from the contributor in the amount of \$1550, and no further objections were raised until it pronounced its decision.

In a strongly worded letter to the Commission's compliance officer, **Eileen De Calderon**, Fp president **Robert Metz** informed her that a special meeting of Fp's executive was called on February 21, 1996 to discuss the Commission's ruling: "We have arrived at the consensus that **Freedom Party** cannot comply with the terms as set out in your January 5 letter."

✎ FIVE PAGES OF REASONS TO SAY 'NO'

The five-page letter outlined many reasons for Fp's refusing to comply, including charges that the Commission's ruling was incorrect and unaccountable, that its decision offered no recourse or appeal process, that its valuation was contrary to the **Elections Finances Act**, and that the Commission's valuation was retroactive.

"I am certainly capable of justifying the value assigned," wrote Metz, "and would have welcomed an opportunity to do so had it been offered to me. Quite frankly, I would have expected a friendly call, as has been the Commission's usual approach to audit matters in the past.

"Should the Commission care to reconsider this case," he concluded, "I am confident that our valuation of the VCR in question will be shown to be entirely appropriate and well within Commission guidelines."

✎ COMMISSION NOT CONFIDENT - CONDUCTS AUDIT

Instead of providing a written reply to our request, the Commission chose to conduct its first-ever direct audit of **Freedom Party's** premises and records. (Officially-registered political parties in Ontario are audited annually, with filings due at the Commission each May 31.)

Upon arriving at our 240 Commissioners Road office in London on March 26, 1996, **Executive Director Gordon H. Kushner** and his assistant proceeded to request documentation for receipts issued up to five years past.

"Boy, these guys keep pretty good records," he was overheard saying to his assistant, as documentation for each requested receipt was consistently provided.

Little was said about the valuation of the original item in question, other than in Kushner's outlining the general process to be followed in the valuation of any good or service donated to a political party.

✎ WHAT DO WE PAY FOR RENT?

Curiously, most of the discussion pertained to the Commission's concern that the rent paid (\$850/mo) for **Freedom Party's** (via official receipts) offices was 'overvalued'.

Kushner went on at length about the possibility that the building's landlords may not have been filing their tax receipts appropriately,

even though this issue was well beyond anything that could possibly be addressed by anyone at **Freedom Party**. (Contributors are under no obligation to use their official receipts, nor is it the function or responsibility of a political party to follow-up on how individuals file their personal tax returns.)

He commented that, among other things, the traffic flow going by Fp's London offices was too low to justify the rent paid. (**Freedom Party's** offices are located at the corner of Knights Hill Road and Commissioners Road, where the latter widens from three to five lanes, but the office front, which provided Kushner with his view, faces the side street, Knights Hill Road.) Kushner offered no indication as to what level of traffic flow would be sufficient to match our current rent paid.

No issues were resolved during the Commission's audit.

✎ COMMISSION RE-ORDERS FREEDOM PARTY TO COMPLY

In an April 3 1996 letter, faxed and sent by 'double registered mail', Kushner thanked Metz for his cooperation during the Commission's audit, and on the issue of the contributed VCR's value, again ordered "**Freedom Party** to pay the \$1,150 difference to the Commission to correct this apparent contravention of the *Elections Finances Act*."

Metz responded by demanding that the Commission "state what this 'apparent contravention' is, in writing, and provide us with evidence of any such contravention. You have referred to 'three quotes from electronics dealers'. Please provide us with copies of

(COMPLIANCE...cont'd next pg)

VCR-GATE: A semi-professional editing machine, Sony's Super Beta hi-fi VCR model SL-HF750 features computer hook-ups and high-speed (BI) recording capabilities. Used to preserve Fp's beta library of the party's history on video, the machine was contributed, still new and unused in its packaging, to **Freedom Party** in 1994.



(...COMPLIANCE cont'd from previous pg)

these quotes." Metz also informed Kushner that he had contacted the electronics dealers in question, and that they each agreed that Fp's evaluation of the VCR was perfectly justifiable.

The Commission never did produce any of the requested information. However, Kushner later wrote Metz that "the quotes we received were oral although you seemed to get much the same information." (Somehow, an \$1150 difference in opinion can be regarded as "much the same information"!)

Kushner also listed four other receipts, two from 1994, and one each from 1993 and 1992 respectively. He informed Metz that "the tax credit receipts issued for the two computers and the typewriter will be invalidated." He requested that Metz provide him with "quotes from three businesses that deal with such second hand equipment and present these to the Commission in writing."

✉ Fp RE-REFUSES COMPLIANCE

"Your request that we obtain three quotes from second-hand equipment stores is not only inappropriate and premature," he responded, "but amounts to nothing less than asking us to provide evidence for a decision you apparently have already arrived at. That is the Commission's responsibility, not ours. It's up to US to justify OUR evaluation of the receipts, not your (evaluations)."

Metz also demanded that the Commission explain why it invalidated official receipts going as far back as 1992 before **Freedom Party** was given any opportunity to investigate or respond. "Also," he demanded, "please provide us with the specific contraventions regarding EACH of these receipts, so that we can be ABLE to respond."

In yet another turnabout, Kushner responded by saying that "the Commission has not yet invalidated any receipts. It is a proposal at this time." (The quote four paragraphs above was taken verbatim from Kushner's previous correspondence. That's a 'proposal'!?)

✉ LET'S TRY RENT CONTROL

In its apparent effort to find SOME kind of contravention on **Freedom Party**'s part, Kushner demanded that we "reconsider" our office rental agreement.

"Inquiries in the mall where you have your offices," wrote Kushner, "indicated that a fair rent for your premises would be \$1 per square foot..."

He noted that there was no written rental

agreement (which has never been a requirement), and informed Metz that "the Commission will invalidate all the tax credit receipts issued in 1994 as payment for rent in 1995." The latter was particularly surprising, since the Commission had, in advance, explicitly approved **Freedom Party**'s prepayment of rent arrangement when the party first moved into its new premises.

Kushner also ordered Metz to "retrieve and return to us all those tax credit receipts issued in 1995 for 1996 rent or make payment to the Commission the excess value of the rent."

✉ BADGE OF HONOUR

This prompted a response not only from Metz, but from the owners of the property where our offices are located.

"I am one of the owners of the above property," wrote landlord and **Freedom Party** supporter **David Southen**. "I would like to thank you for skulking around my property and disturbing my tenants and asking them to disclose to you confidential information. You allege that tenants at 240 Commissioners Rd W. pay \$1 per square foot. Explain to me how you calculated this amount. None of the tenants there pay that amount of rent."

"You also make mention that there is no written agreement," he continued. "In spite of what you may think, you will find that it is entirely legal and proper for parties to conduct their business affairs without written documentation. In another age, it was a badge of honour to deal verbally with each other, without the need of a written contract. At this point, I see no reason to change that."

Southen went on to attack the Commission on a broader basis, and challenged the Commission's motives for its directed harassment against **Freedom Party**:

✉ BAND OF TOADIES

"I think that it is particularly despicable that an organization I pay taxes to support comes sniffing around my property. Has the government mandated that you eliminate small or fringe parties? Did the **Freedom Party**'s ruthless criticism piss off the government so badly that you were told to harass them? Why are you wasting your time on minor issues? That's the thing that really interests me."

In a defiant stance against the Commission, Southen concluded that "this year I'm deducting the receipt I've been issued by the **Freedom Party**. If you don't like that, I guess I'll be seeing you and your band of toadies in court. Perhaps there, in an open and public forum, we'll get to the truth of why you're

snooping around areas which do not concern you."

Metz added his voice to Southen's:

"We reject your request that we formalize a rental agreement subject to the Commission's terms. Since neither we nor our landlords have any desire to do so, any such 'agreement' would have to be forced upon us by the Commission, and would have to be written and drafted by the Commission. If the Commission actually has such authority, please advise."

✉ COMMISSION RELENTS

After consulting its legal counsel, and after holding several 'in camera' meetings regarding **Freedom Party**'s position, we were informed on September 19, 1996 that "the Commission met on September 18, 1996 and reviewed all of the outstanding issues related to **Freedom Party**."

Surprisingly, the Commission ordered only minor name changes to two receipts pertaining to **Freedom Party**'s rent, neither of which affected the amounts on those receipts.

All other matters were dropped.

Despite its inability to demonstrate any contraventions on the part of **Freedom Party**, "the Commission asked that the party be reminded that it has a responsibility to ensure goods and services are contributed and recorded at their proper value."

✉ GOODBYE GOODS & SERVICES RECEIPTS?

No doubt, the Commission's frustration with **Freedom Party** was a 'contributing' factor (no pun intended) in its recent proposal to abolish tax credit receipts for goods and services contributions.

In its February 1997 newsletter, the Commission announced that "There's potential for abuse of the tax credit system if overvalued receipts or receipts for questionable goods and services are issued."

Until the legislature passes the proposed amendment, it's politics as usual.

✉ GET THE DETAILS!

There were many other issues and details in our dispute with the *Elections Finances Commission* that were not covered in this article. Copies of all correspondence regarding this matter are available to **Freedom Party** members and supporters on request. See green box on back cover for details of how to get in touch with us!
<END>

(...OPENERS cont'd from page 2)

distraction to cover his sleight of hand, taken greater control of education with hardly any notice.

Not to be uncovered, they have also worked to ensure that it's even more difficult to notice that all the same cards are present. When you know that the players in the game are counting the cards in the deck, you can always resort to using more than one deck at the same time. Harris has deftly mixed the welfare and social services decks into the pile. Now the shuffling is more cumbersome, but no one can focus on where any one card is in the pile.

Rest assured that they are all there, and that they've thrown in a couple jokers with them. You can bet that the jokers are all wild cards that will allow the government to pave the way to even more control, perhaps in the form of television commercials telling us how much better 'efficient government' is for Ontario.

The opposition parties, seeing that the order of the cards has changed, busily condemn the changes. They are joined by the media, who also don't recognize anything except that the order of the cards is different. Both groups voicing their criticisms are simply accusing the PCs of stacking the cards.

They never question the role of the government dealing the cards at all!

☞ INEVITABLE?

On closer inspection, Bill 26 was inevitable. The government gets a great deal of flack over various facets of our society and (regardless of which party is in power) they don't like it. We can all identify with this. In our lives circumstances may arise where we are held responsible for something but don't have the authority to do anything about it. It's a fairly common situation for employees, and has been identified as a major beef that most

people have in their jobs. Responsibility without authority is frustrating, destructive to morale, and generally difficult to deal with.

There are two ways to deal with responsibility without authority. One is to have the responsibility placed on the shoulders of those who hold the authority or power to control the situation. The other is the one that the Conservatives chose: to grab the authority. Under the influence of their mindset, they had to. They were elected to 'govern', so there's no way they would give up responsibility by (excuse the cliché) 'empowering' others to deliver services. They are, instead, going to make a grab for the authority (the power) to control the situations for which they are being held accountable.

This is what *Bill 26* did. *Bill 26* was a power grab, nothing else. It gave the government more control of the situation. It fit the mindset that politicians must 'govern' the province. It fit their definition of 'less government' because they can seek efficiencies with greater ease.

It also fits the course of all socialist programs. Since they never work in practice and quickly become bloated, inefficient, unresponsive, and ineffective, they always have to be 'taken over' once again by the government. However, this time the government needs to ensure that it has more control in the name of making those programs work.

☞ LET'S STACK THE DECK - FOR FREEDOM

Many will undoubtedly argue that the PCs are doing a good job. They're cutting spending which was badly needed, and that's good for Ontario. I can't disagree with that goal, just as **Freedom Party** didn't disagree with the goal of reduced spending found in *Bill 26*.

What should bother us is the ends towards which these new means are being created.

The same power in the hands of a benevolent government or a tyrannical one has drastically different results. The problem with a stacked deck is that if you stack the deck and then pass it on to the next dealer (next government), you'll get the lousy cards you intended for them. They'll get the great hand. All of the authority assumed by the Conservative government will also be assumed by the next government. Think about that. Do you trust McGinty or Hampton as much as Harris? Do you really think anyone should hold that much power?

Less government should mean less governing. It should mean reducing the amount of government control, red tape and regulation in order to increase the choices available to the people of Ontario. A change with the goal of increasing choices in education would be a positive step for Ontario. A change that delivers the same less choice, even if it does so more efficiently, is not a change significantly for the better. Of course, stopping the province of Ontario from bleeding to death economically is a good thing, but in and of itself, it does not make us more free.

Unlike the *Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario*, **Freedom Party** is a party that wants to truly empower the public. We want the power where it belongs, in the hands of private citizens. It doesn't belong in the hands of legislators who think they must continually 'govern' us. It should reside with each individual so that we may each properly 'govern' ourselves.

Freedom is what is at risk.

Governments shuffle and deal the cards to one another, but what is in the pot that they hope to win? Our right to govern ourselves. Our right to freely pursue our lives. Our right to take responsibility for our lives.

Those are the stakes. That is what we stand to lose. And lose we will, until we get a dealer who wants us to win.

<END>

FREEDOM FLYER

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FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

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